The European Commission published a Communication on Artificial Intelligence, in an attempt for the EU to take the lead on global rule-setting in relation to emerging technologies. The Communication, which is expected to be followed by two additional communications on the future of connected and automated mobility and on the future research and innovation ambitions for Europe, envisages draft guidelines on AI ethics by the end of the year.

Overall, the Commission Communication focuses on three objectives: first, to boost the EU’s technological and industrial capacity and AI uptake across the economy; second, to prepare for socio-economic changes; and third, to ensure an appropriate ethical and legal framework.

The Commission initiative is aligned with IEEE’s work on artificial intelligence, which has been recognized earlier this month in a note published by the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC). The note underlines IEEE’s work on ethical standards for AI, recognizing its ‘initiative to recommend policy guidelines to foster an ethically aligned design for Artificial Intelligence’.

The Communication also reflects IEEE’s views as presented during a Breakfast Roundtable in the European Parliament in Brussels on 24 April 2018 “Intelligent Innovation and Society: Policy Implications of AI and Big Data Analytics”, in which ICT Working Group member, Dr Jean-Luc Dormoy, stressed the need to address algorithmic bias and data privacy concerns in AI. Dr Dormoy also emphasised the importance of training the workforce to better adapt to the challenges brought about by AI.

Source: Interel
DATA PROTECTION

European Parliament debates data privacy in light of Facebook scandal

Following Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s testimony to the US Congress, the European Parliament held a debate on data protection and citizen’s privacy.

With mounting public awareness on data privacy issues, Members of the European Parliament warned that the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will take effect on 25 May 2018, might not be enough to stop major data abuse and rules need to be complemented with extended privacy safeguards.

During the debate, Monika Panayotova, Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency, claimed that social networks and digital platforms need to be transparent and guarantee the protection of personal data. She also said that EU leaders will discuss data privacy during a two-day summit in Sofia, Bulgaria, scheduled on 16 May 2018.

For the second time in two months, the European Parliament has reiterated its invitation to Mr Zuckerberg to appear before the European Parliament to give evidence on the past data privacy issues. Mr Zuckerberg is likely to appear before the European Parliament in May 2018, but his presence is still to be confirmed.

Source: Interel
MEPs discuss the proposed Cybersecurity Act

Following the publication of the European Commission’s proposal on the Cybersecurity Act, the Industry Committee (ITRE) of the European Parliament discussed the draft parliamentary report that was published in April 2018 by Rapporteur Angelika Niebler MEP (EPP, DE).

The Rapporteur called for a strengthened role and increased resources for ENISA, which should lead in the development of cybersecurity schemes. In addition, MEP Niebler advocated for the adoption of a ‘risk-based,’ rather than a ‘one size fits all,’ approach in the Regulation, while suggesting that high-risk ICT products, processes and services should be subject to mandatory assessment and that a voluntary system is retained only for basic and substantial assurance levels.

During the debate, Members of the European Parliament’s Industry Committee welcomed the report. While not all of them supported the idea of providing ENISA with increased powers, most agreed with Ms. Niebler on the need to have strong industry involvement in the process.

The deadline for amendments in the ITRE Committee was 26 April 2018 and the proposed amendments should be published soon. ITRE is expected to adopt its report on the proposal on 19 June 2018.

Source: Interel

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DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

The EU promotes the creation of a European data space

On 25 April 2018, the Commission put forward a set of measures to increase the availability of data in the EU, with the aim of creating a European data space and of boosting the free flow of non-personal data in the Digital Single Market.

Building on the EU GDPR, the Communication focused on ways to enable the best possible use of the potential of digital data.

The Commission will put forward revised Public Sector Information legislation, which will guarantee better access to and reusability of public sector data. It also proposes a new set of recommendations to encourage scientific data sharing and access to information. Finally, the Commission published a guidance document on legal and technical aspects of data sharing in business-to-business and business-to-government to promote private sector data sharing.

Source: Interel
EU Commission publishes eHealth strategy

Building on the EU GDPR, the Commission issued a communication setting out an action plan to enable digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market. The communication suggests tackling the lack of digital solutions for health and care by taking action in three areas:

1. Citizens’ secure access to and sharing of health data across borders, by clarifying the role of the eHealth Network and improve interoperability of patient data.

2. Better data to advance research, disease prevention and personalised health and care, by setting up a mechanism for voluntary coordination of authorities to share data across borders.

3. Digital tools for citizen empowerment and person-centred care, by stimulating the uptake of digital health by providing common principles to validate and certify health technology, as well as to promote skills of citizens, patients and professionals in using digital solutions.

Source: Interel

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EEVIDENCE

EU Commission proposal boosts data access to electronic evidence

On 17 April 2018, the EU Commission put forward a set of rules in a draft Regulation on European production and preservation orders for electronic evidence in criminal matters and a Directive on the appointment of legal representatives for the purpose of gathering evidence in criminal proceedings. The objective of the new rules is to make it easier and faster for law enforcement and judicial authorities to obtain electronic evidence as part of an investigation.

The Commission’s so-called ‘e-evidence’ proposal aims at streamlining bureaucratic processes and responds to longstanding pleas from law enforcement professionals for better and faster access to evidence stored on electronic devices.

Overall, the Commission’s proposal will guarantee faster access to data and will introduce the notion of a ‘production order’, in which investigators will be able to ask companies in other EU member states to provide data for investigations.

Source: Politico Pro