

Brussels, 22 July 2026

Dear Mr Piatkowski,

Thank you for sharing the Horizon of Tomorrow Association's appeal concerning the urgent development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Europe.

The European Union is committed to become a global leader in AI. To this end, building on Europe's leading work in making AI safer and trustworthy started with the AI Act – one rule book for 27 countries. In April 2025, the Commission also presented the AI Continent Action Plan¹ and followed by the Apply AI Strategy² with the aim to propose concrete measures to forge ahead with bold, home-grown innovation underpinned by robust regulation.

The first results stemming from these strategies are already materialising. Today, 19 AI Factories have already started operating or are soon to do so, providing support to our most advanced startups. We have been launching funding calls to sustain the development of specific AI solutions in strategic sectors, and the network of locally based European Digital Innovation Hubs has been assisting the integration of AI in production processes of EU's SMEs, mid-caps and public sector. In addition, other key initiatives such as the AI Skills Academy³ and the European Frontier AI Initiative⁴ will soon begin delivering tangible outcomes, while the Digital Omnibus will further simplify implementation of the AI Act.

At the same time, the Commission is fully aware that the successful deployment of AI in Europe must remain fair, inclusive and human-centred. While AI can boost productivity, improve occupational safety and health, and reduce repetitive tasks, it also raises considerations related to workers' rights, privacy, and fairness. In this context, the Commission is advancing its Quality Jobs agenda⁵, and, through the Union of Skills⁶, it is investing in education, training and lifelong learning to equip Europe's workforce for the digital transition.

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¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan>

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai>

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-talent-skills-and-literacy>

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-ai-research>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2917

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/union-skills_en

As stated in the appeal, Europe has the resources, the people, and the values. With the AI Act, the AI Continent Action Plan and the Apply AI Strategy, complemented by the Union of Skills and the Quality Jobs agenda, as well as by our proposal for a Cloud and AI Development Act, and the recent Action Plan for Cybersecurity and AI, our distinctive approach to AI policy making is aligned with expectations of citizens. It enables the EU to act with ambition, speed and foresight to shape the future of this technology in a responsible way that enhances our competitiveness, safeguards and advances our democratic values and protects our cultural diversity.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Henna Virkkunen