Dear,

My name is Imane Akhyar. I hold a BSc in Artificial Intelligence and am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Information Studies at the University of Amsterdam. I am conducting my thesis research in collaboration with Kouters van der Meer.

My thesis focuses on the **integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into cybersecurity risk management within the financial sector.** The aim is to develop a framework that leverages AI effectively for threat detection, incident response, and compliance with regulatory frameworks such as DORA, NIS2, GDPR, and the EU AI Act. In addition, I investigate how AI can be sustainably embedded within existing governance structures (e.g., the Three Lines Model), while addressing ethical concerns such as bias, transparency, and data privacy.

Why interviews?
While academic literature provides valuable insights into existing models and risks, practical experience is essential to understand how AI is applied in real-world settings, where challenges arise, and what organizational, legal, and ethical considerations are involved. Therefore, these interviews represent a crucial phase in my research, aiming to:

- Validate the developed framework in practice and assess its applicability, feasibility, and completeness;
- Gain insights into concrete implementation challenges, including regulatory compliance (**e.g., DORA, NIS2, GDPR, AI Act**);
- Bridge theoretical gaps in the literature, particularly around AI governance in the context of the **Three Lines Model**;
- Refine the framework based on multidisciplinary perspectives from both internal and external practice.

Interview format
The interviews are semi-structured and will take approximately 60 minutes. All conversations will be anonymized and processed confidentially in the final thesis. After completion, you will receive a summary of the revised framework with the opportunity to provide feedback.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to contribute to this research.

Best regards,
Imane Akhyar
imane.akhyar@koutersvandermeer.nl

KOUTERS VAN DER MEER

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM