



European Parliament

Brussels, 18 September 2026

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

Subject: Urgent call for a European legislation on advanced and autonomous artificial intelligence

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing to you as Members of the European Parliament deeply concerned about the pace and direction of developments in artificial intelligence and their potential implications for our societies, economies and democracies.

The European Union has taken an important first step with the Artificial Intelligence Act. However, the pace of technological development is increasingly outstripping the capacity of existing legislation. Europe must now prepare for a new frontier of increasingly capable and autonomous AI systems.

Recently, a legislative initiative was announced in the United States calling for a permanent prohibition of artificial superintelligence and a temporary pause on the development of the most advanced AI systems until effective public oversight, regulatory safeguards and safety standards are in place. Regardless of the specific approach taken elsewhere, the underlying political question is one that Europe can no longer postpone.

Today's widely used systems, often referred to as Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI), remain fundamentally different from the potential future development of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI). Systems with substantially greater autonomy, strategic reasoning and adaptive capabilities could potentially plan and act independently, manipulate or deliberately deceive humans, circumvent safeguards, or develop capabilities that their creators cannot reliably predict, understand or control. Such developments could create an entirely different category of risk.

We therefore believe that Europe must act before these capabilities become irreversible.

We therefore call on the European Commission to urgently prepare a new legislative initiative establishing a robust European framework for AGI, ASI and the most advanced frontier AI systems. Such a framework should, in particular:

- establish appropriate legal definitions and regulatory categories for AGI, ASI and highly autonomous frontier AI systems;
- introduce a precautionary temporary pause on the development and deployment of the most powerful frontier systems where adequate safety standards and independent oversight do not yet exist;
- prohibit the development or deployment of systems that cannot be demonstrated to remain under meaningful human control;
- require independent safety testing, capability evaluations, red-teaming, external audits and continuous monitoring for the most advanced systems;
- establish strong, genuinely independent European supervision of frontier AI development;
- introduce effective liability and sanctions for companies or executives that deliberately circumvent European safeguards; and
- pursue international cooperation with democratic partners to establish common safeguards and prevent an uncontrolled global race towards artificial superintelligence.

Dear President von der Leyen,

The European Union has both the responsibility and the democratic legitimacy to lead this discussion. The question is not simply whether Europe will win or lose a technological race. The fundamental question is whether democratic societies will remain in control of technologies that may fundamentally reshape our economies, labour markets, democracies and, ultimately, human civilisation itself.

For once, politics must move faster than technology.

We therefore urge the European Commission to treat this matter with the utmost urgency and to bring forward a legislative initiative establishing clear limits, effective safeguards and democratic oversight for the development of the most advanced AI systems.

Europe has already demonstrated through the AI Act that technological innovation and democratic regulation can go hand in hand. We now have the opportunity and the responsibility to ensure that the next generation of AI develops within boundaries that protect human rights, democracy and human control.

We look forward to your response and to the Commission's initiative on this crucial matter.

Yours sincerely,

Klára Dobrev, MEP (S&D)
Csaba Molnár, MEP (S&D)
Niels Geuking, MEP (EPP)
Markéta Gregorová, MEP (Greens/EFA)
Gheorghe Piperea, MEP (ECR)

Benedetta Scuderi, MEP (Greens/EFA)

Dario Tamburrano, MEP (The Left)

Marta Temido, MEP (S&D)