

Delegation: the Netherlands

Committee: AI

Issue: 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?

The Netherlands is a country in Northwestern Europe and has overseas territories in the Caribbean. Our nation has a population of around 18 million people. It has the third highest GDP per capita in the EU, which is 20% above the average, making it one of the richest countries in Europe. Our country has maritime borders with the United Kingdom and land borders with Belgium and Germany. The Netherlands has been a constitutional monarchy since 1815 and a parliamentary democracy since 1848. Our parliamentary system is led by the King and the Prime Minister. Currently, King Willem-Alexander is the monarch and head of state, and Dick Schoof has been our Prime Minister since July of 2024. The Netherlands is a founding member of the European Union as well as an active participant in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Netherlands is a global leader in technology, specifically in chip equipment. We are home to the biggest chip equipment maker in the world, ASML. We are aware that the Netherlands, and Europe as well, are falling behind, despite the fact we have everything we need to take a leading position. We are committed to doing everything in our power to remain at the forefront. The Netherlands is keen on enhancing global treaties regarding the use of AI in military operations. Furthermore, we are aiming to boost our tech startups and want to encourage more investment in technology in Europe. Overall, we are focused on making artificial intelligence a useful and reliable tool for all. Our nation advocates for a more moral and responsible use of AI that respects consumer protection and human rights based on a strong legal framework.

On 13 June 2024, the European Union adopted the AI Act. Most of the text addresses high risk AI systems and their regulation. A smaller part focuses on low-risk AI systems, which are subject to fewer transparency requirements: developers and deployers must make clear to end-users that they are engaging with AI (chatbots and deep-fakes). The act also includes that unacceptable risk is prohibited (e.g. manipulative AI) and minimal risk remains unregulated (including most AI applications currently found on the EU single market).

The Netherlands is also very interested in improving international agreements on the application of artificial intelligence in the military. That is why our nation, together with South Korea, submitted the very first resolution on this topic to the United Nations (UN). It was adopted on 6 November 2024. In February this year, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit was held in Paris, France. The Netherlands was present and endorsed the Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI Enabled Weapon Systems. In this, they pointed out how AI can be a useful tool to transform military affairs but also poses risk. The Declaration states the military commits to using AI responsibly, while ensuring human accountability and control, especially over life-or-death decisions. It also pointed out AI systems respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and those that cannot, will not be developed or used. The military will keep encouraging international cooperation on responsible AI use in this area.

During the AI Action Summit in Paris, the Netherlands also endorsed the statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet. The statement includes the following

priorities: ensuring AI is open, inclusive, transparent, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy, taking into account international frameworks for all, encouraging AI deployment that positively shapes the future of work and labour markets and delivers opportunities for sustainable growth and making AI sustainable for people and the planet. The statement also points out how the countries endorsing the statement will implement the priorities previously mentioned.

The Netherlands was also ranked 1st in the world in the new Global Index on Responsible AI. We are focused on responsible use of AI by all stakeholders.

One of the main goals of the Netherlands is to boost tech startups. This is because our country's economy is reliant on them for future growth. They are also very important for the development of AI. In 2024, we had a significant fall in tech startups with 35% fewer startups founded last year. So, we are fully committed to increasing the number of new companies this year. The Dutch government plans to cut bureaucracy and increase investment in artificial intelligence to help our nation's tech startups thrive.

Promoting more investment in the tech world, especially in Europe, is also one of our priorities. At the AI Action Summit in Paris, the EU announced that it would invest 200€ billion in artificial intelligence. A key aspect of this is the establishment of a new 20€ billion European fund, aimed particularly at building AI giga factories. These facilities are intended for training highly intricate AI models that demand vast computational capabilities. The aim is to provide advanced computing capabilities to all businesses, not only the largest companies. This investment is the result of collaboration within the EU, Member States and the private sector. The Netherlands is making every effort to make this investment happen as soon as possible.

To conclude, the Netherlands is fully committed to making AI a useful, safe and trustworthy resource for people to use across various fields such as military operations, economy and issues concerning the well-being of our planet. We support a more ethical and responsible use of AI that prioritizes consumer protection and human rights within a robust legal structure.