



CAHAI

Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents one of the great technological challenges of our century. While it offers considerable opportunities for society and individuals, it also affects the standards protected by the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Drawing on its experience in regulating digital technologies, the Council of Europe has adopted two types of approaches to framing the development, design and application of AI, in order to timely adopt legal instruments that are in line with its standards. The first, specialised approach is being implemented in all sectors of the Council. The second, cross-cutting approach has been entrusted to the CAHAI (Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence), which has been tasked with carrying out a feasibility study for a horizontal legal instrument whose principles could serve as a basis for more specialised texts. The CAHAI will, in particular, consult widely with civil society and private actors and will act in close co-ordination with other international organisations.

Terms of reference
and activities of the
CAHAI

Factsheet

Governance for digital
transformation

www.coe.int/cahai

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe

Since 1949, the Council of Europe has been monitoring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in its 47 member states, 27 of which are also members of the European Union. The statutory decision-making body of the Council of Europe, the **Committee of Ministers**, is made up of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member states.

All member states of the Council of Europe have acceded to the **European Convention on Human Rights**, a treaty drawn up in 1948 to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The **European Court of Human Rights** monitors implementation of the Convention in the member states.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence – CAHAI

On 11 September 2019, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe set up the **Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence – CAHAI**. Established for a 2-year term, it met for the first time from 18 to 20 November 2019 in Strasbourg. It holds two plenary meetings a year.



The CAHAI is tasked with examining, through **broad multi-stakeholder consultations**, the **feasibility and potential elements of a legal framework for the development, design and application of artificial intelligence**, based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The creation of the CAHAI is the result of a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder process in which the Organisation explored the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in specialised sectors, such as justice or data protection. A **high-level conference** organised by the Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and by the Council of Europe in Helsinki (Finland) in February 2019 consolidated these discussions around the three core values of the Council of Europe, namely human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The conference also provided an opportunity to look at what the use of artificial intelligence means for individual rights and society, and to discuss the concerns that it raises about the sustainability of our legal and institutional frameworks.

Remit

In the performance of its task, the CAHAI must :

- **take into account the standards of the Council of Europe** relevant to the design, development and application of digital technologies, in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, in particular on the basis of existing legal instruments;

- **take into account relevant existing universal and regional international legal instruments, work undertaken by other Council of Europe bodies as well as ongoing work in other international and regional organisations.**

The CAHAI is currently considering the extent to which existing legal instruments are capable of addressing the challenges linked to the use of artificial intelligence, as well as issues relating to the impact of AI on the rights enshrined in Council of Europe instruments.

The participants

To avoid any duplication with other instruments, the CAHAI's work will be based on close and unique co-operation between multiple stakeholders from a range of sectors. The Committee brings together:

- representatives of the **47 member states**, designated by their respective governments, and who have recognised expertise in the field of digital governance and the legal implications of the functioning of different forms of AI ;
- representatives of the **observer states**, namely Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- representatives of **other Council of Europe bodies and sectors**, in particular the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, and intergovernmental committees dealing with issues pertaining to artificial intelligence;
- representatives of **other international and regional organisations** working in the field of artificial intelligence such as the European Union, the United Nations (in particular UNESCO), the OECD or the OSCE;
- representatives of the **private sector**, including companies and associations with which the Council of Europe has concluded an exchange of letters under the partnership with digital businesses;
- representatives of **civil society, research and academic institutions** which have been admitted as observers by the CAHAI.

Elected members

The CAHAI has elected a President, a Vice-President and five members to the Bureau. The elected members are:

- **Mr Gregor Strojín**, President of the CAHAI (State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice of Slovenia);
- **Ms Peggy Valcke**, Vice-President of the CAHAI (professor of law and co-director of the ICRI, KU Leuven, Belgium);
- **Ms Siiri Aulik** (Estonia), **Mr Marco Bellezza** (Italy), **Ms Marine Kettani** (France), **Mr Thomas Schneider** (Switzerland) and **Mr Wolfgang Teves** (Germany).

The Bureau is specifically responsible for preparing plenary meetings and may perform specific tasks proposed by the Committee.

In addition, **Ms Jana Novohradská** (Slovak Republic) has been appointed Gender Equality Rapporteur.