**European Commission White Paper
On Artificial Intelligence – A European approach to excellence and trust
COM(2020) 65 final**

**Comments from the
World Federalist Movement – Institute of Global Policy (WFM-IGP)
Trans-national Working Group on
Global Governance of AI and Disruptive Technologies (TWG on AI)**

The World Federalist Movement's Transnational Working Group on AI has reviewed the White Paper and is broadly supportive, subject to the following comments:

1. **Global regulation:** There is little mention of a global regulatory framework. This should however be the urgent goal as AI has tremendous power both to support and destroy humanity. The sooner this power is under responsible and effective global regulation the better. This should be an explicit goal for the European Union, CAHAI and the United Nations. Such matters should start to be discussed in global fora as a prelude to the negotiation of an initial Global Treaty on AI. Such a goal should be clearly stated.

2. **CAHAI:** How will the timing of any emerging European Commission Directive relate to the output of the Council for Europe's Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI)? There would seem to be major overlap in scope. If the EC is completely clear as to the way forward, then one could expect that it could publish first. On the other hand, this issue is of major global concern. Global regulation is needed as soon as possible. Playing a very active role in the decision making within CAHAI whilst waiting for the results before publishing its own regulatory framework would seem to be the best way forward.

3. **Benefits of AI:** The potential benefits that AI can bring are well known. The White Paper sets out a series of steps that will help support the development of AI within Europe. It is notable however that efforts to introduce AI are not evenly spread and that there are sectors in the realm of public goods where the introduction of AI would benefit from greater encouragement and support.[1] The identification of priority areas and initiatives to be supported, based on their benefits to the EU and humanity as a whole, should be an explicit responsibility of any EU body dedicated to AI.

4. **Risks of AI:** In addition to the multiple benefits that can arise from the introduction of AI, there are also categories of risk that will need serious action to address. The European Commission paper should explicitly acknowledge this and propose initial steps towards their resolution. Three main areas of risk are:

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-singl-market/en/news/communication-artificial-intelligence-europe

a. **Weapons Systems:** Implementation of a moratorium on R&D that passes limits, including R&D on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS, aka Killer Robots). In particular[2]:

    I. A moratorium on the development, deployment, transfer, and use of anti-personnel lethal autonomous weapon systems.

    II. Define guiding principles for human involvement in the use of force.

    III. Develop protocols and/or technological means to mitigate the risk of unintentional escalation due to autonomous systems.

    IV. Develop strategies for preventing proliferation to illicit uses, such as by criminals, terrorists, or rogue states.

    V. Conduct research to improve technologies and human-machine systems to reduce non-combatant harm and ensure International Human Rights Law compliance in the use of future weapons.

b. **Negative Impact on labour:** AI is expected to have a dramatic impact on the labour - force, reducing demand for labour in an unprecedented manner. This in itself is not a disaster if, and only if, sufficient account of this transformation is taken both economically and socially in the work place.

    I. Economically some form of Universal Basic Income might be required, funded through taxation of the wealth generated by the AI, whether through general taxation or via a specific tax relating to the deployment of AI in the businesses concerned.

    II. Socially, people have often found a sense of identity and purpose in their lives through the work that they perform and their role in society. If this role is to be diminished (less working time), or cease altogether (unemployment), people will need to be helped to find a new source of identity and purpose in their lives and new pathways to flourishing.

It is essential that the planning required to address these two issues takes place hand in hand with the encouragement of AI in this White Paper.

c. **Control:** Multiple teams of brilliant scientists around the world are carrying out AI related research and developing AI systems. Very rapid progress is being made and is projected to continue to be made over the coming decades. The competitive nature between countries, companies and teams is such that the drive to progress appears at times unstoppable. Without a change of direction, this drive can only lead to the development of Artificial entities with a General Intelligence greater than that of humans – and soon much, much greater. Down that path lies the risk of the end of humanity. The length of the path is contentious – but many see it as only a few decades long.

As with the shorter-term impact on labour, a Regulatory Framework for the development and deployment of AI systems should address the problem outlined above. It is unlikely to encompass a totally reliable solution at the outset, but it should acknowledge the problem and be promoting and supporting the development of the means to reliably resolve the problem.

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[2] Edited version of https://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/artificial-intelligence/a-path-towards-reasonable-autonomous-weapons-regulation