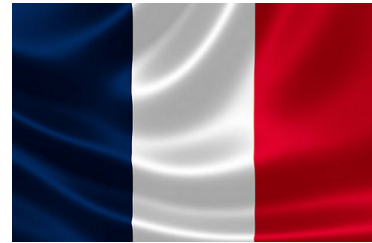


## The European Union's Council on Artificial Intelligence

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*Subject : How can we frame the development and use (of artificial intelligence) in the European Union, in order to maximize economic and social benefits while guaranteeing the respect for fundamental rights, the safety of all citizens and full transparency of these new Artificial Intelligences?*

Honorable Chairs, honorable delegates, the delegation of the Republic of France is honored to be present today, to share our country's vision on the crucial topic of Artificial Intelligence. We hope this conference will be as fruitful as we think it will be, and we are looking forward to collaborating with all present delegations, in hopes for a safe future with AI.

France is a semi-presidential republic with a prime minister, who is the head of government, appointed by the president who is the directly elected head of state. Our current president Sir Emmanuel Macron shares the executive power with the prime minister and the french parliament. France's territory consists of 18 administrative regions: 13 metropolitan and 5 overseas regions. All 5 of the overseas regions, as well as Saint-Martin, are considered part of the EU .Strasbourg is one of the three official seats of the European institutions.

Our country is undoubtedly a world leader in terms of Artificial Intelligence, not only through innovation, but more importantly, regulation. As a member of the European Union, France recognises the potential of AI in contributing to social and economic growth. However, as we step into the era of AI, we must not forget our values, and the foundations of democracy : fundamental rights, citizen safety, and transparency. We are moreover a key player in **UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI**, advocating for **human rights-centered AI development**.

France believes that AI holds great promise for the future, not only in terms of technology, but also in sectors such as : education, health, ecology and economy. As we frame the development and use of AI in the EU, our goal is not just to lead in the technological innovation race, but to also create a framework, where the benefits of AI are equitably shared across society, while guaranteeing every european citizen his rights of privacy, security, and dignity.

The key principles we will be advocating for during this conference are multiple. Firstly, we will advocate to promote innovation whilst ensuring ethics, we stress the need for the European Union to lead by example by developing AI in a way that is not only innovative, but also ethical. Moreover, we wish to assure fundamental rights and ethics to all european citizens. We believe the rights of privacy, the freedom of expression and non-discrimination must be a top priority as we frame the development and use of AI. High risk AI applications such as those in healthcare, law enforcement or autonomous vehicles should be subject to the most rigorous safety standards, transparency, and accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, we believe AI must contribute to the ongoing battle of reducing inequalities in the whole of Europe. France supports robust safeguards that prevent bias in AI systems and ensure equal access to AI benefits all, especially marginalized groups.

We emphasize the necessity of transparency in AI, to ensure trust and accountability. All citizens must be able to understand how these new technologies function, the data they use, and the potential risk they pose. France advocates for the clear and honest labeling of AI based decisions and the establishment of new independent regulation groups that oversee the impact AI has on society. In 2023, we aligned with the **EU's AI Act** to promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in AI applications.

Another crucial aspect of Artificial Intelligence is the innovative side of it. AI represents a key pillar in France's vision for an innovative and sustainable future in the European Union. We envision a nearby future in which AI contributes to economic growth by optimizing productivity, reducing costs, and fostering new industries and job opportunities. We are committed to maximizing AI's benefits, by ensuring that this new technology is inclusive and accessible to all.

Having produced our own powerful open-source language model : **Mistral AI**, we recognize that AI will transform many sectors, therefore, we must equip our workforce with the necessary skillset to thrive in an AI-driven economy. We strongly support any and all initiatives aimed at educating and reskilling citizens in the safe use of AI, as well as AI expertise, to ensure that the workforce remains adaptable and competitive worldwide.

France encourages ethical AI research and development. We believe that the European Union must focus on promoting AI innovation that benefits industries such as healthcare, transportation, and green energy. All whilst ensuring that innovation occurs in harmony with ethical and safety standards. We call for an international AI governance framework, inspired by the **Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace**, to ensure global cooperation on ethical AI development. We are home to institutions like **INRIA and GENCI**, leading Europe's AI development, and work closely with **OECD's AI Policy Observatory** to ensure responsible AI governance.

We must use AI to improve our continent as a whole, Artificial Intelligence must become a way of protection and advancement, not of harm. Through international collaboration, we can prevent the misuse of AI and address cross borders challenges such as cybersecurity threats, AI in warfare, and misinformation.

In conclusion, France's position is clear, AI must be developed with a strong foundation of ethics, safety, transparency and respect for fundamental human and citizen rights. As a founding member of the European Union, we will continue to advocate for a regulatory framework that ensures AI drives economic growth, social inclusion, and public trust, all whilst ensuring the security and dignity of every citizen.

France is committed to fostering a future in which AI serves humanity, benefits society as a whole, and upholds the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

We urge all delegations present in this conference to join us in this mission, and to cooperate with us in order to build an AI-driven future that not only is innovative, but also inclusive and responsible.

The delegation of the Republic of France.

Paris, 28/02/2025



J. MACRON