



## ***Artificial Intelligence & Human Rights in Europe***

### ***Presentation of the report by the Institut de la Souveraineté Numérique and the Institute for fundamental digital rights (IDFRights)***

This report summarizes the work on artificial intelligence carried out by the Institut de la Souveraineté Numérique and the IDFRights Institute. Its aim is to shed light on the economic, political and cultural evolutions of these technologies, as well as their consequences for European societies and democracies. This report has been designed to help stimulate debate among citizens and public players, proposing possible answers so that they can help create a transparent and democratic European “third way” for artificial intelligence technologies.

Artificial intelligence technologies increase data analysis and processing capacities, facilitate decision-making and automate complex tasks that were once thought to be the preserve of humans. Today, they have countless fields of application, from the management of energy consumption to the early diagnosis of pathologies, via the optimization of industrial processes, the piloting of autonomous vehicles, or even the design of intelligent weapons...

However, debates on AI have too often focused on their social and economic stakes, or on the hypothetical and distant prospects of the supremacy of AIs that have become "smarter" than their creators. However, we also need to analyze the medium-term consequences that these technologies could have on our societies and political systems, because of the influence they could have on freedoms and the



evolution of lifestyles in European societies. Indeed, unlike technologies that have had essentially economic and industrial consequences, artificial intelligence represents new challenges for the citizens of European democracies and their political leaders. As philosopher Kate Crawford puts it: *“AI is politics by other means...”*.

In the absence of a European political and industrial response, these AIs could pose new threats to freedoms, with widespread algorithmic surveillance and mass manipulation of individuals. Another essential characteristic of European societies could be called into question with the transformation of the European social protection model in favor of a logic of permanent control of behavior via AI. The recent rise of new forms of “generative” AI could also transform the cultural creation sector, the transmission of knowledge and the very notion of intellectual property. Beyond their cultural consequences, AI could also intervene in democratic processes, redefining the conditions under which public debates can be conducted and even changing the notion of truth in our societies and therefore the conditions under which collective decisions are taken. What's more, AI today enables the “democratization” of new forms of interference in European democratic processes, as demonstrated by the Cambridge Analytica affair with Facebook in the United States in 2018 or more recently Russian interference in Romania via the Chinese platform TikTok.

All technology players now recognize the need to regulate the development of AI technologies, to avoid authoritarian drift or discrimination. In this respect, the work carried out in Europe with the AI Act is a pioneering initiative. However, regulatory measures alone will not be able to curb the risks arising from the excesses of these technologies. Faced with Europe's dependence on non-European technologies, one of the fundamental challenges for the EU's future will be to ensure the emergence of world-class technology players in Europe.



Indeed, as Mario Draghi reminds us in his report on European productivity, if Europe fails to develop new policies for financing these strategic technologies, it could be threatened with industrial and economic agony, as well as political agony in the face of non-European players who do not share its democratic principles and values.

These issues are all the more crucial for Europe at a time when the geopolitical confrontation between the United States and China is intensifying. This confrontation now relies on AI technologies as an instrument of economic and military supremacy, but also as a means of waging new hybrid wars on European public opinion. Thus, in the absence of European industrial players capable of offering alternatives to American or Chinese technologies, Europe could become a long-term digital colony of two other continents.