

For immediate release

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## **CLAIRE endorses EU plan for AI, makes 10 key recommendations to the European Commission**

Yesterday, the public consultation on the European Commission's ambitious plan for "A Europe fit for the digital age", presented in February, closed. The Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, CLAIRE, the world's largest AI research organisation, has endorsed key elements of the Commission's plans for artificial intelligence. (See also CLAIRE's press release from 20 February 2020, available at <http://claire-ai.org/claire-press-release-11>)

– The plans and action outlined in the European Commission's white paper on AI are closely aligned with the vision for European excellence in AI pursued by CLAIRE since June 2018, says Prof. Philipp Slusallek, scientific director at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) and co-initiator of CLAIRE.

– In particular, the concept of a CERN-inspired lighthouse centre that will bring together top researchers from across Europe and around the world has a lot of potential. Done right, this will become a global attractor of talent and a symbol for European excellence in human-centred AI.

– The white paper offers a compelling blueprint, adds Holger Hoos, Professor of Machine Learning at Leiden University, The Netherlands, and Chairman of the Board of CLAIRE. – Now, important details need to be filled in, for example on how to balance supporting excellence within the European AI ecosystem along with a broader network, whose members are of key importance for reaching critical mass and ensuring global impact.

Towards this goal, CLAIRE has produced a detailed response to the European Commission, which is now publically available at <http://claire-ai.org/ec-wp-response/>.

– At the heart of our response are 10 key recommendations we make to the European Commission, says Dr. Morten Irgens from Oslo Metropolitan University, co-founder of CLAIRE.

– Our recommendations cover all aspects of the Commission's plan; they call for immediate action that will help to ensure Europe's competitiveness in AI research and innovation, to position Europe as a leading player in AI technologies that will define our lives.

These recommendations have been shaped and scrutinised by CLAIRE's network of 375 research groups and organisations, which jointly employ over 21000 AI researchers and support staff across all of Europe and beyond, as well as by CLAIRE's International Advisory Board, whose members include globally recognised leaders in artificial

intelligence, larger-scale research infrastructures and public administration (see <https://claire-ai.org/iab/>).

- The Commission's white paper represents a major step towards the kind of AI ecosystem Europe needs to stay globally competitive, says Prof. Ana Paiva of the University of Lisbon, Portugal, and one of the authors of CLAIRE's response.
- Our recommendations outline some crucial next steps in realising the Commission's ambitious plan, which aligns remarkably well with the vision pursued by the European AI community organised in CLAIRE. This is one of the rare cases where bottom-up and top-down initiatives link up to generate strong momentum. Let's make the best use of this!

## **About CLAIRE**

CLAIRE (Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, [claire-ai.org](https://claire-ai.org)) is an organisation created by the European AI community that seeks to strengthen European excellence in AI research and innovation, with a strong focus on human-centred AI. CLAIRE aims to establish a world-wide brand recognition for "AI made in Europe" (at the level of CERN), and to position Europe in control of its own future.

CLAIRE was launched in June 2018 and now has the support of more than 3,500 people, most of them scientists, technologists, and researchers in Artificial Intelligence. The supporters represent the vast majority of Europe's AI community, spanning academia and industry, research, and innovation. Among the supporters are more than 140 fellows from various key scientific associations. CLAIRE has opened administrative offices in The Hague, Saarbrücken, Prague and Rome, Brussels, Oslo, Paris and Zürich. Furthermore, nine advisory groups with 48 members from 18 countries have been established, covering all areas of AI, along with the topics of ethical, legal and social implications of AI.

CLAIRE's membership network consists of over 370 research groups and research institutions, covering jointly more than 21,000 employees in 35 countries. In addition, CLAIRE is in the process of setting up an industry network, in order to foster close links between non-profit research and impactful industrial applications.

The CLAIRE vision for excellence in European AI has received official letters of support from the governments of nine European countries, from 28 scientific associations across all of Europe, from the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI, which is the key European association for AI researchers), from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI, the key international association for AI), and from the European Space Agency (ESA).

CLAIRE is also actively liaising, on an ongoing basis, with other important organisations, including ELLIS, the HumanE AI consortium, the Big Data Value Association, euRobotics and AI4EU, and cooperates closely with ESA.

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