

Programme

European Office Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Think Digital!

Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 15:00 to 18:30, followed by a dinner reception

Venue: NH Berlaymont, Bd Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels

Last year's digital agenda has been marked by the conclusion of the EU AI Act. It entered into force on 1 August 2024 following a successful legislative process after the European Commission had issued a first proposal in 2021. In the meantime, AI has evolved from a technical expert topic into a central concern of society and industry. All eyes are now on the AI Act's implementation, and it is time to "Think Digital" in order to make the AI Act a European success story and boost Europe's competitiveness.

In this light, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung European Office and ZVEI, the German Electro and Digital Industry Association, are delighted to invite you to this year's Think Digital conference, following up on a highly successful format in the past. As the new Commission, respectively the AI Office, has taken up its work, the debate will focus on the AI Act and its implementation from two angles: the industry perspective and the global perspective.

A first high-level panel will discuss how we can ensure that the AI Act is implemented in a way that fosters innovation and drives European industrial competitiveness, as it has been emphasised in the Draghi report. AI is at the heart of Europe's economy and hence a key driver for digital transformation. Based on the AI Act, the question remains how the EU and member states can balance an unbureaucratic implementation of the AI Act with the need for legal certainty and the fostering of innovation and economic competitiveness.

A second high-level panel will explore how the EU's AI regulation positions Europe at the global level. With its AI Act, the EU has put forward a first of its kind regulation for the development of trustworthy AI. It enters the global stage at a crucial moment when the race to AI has shifted into higher gear. Therefore, we want to discuss how other innovation powerhouses across the globe react to the EU's AI Act.

We are delighted to welcome MEP Axel Voss as the patron of "Think Digital!" given his pivotal role as shadow rapporteur on the AI Act file during the last legislative mandate at the European Parliament.

After the panel discussions we invite you to join us for a networking reception.

Agenda 19 February 2025

14:30

Registration

15:00

Conference Opening

Kathrin Glastra

Head of Brussels Office and European Affairs, ZVEI

Welcoming remarks

Dr Beatrice Gorawantschy

Director, KAS European Office

15:10

Keynote

Axel Voss

Member of the European Parliament

15:30

Panel I: Perspectives on the Implementation of the AI Act

Axel Voss

Member of the European Parliament

Martin Ulbrich

Senior Expert, AI Office

Viktoriiia Shportiuk

Senior Manager EU Government Affairs & Policy, Siemens Healthineers

Dr Till Klein

Head of AI regulation, Applied AI Institute for Europe

Moderated by

Silke Wettach

EU Reporter

16:40

Coffee Break

17:10

Panel II: International Dimension of the EU AI Act

Carolina Costa

Head of Policy, Red Flag Global

Sue Daley

Director Technology & Innovation, techUK

Dr Philipp Haas

Head of IT Law, Robert Bosch

Hosuk Lee-Makiyama

Director, European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

Moderated by

Silke Wettach

EU Reporter

18:20

Closing Remarks

Kathrin Glastra

Head of Brussels Office and European Affairs, ZVEI

18:30

Dinner Reception