



Mrs Margrethe Vestager  
Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age  
European Commission Rue de la Loi 200 B-1049 Brussels


Brussels, 6 December 2019

Dear Executive Vice-President, ·

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on your appointment as Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age of the European Commission.

Microsoft fully supports your objectives for a competitive digital economy, advancing our shared goals of equality while ensuring an open and fair level-playing field. While sweeping digital transformation holds great promise to ensure Europe's competitiveness across many industries, new approaches are needed to manage an era defined by unprecedented paradigm shifts in the economy, business, society, and individually.

We believe that companies that create technology must accept greater responsibility for the future. Our team has worked hard to support the Commission's efforts to build an ethical framework for AI governance across Europe. We believe that some applications or use case scenarios, such as certain uses of facial recognition technologies, require baseline guardrails to ensure democratic freedoms continue to prevail in an open society. We hope to continue this collaboration to share practices and research results to enhance the tools needed, technological or legal, to put ethical principles into practice.

, and I look forward to discussing these important issues with you soon. My team has been reaching out to request a meeting either in Brussels on 20 January or during the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos.

As you are taking up this incredibly important role for leading Europe into the digital age, you can count on our support to help realize your vision.

I wish you and your team at the European Commission every success. My team will take the liberty to follow up to coordinate a potential meeting.

Sincerely,

