WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on ethical dilemmas in relation to technological innovation

Nicola Caputo (S&D), Renato Soru (S&D), Pina Picerno (S&D), Andrea Cozzolino (S&D), Laurenţiu Rebega (S&D), Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D), Momchil Nekov (S&D), Lara Comi (PPE), Tibor Szanyi (S&D), Fabio De Masi (GUE/NGL), Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

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Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, on ethical dilemmas in relation to technological innovation¹

1. Technological progress allows fundamental breakthroughs which foster scientific research and enhance the quality of human life. However, this continuous improvement involves unknown risks of relevant complexity and unpredictability.

2. Artificial intelligence – advanced enough to duplicate human skills – and text and data mining (TDM) are invading society, allowing unprecedented levels of knowledge.

3. It is important to consider carefully the scope and intensity of technology usage, as a growing and aggregate quantity of information could be exploited by companies or governments to invade privacy, create monopolies and manipulate consumers’ choices.

4. The debate on such matters thus raises serious ethical and moral issues, calling for multidisciplinary choices aimed at basing technology usage on criteria such as awareness and caution.

5. The Commission and the Council are invited to reinforce the dialogue on ethical dilemmas in relation to technological innovation by restoring the instrumental role played by technology and taking more careful account of aggregate data mining collected by companies that are active in the internet and open data sectors and by companies and public or private institutions that use those data to produce new services.

6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament’s component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.