

Europe should invite AI innovators who share European values!

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear Commissioner Virkkunen,

If companies are criticised abroad for building ethical safeguards into AI, Europe should be the place where they are welcomed with open arms.

Recent developments in the United States concerning the artificial intelligence company Anthropic highlight an important moment for the future of AI and the role Europe should play in shaping it.

The company refused to weaken ethical safeguards in its AI system and because of that the Trump administration reportedly ordered U.S. government agencies and other business to stop working with the company. These safeguards, including limits on the use of AI for mass surveillance or autonomous lethal systems, are legitimate ethical red lines, set to protect fundamental rights.

The European Union has embedded fundamental rights in its own approach in the AI Act. So if Anthropic truly aims to build a value-based and trustworthy AI, it should see Europe as its natural home.

At the same time, Europe must recognise a structural challenge: while the EU has world-class researchers and strong scientific networks, we do not have enough frontier AI companies. This is why the current moment also represents an opportunity.

A stronger presence of Anthropic in Europe would strengthen our AI ecosystem, attract talent, stimulate research and entrepreneurship, and support the development of a European “Eurostack”. It would also send a clear signal to innovators around the world: Europe is the place where advanced technologies can be developed responsibly and in line with democratic values. **We do not have to choose between fundamental values or new technologies. True innovation is new technologies that incorporate fundamental values.**

Europe has strong foundations. Research networks such as the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems and the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, alongside data initiatives like the SoBigData Research Infrastructure and the emerging European Health Data Space, are building the ecosystem needed for the next generation of AI.

In this context, I encourage the Commission to:

- reaffirm Europe’s vision of human-centred artificial intelligence with fundamental values
- explore a framework to host AI innovators from abroad, offering legal certainty and stability, and
- open exploratory discussions with Anthropic, including inviting its CEO, Dario Amodei, to Brussels to discuss expanding its presence in Europe.

If Europe succeeds in combining technological ambition with ethical leadership, it can become the global home of trustworthy artificial intelligence. Welcoming companies like Anthropic would be a decisive step in that direction.

Yours sincerely,

Reinier van Lanschot

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Member of the European Parliament