Conclusions by the Hungarian Presidency

Conference on

**Current and Future Challenges of
Coordinated Policies on AI Regulation**

co-organised by the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe

Artificial intelligence (AI) is, perhaps, the most important breakthrough technology of our times. Its applications are not only changing our daily life or the way we work or interact in society, but also our perception of the world.

As the leading pan-European organisation for the protection of human rights and the promotion of democracy and the rule of law, the Council of Europe is at the heart of the construction of a comprehensive policy to regulate the design, development and use of AI systems, coordinated with other international organisations.

In the context of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Justice and Ministry for Innovation and Technology hosted a virtual high-level Conference on AI regulation on 26 October 2021, co-organised with the Council of Europe.

The conference offered an opportunity for a multi-stakeholder and inclusive dialogue with high-level personalities and experts from the EU and its Fundamental Rights Agency, UNESCO, OECD, the World Economic Forum, academia, the private sector and civil society, as well as representatives from the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) of the Council of Europe.

The discussions addressed the question of different governance models, highlighting the need for a coordinated approach to developing a legal framework for AI and showing the interplay between national policies and the relevant work of the Council of Europe and other key international organisations active in this field. In addition to outlining the present stage of the work, the conference put the development into a broader perspective. Speakers discussed the potential long-term societal effects of the widespread use of AI and took the opportunity to explore the sustainable development of AI.

In view of the discussions held, the Hungarian Presidency hereby:

1. RECOGNISES that AI-based and AI-supported technologies are increasingly applied in everyday economic and social processes in a variety of fields and countries; thus such technologies already have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights, the functioning of democracy and the observance of the rule of law.

2. TAKES NOTE OF the challenges posed by the fact that technological advances outpace the development of relevant regulatory frameworks, hence REITERATES the importance of a proactive approach on the part of national authorities and international organisations.

3. UNDERLINES the importance of coordinating the development of governance models with regard to the use of AI systems with other relevant international organisations as well as involving the private sector, civil society and academia.

4. EMPHASISES the need for a proactive, coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach, as certain stakeholders could be disproportionally affected both by the excessive burdens of overregulation or the uncertainty caused by the lack of legal clarity.

5. NOTES that any AI regulatory model should be based on common values, taking into account specific characteristics of stakeholders where appropriate.

6. SUPPORTS the working methods of the CAHAI and WELCOMES the outcomes it has achieved so far, while also NOTING that the CAHAI's inclusive consultation and outreach approach has provided important input to the policy making process.

7. HIGHLIGHTS the interplay between national policies and relevant work carried out within the Council of Europe and other key international organisations active in this field.

8. EMPHASISES that stakeholder involvement is crucial for elaborating and implementing AI policies and governance models not only at international, but also at national and local levels, and HIGHLIGHTS that adequate stakeholder involvement should also be assured when assessing the impact of AI systems on the enjoyment of human rights, the functioning of democracy, and the observance of the rule of law.

9. UNDERLINES that a human-centred approach must be at the heart of design, development and application of AI systems, as it preserves and safeguards the substantive elements of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in a digitised world.

10. CONCLUDES that there is a genuine need for a common, coordinated approach to the challenges posed by AI systems to the enjoyment of human rights, the functioning of democracy and the observance of the rule of law and BELIEVES that such a common, coordinated approach should be applied throughout the establishment and implementation of an international legal framework.

11. ENCOURAGES all international organisations to further strengthen and deepen their co-operation with the Council of Europe in their work on AI and to continue the multi-stakeholder dialogues.

12. LOOKS FORWARD to the continuation of the work started by the CAHAI and focusing in particular – in line with decision CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/2b – on negotiating a

binding legal instrument of a transversal character, including notably general common principles, as well as additional binding or non-binding instruments to address challenges relating to the application of AI systems in specific sectors.