



2020/2012(INL)

3.9.2020

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

with recommendations to the Commission on framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies
(2020/2012(INL))

Rapporteur for opinion: Łukasz Kohut

(Initiative – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure)

PA_INL

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible:

- to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:
1. Recalls that the development, the deployment and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the cultural and creative sectors, and in the areas of education, media, youth, and information policy, not only has the potential to raise but also raises and will continue to raise a wide range of ethical issues that need to be addressed; stresses that the Union should lead the way towards ethical AI anchored in European values, ensuring the protection of human dignity, and fundamental rights within a democratic, fair and sustainable Europe; calls on the EU institutions to engage in long-term thinking about the impact of AI on our democratic debates, our societies and on the very nature of human beings, in order to be able to pave the way for AI technology that respects our freedom and does not disrupt innovation or curtail freedom of expression;
 2. Strongly believes that there is a need to examine how human rights frameworks and obligations can guide actions and policies relating to new and emerging digital technologies to guarantee their anthropocentric approach and the accessibility of their benefits to all; recognises the need to ensure that the development, the deployment and the use of AI is free of discrimination, profiling bias and that it mirrors all essential elements of society; recognises that AI and automation might have an effect on the globalised economy which might entrench existing inequalities;
 3. Stresses the need to develop tailor-made criteria for the development, the deployment and the use of AI in education, media, youth, research, and the cultural and creative sectors, by developing benchmarks for and defining principles of ethically responsible and accepted uses of AI technologies in these areas, including a clear liability regime for products resulting from AI use; underlines that such criteria must be adaptable and constantly adjusted to the progress in AI technologies so as to also responsibly help harness the full potential of AI; highlights in particular the need to address personal user data collection and privacy concerns as well as liability issues in cases where automated processes lead to undesirable outcomes; recalls that, to provide such criteria with a sound basis, it is necessary to require that the principles of conformity of a system with its specifications, transparency, good faith and equity be observed, in consultation with the competent ethics committees responsible for helping to lay the groundwork in line with European Union cultural values and legal framework provisions; notes that AI systems are software-based displaying intelligent behaviour based on the analysis of their environment; stresses that this analysis is based on statistical models of which errors form an inevitable part; underlines the need to ensure that systems and methods are in place to allow verification of the algorithm, explicability of the algorithm and access to remedies; highlights the need to ensure that there are binding rules ensuring that principles of transparency, accountability and non-discrimination are preserved; reiterates the 2019 Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI and the seven key requirements for trustworthiness of AI;
 4. Notes that every child enjoys the right to public quality education at all levels; therefore,

calls for the development, the deployment and the use of quality AI systems that facilitate and provide quality educational tools for all at all levels and stresses that the deployment of new AI systems in schools should not lead to a wider digital gap being created in society;

5. Notices that AI personalised learning systems are increasingly being deployed in schools and universities, which is gradually changing the role of teachers in the learning process; stresses that this shift should be assessed thoroughly, reflected in curricula accordingly and be anchored by human-centric values; recognises the enormous potential contribution that AI and robotics can make to education; notes that AI personalised learning systems should not replace educational relationships involving teachers and that traditional forms of education should not be left behind, while at the same time pointing out that financial, technological and educational support, including specialised training in information and communications technology must be provided for teachers seeking to acquire appropriate skills so as to adapt to technological changes and not only harness the potential of AI but also understand its limitations;
6. Stresses that where machine learning is used in the procedures for selection of potential students, adequate safeguards must be implemented, including informing applicants of such procedures and their rights in this regard; notes that the relevant algorithms need to be trained on broad data sets in order to prevent the algorithms from unfairly discriminating against certain groups; is of the view that the relevant decisions taken with the help of automated processes need to be explainable, including, if necessary, to the rejected students;
7. Calls for an AI, robotics and related technologies strategy to be developed at Union level in order to help transform and update our educational systems, prepare our educational institutions at all levels and equip teachers and pupils with the necessary skills and abilities; considers that there is a necessity for a framework on ethics in education ; recommends the involvement of civil society, universities, trade unions and employers associations in the process of drafting such a framework ; notes that AI systems developed, deployed and used in the Union need to reflect its cultural diversity and its multilingualism; stresses that special support that should be given to tech developers and beneficiaries from disadvantaged groups and persons with disabilities;
8. Considers that special attention and protection must be given to upholding the rights of minors, given the particular influence of education on their future, specifically the right to privacy and access to quality education, ensuring equal opportunities in every case; emphasises that educational institutions should only use AI systems for educational purposes that have been audited and certified as ethical, beneficial and acting consistently with human rights principles; calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote cooperation between the public and private sectors and academia in order to reinforce knowledge-sharing and open sources;
9. Notes that there is a need to clarify the concept of arts and cultural and creative works, as well as the role of humans as creators and artists; emphasises that opportunities provided by digitisation and new technologies must not lead to an overall loss of jobs in the cultural and creative sectors, to neglect the conservation of originals and to downplay traditional access to cultural heritage, which should equally be encouraged;

10. Acknowledges the growing potential of AI in the areas of information, media and online platforms, including as a powerful tool to fight disinformation; is concerned, however, about the potential for AI to be misused in order to manipulate public opinion online; underlines that, if not regulated, it might also have ethically adverse effects by exploiting bias in data and algorithms that may lead to disseminating disinformation, creating information bubbles and exploiting biases incorporated into AI algorithms; recalls that adequate education is a necessary condition to safeguard citizens' rights with regard to the freedom of information, opinion and expression, calls for the ethical use of AI technologies in the field of media; warns about the risks of technology-driven censorship and the need for an ethical framework to protect the freedom of speech;
11. Considers that the use of certain types of AI, such as facial recognition, emotion and behaviour detection systems, might have a damaging effect, notably on the role of media and journalists as watchdogs of democracy and thus on democratic processes; underlines therefore, that the use of those systems in public spaces should be restricted or banned whenever necessary; emphasises the need to continue the fight against fake news, including techniques such as "deepfakes", against censorship and automated surveillance;
12. Emphasises the need to raise awareness and understanding in the general public about the role and impact of AI through formal and non-formal education, including humanity studies, notably about the use of algorithms and their impact, inter alia, on jobs and privacy, the understanding of the place occupied by IT systems in selecting, interpreting, storing and representing data; advocates the establishment of digital literacy tools at all levels of education and thus calls on the Member States and on the EU institutions to invest in information and media literacy, education and training; considers that information and media competences are crucial for all citizens, including the vulnerable social groups, to be able to critically assess and understand new developments including an understanding of the functioning of AI and its inherent biases and thus, to develop new forms of critical thinking; recommends that the Commission promote AI-, robotics- and technology-related formats of education and continuous education;
13. Notes the important distinction between transparency of algorithms and transparency of the use of algorithms; emphasises the importance of transparency and accountability of algorithms used by video-sharing platforms (VSP) as well as streaming platforms, in order to ensure access to culturally and linguistically diverse content and avoid privileging; believes that every user should be properly informed when an algorithm is used to recommend content, and should be able to optimise them according to his or her choices, and such algorithms should not restrict a user's choice; considers that any user should also be able to disable content recommendation by AI; stresses that such algorithms should be designed in such a way that they reflect the cultural diversity of our societies ensuring genuine cultural openness and guaranteeing freedom of creation; insists that user data collected by AI, such as cultural preferences or educational performance, must not be transmitted or used without the owner's knowledge;
14. Notes that sport has always embraced technological innovation; considers, nevertheless, that the use of AI technologies, which is spreading rapidly into sports competitions, is increasingly raising questions of fair competition in sport whereby those teams with the

most financial resources can acquire the best technology, thus potentially giving them an unfair advantage; emphasises that these developments have to be closely monitored and stresses that this area needs a regulatory framework which applies ethical and human-centric criteria in the development and use of AI technologies; calls for full transparency on the algorithms and technologies used in sports in order to level the playing field.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.8.2020
Result of final vote	+: 28 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Isabella Adinolfi, Christine Anderson, Ilana Cicurel, Gilbert Collard, Gianantonio Da Re, Laurence Farreng, Tomasz Frankowski, Romeo Franz, Hannes Heide, Irena Joveva, Petra Kammerevert, Niyazi Kizilyürek, Predrag Fred Matić, Dace Melbārde, Victor Negrescu, Peter Pollák, Marcos Ros Sempere, Andrey Slabakov, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Salima Yenbou, Milan Zver
Substitutes present for the final vote	Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Christian Ehler, Ibán García Del Blanco, Bernard Guetta, Marcel Kolaja, Elżbieta Kruk, Martina Michels

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

28	+
PPE	Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Christian Ehler, Tomasz Frankowski, Peter Pollák, Michaela Šojdová, Sabine Verheyen, Milan Zver
S&D	Ibán García del Blanco, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Predrag Fred Matić, Victor Negrescu, Marcos Ros Sempere, Massimiliano Smeriglio
RENEW	Ilana Cicurel, Laurence Farreng, Bernard Guetta, Irena Joveva
ID	Gilbert Collard
VERTS/ALE	Romeo Franz, Marcel Kolaja, Salima Yenbou
ECR	Elżbieta Kruk, Dace Melbārde, Andrey Slabakov
GUE/NGL	Niyazi Kizilyürek, Martina Michels
NI	Isabella Adinolfi

0	-
-	-

2	0
ID	Christine Anderson, Gianantonio Da Re

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention