Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization Richard Raši

Bratislava 24th April 2019 Number: 004242/2019/oJDTMS-1

Dear Professor Hoos,

As Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization whose office is responsible for the implementation of the digital single market strategy of the European Union, including Artificial Intelligence as an important element, I am writing to offer my encouragement and support to the goals, vision and activities of your initiative.

Understanding current global development in the field of Artificial Intelligence and realizing future challenges that the European Union will face, including negative economic consequences and academic brain drain, I feel the need to cooperate and collaborate more closely on the European level. I believe that research, industry and innovation institutions in Slovakia will strongly support your activities and together with other institutions from the region of the Central and Eastern Europe we will contribute to achieve your mission in strengthening the European excellence in Artificial Intelligence research and innovation.

Thus, I hereby express my full support for the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe (CLAIRE) and your vision on European excellence in Artificial Intelligence as outlined by the CLAIRE initiative, including the key focus on research and support for Artificial Intelligence across all of Europe and focus on human-centered Artificial Intelligence. Slovakia is prepared to play a key role in these efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Holger Hoos Professor of Machine Learning Leiden University Leiden