ERHVERVSMINISTERIET

NOTAT

The Danish Government's response to the public consultation on the white paper "On Artificial Intelligence – A European approach to excellence and trust"

General comments

The Danish Government welcomes the European Commission's (Commission) white paper on artificial intelligence (AI) and supports the ambition for a European approach to promote the development and uptake of AI in a responsible and trustworthy manner. AI is one of the pivotal technologies that can underpin the EU's competitiveness, prosperity, strategic autonomy and climate-neutral transition as well as public administration and welfare.

Its vast potential has furthermore become evident by the current COVID-19 crisis which has highlighted the technology's contribution to tackling the pandemic. At the same time, the increasing application of AI and its potential to solve the challenges of tomorrow has reinforced the important objective of ensuring trustworthy, ethical, safe and secure application of AI.

In certain situations, the usage of AI may involve serious risks to individuals and society which must be addressed in a proportionate and risk-based regulatory framework at the European level. A European framework must be clear and operable in order to ensure trust among citizens and increase the protection in society as well as ensuring legal certainty for business and public authorities. The aim should be to pave the way towards a true Single Market for AI, where developers and deployers of AI are able to innovate and scale up across the EU.

AI will likewise be one of the key enablers for rebooting the European economy after COVID-19. Therefore, a strengthened focus on fostering AI ecosystems and capacities in the EU is needed in order to improve Europe's future competitiveness and resilience as well as for achieving the objectives set out in the European Green Deal. The EU must continue to strategically build on its strengths and reduce its weaknesses in order to improve its abilities to develop and deploy responsible, ethical, safe and secure AI, thereby making this a trademark for the EU.

It is important to have in mind that certain usage of AI in sectors critical for our society can involve risks of societal significance. Consequently, a strengthened focus on fostering AI ecosystems and capacities in the EU should also seek to reduce technological dependency on third country deliveries in key value chains and infrastructure of critical importance for our

society and security, thereby strengthening the EU's autonomy as well as enabling the EU to define the European way on digitalisation.

The overarching aim must be to ensure that AI and the digital economy in the EU is characterized by a high degree of trust, safety and security as well as a strong competitiveness based on framework conditions which promote innovation, are technology neutral and do not create unnecessary burdens and barriers.

The Danish Government is looking forward to the further discussions and work on the initiatives announced in the white paper and will form a position on the specific legislative initiatives, as these are presented by the Commission. It should be noted that the Danish Government finds it important that the coming discussions does not in any way prejudge the negotiations on the future Multiannual Financial Framework nor fail to respect the common understandings on the Digital Europe Programme and the Horizon Europe Programme reached between the European Parliament and the Council.

Specific remarks to the different elements in the white paper can be found in the attached document "Annex: Specific comments from the Danish Government's on the white paper on artificial intelligence".