

Joint K4I / IEEE Dinner Debate

## Civil Law Rules on Robotics: Prioritizing Human Well-Being in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Hosted by Mady Delvaux, MEP

Tuesday, 11 April 2017 | 19:30 – 22:00

Members' Salon, European Parliament, Brussels

### ***Debate Background Document***

#### ***Prioritizing Wellbeing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence***

##### **Executive Summary**

The Beyond GDP Initiative of the European Commission and the OECD have firmly established that economic metrics focused on production and exponential growth are insufficient to measure and increase citizen wellbeing.

*Prioritizing Human Well-being in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* is an event addressing how intelligent and autonomous technologies profoundly influence societal flourishing by their direct effect on human agency, mental and emotional health.

Our goal for the evening is to ask the question - If manufacturers were to prioritize metrics that account for human wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and income equality in their creation of Artificial Intelligence, how could society flourish more than by accounting for GDP alone?

Part of this process is to identify how wellbeing metrics can bring value to AI manufacturers as well as society at large. This alignment will provide the basis to build Beyond GDP metrics into the algorithms and systems driving AI, effectively coding a positive and sustainable future for EU citizens and the world.

### **Context and Challenges**

- The rapid development of artificial intelligence and autonomous technologies (AI/AS) has caused some mistrust and disturbance for European citizens in regards to their jobs, personal data, and wellbeing.
- Policy implications from the report to the Commission on Civil Law Rules on Robotics (2015/2103(INL)) have been somewhat misinterpreted and raised concerns, especially regarding robotic personhood. This puts public trust in policy makers and technology at risk.
- We are looking to encourage Beyond GDP metrics for the design and manufacture of AI to provide pragmatic measures of accountability in response to concerns by the public.
- Hysteria over scenarios where robots are given the same rights as humans will be minimized when issues of AI/AS liability are addressed to ensure the protection of personal data and emotional wellbeing.

### **Possible Approaches**

The IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems ("The IEEE Global Initiative") is looking at how to promote human wellbeing in AI/AS, and key approaches include:

- 1) **Research.** By identifying how wellbeing metrics can bring value to AI/AS designers and manufacturers as well as society at large technologists will have justification to redefine innovation by prioritizing human wellbeing.
- 2) **A Multi-Disciplinary Working Group to Address Technology Policy.** By cross-pollinating the expertise of AI/AS manufacturers with ethicists, economists, sociologists, and wellbeing expert groups can provide holistic recommendations for aligned and enlightened technology policy.
- 3) **Guidelines and Standards for Ethical AI.** Ethical guidelines and standards need to be created to foster the adoption of wellbeing metrics, including specifics on how to train AI/AS systems to recognize and prioritize their use.

## **Prioritizing Wellbeing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

The IEEE Global Initiative is exploring the introduction of Beyond GDP metrics for the creation process of AI to enable and encourage technologists to prioritize human wellbeing in society. Current concerns of automation taking jobs or algorithms removing agency will have vastly different outcomes based on what society values most.

### **Sources / Recommended Reading**

- The IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems. [Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision For Prioritizing Wellbeing With Artificial Intelligence And Autonomous Systems](#), Version 1. IEEE, 2016.
- [Progress on 'GDP and Beyond' Actions](#) – Commission Staff Working Document, European Commission. Brussels, 2.8.2013 / SWD(2013) 303 final.
- [Going Digital: Making the Transformation Work for Growth and Well-Being](#). OECD, January 2017.
- [IEEE AI & Ethics Summit 2016. Artificial Intelligence and Ethics – Who Does the Thinking? Summit Report](#). IEEE, January 2017.