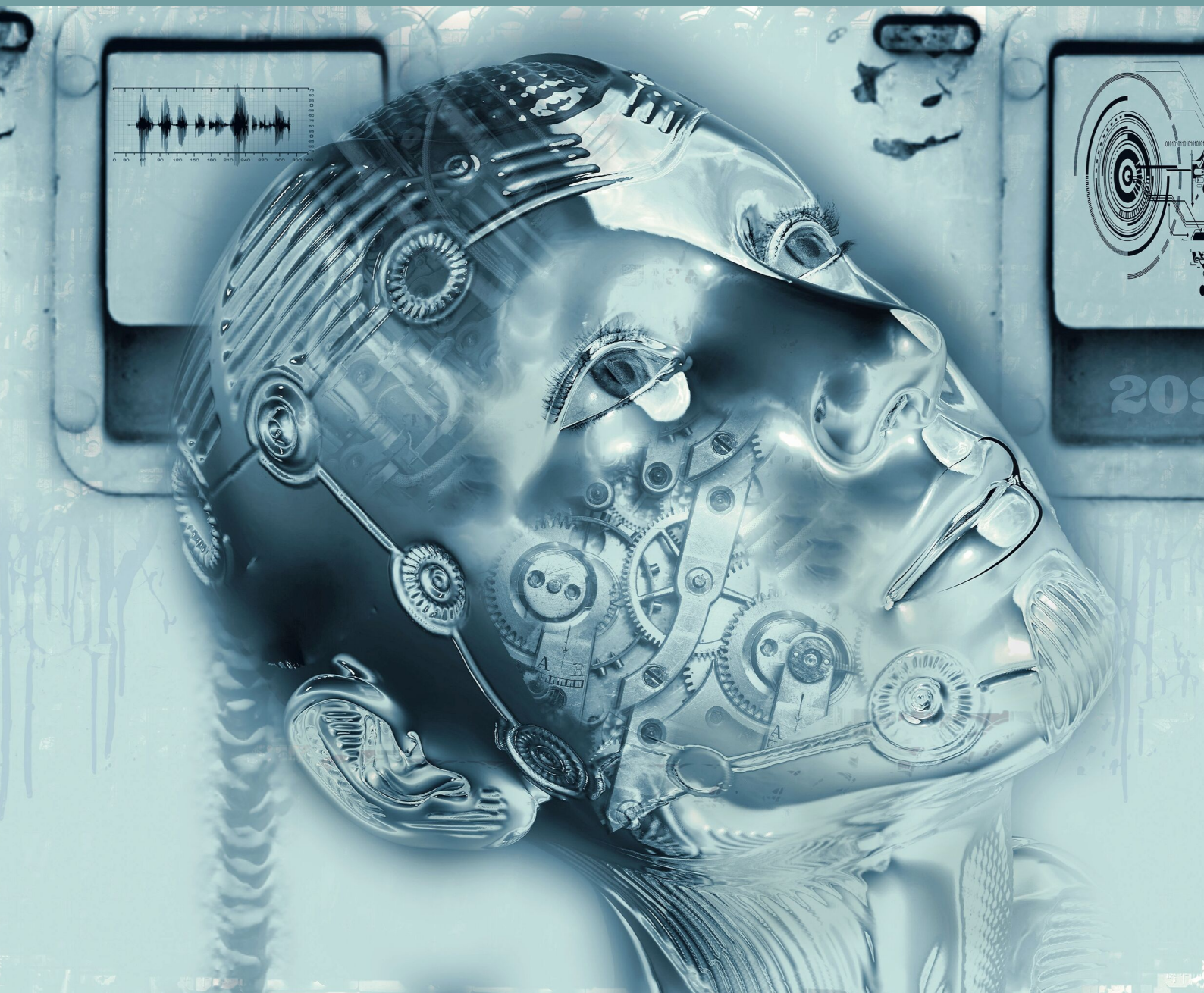


# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY



**20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Council of Europe  
Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

**9.30 A.M. 12 NOON**

**To mark this year's International Day on Democracy**, 15 September, DG II is organising a Round Table on Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Democracy, which will take place on **Friday 20 September 2019 from 9.30 am to 12 pm in room 5**, at the Palais de l'Europe. Delegations are kindly invited to participate in this event, which is open to Council of Europe staff.

The Council of Europe has initiated a number of activities on artificial intelligence, as described in a recent information document by the Secretary General (SG/Inf (2019)21). In the area of democracy, the Venice Commission and the CDMSI have recently published a study on *Digital technologies and elections*. This study refers to artificial intelligence including misinformation during electoral campaigns. The CDDG has also dealt with this issue in an expert report on *Disinformation and electoral campaigns*.

A broader issue which remains largely unaddressed is the impact of artificial intelligence on the functioning of democratic institutions as well as political and administrative decision-making processes. At this stage, some questions are still speculative but, given the pace of technological development, it is not premature to start addressing them. For instance:

- Will recourse to artificial intelligence, and the mining of big data, lead to an evolution of the **notion of democracy** and, if so, in what direction?
- What will be the role of **representative institutions**, if any, if decisions are taken through algorithms?
- What will be the democratic legitimacy of such decisions? How can fundamental principles of **good governance** be respected – namely transparency, openness and accountability? What ethical safeguards and oversight mechanisms should be introduced? Will artificial intelligence open new avenues for **citizen participation**?

This Round Table is an event intended to raise awareness of the possible, prospective implications of artificial intelligence on democracy, its processes, mechanisms, institutions and citizens.

Delegations are invited to exchange views with experts and showcase how they are equipping themselves to harness the benefits of artificial intelligence in government, while guarding against its downsides.

# DRAFT PROGRAMME

9.30 – Opening

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**Chaired** by

Ambassador **Răzvan RUSU**, Chair of the GR-DEM

**Opening remarks** by

**Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

**Introduction** by

Ambassador **Jean-Baptiste MATTEI**, President of the Ministers' Deputies

*Round Table*

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## **VIRGINIA DIGNUM**

*Professor of Social and Ethical Artificial Intelligence, Department of Computer Science, Umeå University, Sweden*

[how the notion of democracy will be affected by artificial intelligence and big data, the future of representative institutions and political pluralism, the concept of algorithmic governance, ethics/transparency/democratic accountability]

## **JAN ZIESING**

*Research group manager, Competence Center for Public IT (ÖFIT), Fraunhofer FOKUS, Germany*

[current and foreseeable recourse to artificial intelligence by public administration, including its advantages and disadvantages and the safeguards that are being introduced]

## **PAULO SAVAGET**

*Assistant Professor at the University of Durham and Researcher at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom*

[challenges or opportunities for civil society participation]

*Debate/contributions by delegations*

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Questions and answers

11.45 am – Conclusions

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**Conclusions** by

**Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ**, Director General, Directorate General II – Democracy, Council of Europe