Meeting - Vice-President Andrus Ansip and Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer of Microsoft, 15 February 2018

Participants:

<u>Microsoft</u>
- Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer of Microsoft
- ███████████████████ EU Government Affairs at Microsoft
- ███████████████████ EU Government Affairs, Privacy & Digital Policies Corporate, External & Legal Affairs, at Microsoft

<u>Commission</u>
- Vice-President Ansip
- Juhan Lepassaar, Head of Cabinet
- Marie Frenay, Cabinet policy assistant

Main points of the discussion:

Brad Smith shares his views about the position of Europe when it comes to AI.

Quite positive context:
1) traditional leaders (e.g. pharma) recognise importance of AI
2) new entrepreneurial spirit that was not there years ago (e.g. Station F Paris, more and more startups)

Main challenge: be true to values, data privacy, IP protection.

AI is about data sets.

Microsoft representatives say that GDPR makes it difficult for everyone to use some European data sets. And for data sets with personally identifiable information (PII) Microsoft is currently using US data sets.

They also share concerns about impact of proposed e-Privacy rules on AI.

VP Ansip agrees on the importance of data sets. He highlights there is a wealth of industrial data in Europe, expertise that does not exist in China for example. He insists on the importance of GDPR and e-Privacy for trust, which is also key for the development of AI.

Brad Smith and ███████████ share their views on how Europe can accelerate AI development.

1) Role of public sector for adoption + to publish data sets

2) Support for R&D, basic research

3) Broader laws, e.g. related to data protection/copyright

███████████████ also highlights the concept of data donations and the work of the digital ethics lab of Oxford Internet Institute.

Both the VP and Brad Smith discuss examples of AI bringing benefits in the health sector (diagnosis of cancer, rare diseases, emergency calls) and agriculture (connected cows, chickens) and the importance of demystifying AI.

Brad Smith highlights the importance of ethics and the work of Microsoft in this area, esp. on questions related to liability/accountability, fairness, transparency/explainability. There is the need for Europe to be in the lead without sacrificing ethics.

He presents list of values AI needs to respect as detailed in the book "The Future Computed" – copies of the book are given to the VP, Juhan Lepassaar and Marie Frenay.

Tweets published after the meeting

https://twitter.com/Ansip_EU/status/964119910812135424

https://twitter.com/ckutterer/status/964460480969498624