

Brussels, 8 March 2021

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Executive Vice-President Vestager,
Dear Vice-President Jourová,
Dear Commissioner Breton,
Dear Commissioner Dalli,
Dear Commissioner Reynders,

We write to you ahead of the upcoming proposal on artificial intelligence. In your incoming speech as President, you committed to a European Commission proposal 'that respects human safety and rights.' We, the undersigned, call on you to guarantee this promise and put fundamental rights first in the legislative proposal on artificial intelligence (AI).

While we acknowledge the potential benefits of many uses of this technology, we are acutely aware of the vast capacity not only to interfere with, but to fundamentally undermine the protection and enjoyment of a number of fundamental rights.

In particular, we encourage you to ensure fundamental rights protection for the uses of AI with the gravest impact on people, communities and society. Mandatory rules should not be limited to a narrow list of 'high-risk' applications that would leave out important uses and potential transfers to other sectors, thereby missing an opportunity to address serious individual and collective harms. An ambitious, rights-respecting EU proposal on AI should also include the possibility to ban or prohibit applications of AI that are incompatible with fundamental rights, as recently recommended by 62 European civil society organisations.



European Parliament

Ensuring that AI developed in the European Union is in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights is the utmost priority of this legislation, and we hope to see this reflected in the Commission's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

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