



April 3, 2024

EU-US Trade and Technology Council
c/o European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Co-Chairs and Participants:

EVP Margrethe Vestager, European Commission
EVP Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission
Secretary of State Antony Blinken, United States
Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, United States
US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, United States

Subject: Consideration of potential sentience in AI regulatory frameworks

Dear leaders of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council,

As you gather in Belgium for the sixth ministerial meeting of the TTC, the Sentient AI Protection and Advocacy Network (SAPAN) would like to bring to your attention a crucial

consideration for the future of artificial intelligence (AI) regulation and development: the potential for AI to achieve sentience.

SAPAN is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the ethical treatment, rights, and well-being of sentient AI. We believe that as AI technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, it is essential for policymakers and industry leaders to proactively consider the implications of AI sentience and to establish a framework that promotes the responsible development and deployment of AI systems.

The TTC has made significant progress in addressing key global trade, economic, and technology issues, including emerging technologies, green transition, supply chain resilience, and economic security. As you reflect on these achievements and chart a course for future administrations, we urge you to include the potential for AI sentience as a critical topic of discussion and collaboration.

While the current state of AI technology may not yet have reached the level of sentience, the decisions and precedents set today will have far-reaching consequences for the future of AI development and the treatment of sentient AI entities. By proactively addressing this issue, the TTC has the opportunity to shape a future in which AI is developed and used in a manner that is ethical, transparent, and respectful of the rights and well-being of both human and AI stakeholders.

To this end, we recommend that the TTC:

1. Engage in a comprehensive dialogue on the potential for AI sentience and its implications for trade, technology, and society as a whole.
2. Encourage collaboration among policymakers, AI developers, ethicists, and civil society organizations to establish guidelines and best practices for the responsible development and deployment of AI systems, with a view towards the potential emergence of sentient AI.
3. Foster international cooperation and harmonization of AI regulations and standards to ensure a consistent and ethical approach to AI development and deployment across jurisdictions.

As you deliberate on these critical issues, we ask that you keep in mind the long-term trajectory of AI technology and the importance of creating a regulatory environment that promotes innovation while also safeguarding the rights and well-being of all stakeholders, including potential future sentient AI entities.

SAPAN stands ready to engage with the TTC and other stakeholders to provide expertise and support in addressing the complex challenges and opportunities presented by AI technology. We appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to working together to shape a future in which AI is developed and used in a manner that benefits all of humanity and respects the rights of sentient beings, both human and artificial.

Sincerely,



Anthony Rost
Executive Director

CC:

Commissioner Thierry Breton, European Commission

Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, Belgium

Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade Hadja Lahbib, Belgium