



doc. Ing. Karel Havlíček, Ph.D., MBA

Vice Chairman of the Research, Development and Innovation Council

Prof. Holger Hoos,
Confederation of Laboratories for AI Research in Europe (CLAIRE),
Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science,
Niels Bohrweg 1,
2333CA Leiden
The Netherlands

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Dear Prof. Hoos,

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has made major advances in the recent years. From web search to image recognition, dialog systems, customer and market prediction, verified software and hardware, advanced robots, self-driving cars and superhuman Chess and Go playing systems, AI has shown its game-changing nature and its role as a major driver of innovation, future growth, competitiveness and societal changes.

In the United States and China, huge investments in AI are made by both the private and the public sector. The EU states are struggling to retain their best scientists. Many European companies whose future crucially depends on AI are not perceived as competitive. There is an urgent need for EU to react with a coordinated plan for investment in talent, research, technology and innovation in AI. The current "Coordinated Plan on AI Made in Europe" under preparation by EU authorities is the first top-down step aimed at applied research. We support its fast implementation.

Recently, two bottom-up initiatives for AI in EU - CLAIRE and ELLIS - have emerged as a solution for Europe to find its way to the forefront of AI, gaining support of thousands of AI researchers in EU. They argue for a fast long-term funding commitment both in basic and applied research, establishing a network of centers of excellence in AI, and competitive conditions for AI researchers in EU.

Czech Republic supports these initiatives, their vision on European AI excellence, and their synergy. We support the key points expressed in CLAIRE, including the key focus on All of AI research, support for AI across all of Europe, and a focus on Human-Centered AI. Czech Republic is prepared to play a key role in these efforts.

Sincerely,