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EIN-A4

(15-10-2018)

**Seminar of the European Ideas Network (EIN) jointly with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on:
“Technological leadership and industrial revolution: the role of the European Union”**

Round Table - “Artificial Intelligence – How the European Union can hold the pace”

Chair:

Tobias WANGERMANN, Head of Team Digitalisation, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Speakers:

Christian EHLER MEP, EPP Group Vice-Coordinator and Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the EP

Arlindo OLIVEIRA, President and Professor, Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal

Andreas STEIER MdB, Spokesperson for Germanys AI Masterplan

Nicolai POGADL, Project Manager at the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University

- > All Member States have their own political stance regarding technology and Artificial Intelligence. Some of them are more security driven, while others have an economic approach.
- > The European Union is more and more interested in investing in this area.
- > The main issue is that we do not have a structured idea on how to invest and spend money from the European budget.
- > China and the USA are world leaders when it comes to this subject, being extremely hard for Europe to keep the pace with these kind of investments.
- > Europe is still far from being a leader on Artificial Intelligence. Within the 15 largest digital firms in the world, none of them is European. These firms belong to the USA and China, where the discussion is happening in a much more open way.
- > We are facing some legal and social challenges when it comes to the acceptance and use of the Artificial Intelligence developments.
- > Most European citizens describe Artificial Intelligence as a danger or a threat, mainly because there is a very speculative idea that everything man can do is going to be replaced by machinery eventually.
- > Nowadays, AI is mostly used on data analysis, which does not cost any jobs.
- > Machine learning is something very different from Artificial Intelligence. In the traditional programming, someone needs to do the programming. However, in machine learning the desired input and output are provided, and the machine creates the program.
- > The deep neural networks learn hierarchical feature representations. This is how the human brain works.
- > How can Europe keep pace with the evolution taking place in other areas of the globe? The solution is to create a digital single market. The European strategy must focus on each country’s features and comparative advantages. The most important thing is to change the general feeling about AI among our citizens.
- > It is also crucial for EU to improve its funding mechanisms by: funding less projects and more good scientists; rewarding transparency; fund more young investigators; increase and diversify spending in RD&I; and improving data availability (e.g. by promoting data sharing and reuse).
- > The plan of action must include a reform on how skills and training are developed in order to keep up with the recent changes and the ones to come.
- > Will Europe be ready to support leading companies on the matter, as it is done in the US? At what extent is Europe capable of using e-government the way Chinese do?

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(16-10-2018)

**Seminar of the European Ideas Network (EIN) jointly with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on:
“Technological leadership and industrial revolution: the role of the European Union”**

Round Table - “The European Union as Technological Leader in IoT”

Chair:

Matthias SCHÄFER, Head of the Policy Economy team, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Speakers:

Steven HILL, Journalist-in-residence at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Lecturer and Political expert

Hans Erik NILSSON, Inventor, Entrepreneur and Innovator, Swedish Innovators

Steffen MICHEEL, Political Advisor

Ulrich WENGER, Head of Research & Development, Rolls-Royce Germany

- > With IoT new chances and opportunities will emerge for society and business. Companies need to transform and adapt in order to remain competitive.
- > IoT might be the answer for several of nowadays challenges, e.g. ageing societies or smart power generation and distribution.
- > What does Europe have to do in order to become a leader in IoT? It is necessary to develop a robust digital infrastructure (fast and mobile internet access), and guarantee its protection (e.g. EU based servers; EU cyber security force).
- > Within Europe, Scandinavian countries are the leaders, which means that the other countries should follow their concept or example.
- > Furthermore, it is crucial to promote data protection and privacy.
- > We need to invest in research on digitalisation and IoT, promoting the development of the needed skills and training among young people, but also among older generations.
- > If the EU does not follow this path, the companies based in the EU will lose its competitiveness.
- > European countries are competing with each other, in which will be a race to the bottom.
- > The majority of the biggest companies only focus in Artificial Intelligence disruption. Their attention is driven towards the advertisement and methods to get data from their users.
- > Within the European Union, the tradition is a robust public-private partnership that can make the difference comparing to other regional competitors.
- > What should the EU aim for? What is the real level playing field to dream about?
- > AI is feed by data. In the US big companies own the data, while in Europe governments own it, but they do not make it accessible for stakeholders. It is important to create an open search data ruled by a trustful institution that is accessible to small universities or research centres.
- > EU also needs to make its market more attractive to talented researchers.
- > Copying China or Silicon Valley is not the solution. The EU needs to use its unique social market economy features to differentiate from its competitors.
- > Innovation has been on the basis of social and economic development of our societies. However, new ideas and approaches are always controversial and scary.
- > European policy makers need to understand better the concept of innovation and the real (not the burocratic) process that leads to an innovative idea.

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