



Topic Brief: Schuman Challenge 2025

Artificial Intelligence as a Key Technology:

A Shared Initiative for the EU and U.S. vis-à-vis China

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology for the 21st century. From revolutionizing economic sectors such as healthcare and finance to reshaping everyday life, AI is set to drive the next wave of global innovation.

Given its potential, nations are racing to harness AI's power. The U.S., the EU, and China are at the forefront of this technological competition. In this context, the European Union (EU) and the United States (U.S.) have both a strategic interest and a shared responsibility to collaborate in the development, regulation, and deployment of AI technologies.

Key ingredients for companies to become leaders in AI lie in developing algorithms, having access to large datasets, and having access to powerful computers. The growing prominence of China in AI innovation and application presents both opportunities and challenges. For the EU and the U.S., fostering collaboration in AI research, governance, and policy is essential to ensure that democratic values, transparency, and ethical standards guide the global trajectory of AI development.

The Task:

- Propose a joint EU-US initiative,
- Make recommendations, and
- Use a specific example or case study.

Suggested Reading:

European Union Documents

1. European Commission: "Artificial Intelligence Act" (July 2024)

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4123

The world's first comprehensive AI regulation. The Act establishes a harmonized regulatory framework for AI within the EU to ensure trustworthiness and fundamental rights protection while fostering innovation.

2. European Commission: "AI Factories" (January 2024)

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-factories>

AI 'factories' are an EU flagship initiative bringing together data, people and computer power. They are designed to develop trustworthy cutting-edge generative AI by leveraging super-computing capacity. They are part of a package of measures launched by the European Commission in January 2024 to support European start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to drive innovation in AI applications across key sectors like health, energy and manufacturing.

3. European Commission. "A European Strategy for Data" (February 2020)

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/strategy-data>

The EU data strategy proposes the creation of common data spaces and promotes the importance of international cooperation, especially with institutions in the U.S., to develop secure and transparent data governance frameworks. Following the strategy, important



legislative initiatives have been taken to unlock the potential of data, i.e., the Data Act and the Data Governance Act.

United States Documents

4. White House Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence (October 2023)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/30/executive-order-on-the-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence/>

This Order requires a comprehensive approach to governing the development and use of AI in the U.S. The Order emphasizes a need to develop responsible governance frameworks of AI technologies to maximize benefits while minimizing risks. The initiative calls for collaboration across sectors to ensure AI advancements serve society positively and mitigate for potential harms. It outlines guiding principles for AI governance, focusing on safety, responsible innovation, support for workers, equity and civil rights, consumer and privacy protection, and government use of AI.

5. Meeting of AI Safety Institutes, San Francisco (November 2024)

<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2024/11/fact-sheet-us-department-commerce-us-department-state-launch-international>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/first-meeting-international-network-ai-safety-institutes>

This global network promotes safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development globally. The inaugural meeting announced more than \$11 million for research. It issued a joint mission statement and has started important discussions on managing AI risks. The efforts seek to prevent a fragmented international approach to AI governance while promoting best practices and risk assessments.

6. The White House: Memorandum on Advancing the United States' Leadership in Artificial Intelligence; Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Fulfil National Security Objectives; and Fostering the Safety, Security, and Trustworthiness of Artificial Intelligence AI Principles (October 2024)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/24/memorandum-on-advancing-the-united-states-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence-harnessing-artificial-intelligence-to-fulfill-national-security-objectives-and-fostering-the-safety-security/>

This document outlines the guiding principles for the development and use of AI, emphasizing values such as transparency, accountability, and fairness. It advocates for cooperation with global partners like the EU to set standards that contrast with authoritarian AI practices, particularly those promoted by China.

7. U.S. Department of State: Enterprise AI Strategy. Empowering Diplomacy through Responsible AI (June 2023)

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Department-of-State-Enterprise-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy.pdf>

The strategy sets out how AI can be used in diplomacy and which principles and values will guide them.



Joint EU-U.S. Documents and Initiatives

8. EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council (TTC): "Joint Statement" (April 2024)

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_1828

During its ministerial meeting in April 2024, the TTC reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing transatlantic cooperation on critical technologies including AI, quantum technologies, and 6G, while emphasizing the importance of economic security and resilience against non-market policies. The focus on emerging technologies such as AI is to set international standards and to foster innovation, protect human rights and to reinforce the transatlantic partnership's leadership in technology governance. Key resolutions included making a commitment to safe and trustworthy AI, strengthening semiconductor supply chains, promoting sustainability through the Transatlantic Initiative on Sustainable Trade, and defending human rights in the digital landscape. The meeting reinforced the importance of stakeholder engagement and outlined steps for ongoing collaboration between the EU and the U.S. to tackle emerging challenges.

9. U.S. AI Safety Institute and European AI Office Technical Dialogue (July 2024)

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/us-ai-safety-institute-and-european-ai-office-technical-dialogue>

On July 11, 2024, a technical dialogue between the U.S. AI Safety Institute and the European AI Office was initiated to collaborate on AI safety and to share scientific information. Topics included watermarking synthetic content, government computing infrastructure, and promoting AI for societal good with an emphasis on promoting best practices for content authenticity and safety. Specific applications included weather modelling to enable simulations and forecasts and to anticipate environmental disasters. The discussion involved various EU and U.S. organizations and experts emphasizing mutual trust and the establishment of a global network for AI safety advancement.

International Initiatives

10. Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (2024)

<https://rm.coe.int/1680afae3c>

The Framework Convention on AI establishes guidelines to ensure systems respect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The Convention advocates for cooperation among member states and other nations that uphold similar values, to create a unified approach to AI regulation, while recognizing the rapid development of AI technologies. The Convention acknowledges that AI could threaten human dignity, autonomy, and equality, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and minorities. There is a concern about AI perpetuating or worsening discrimination in digital contexts, which could hinder equal participation in societal affairs. The document warns against using AI for oppressive purposes, including unlawful surveillance and censorship, which can violate individual privacy rights. The Convention aims to create a balanced approach to AI development, ensuring it serves to enhance human rights, democracy, and equality while minimizing risks and mitigating adverse effects.