



**ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DA
REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES**
Gabinete da Presidência

Proposal for the creation of a new working group:

Working Group of e-Democracy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Due to the increasingly complex challenges that the digital development poses to states, regions, and European citizens, it is essential that Parliaments with legislative power in Europe strengthen cooperation and promote a common strategy to deal with critical issues related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Governance and Cybersecurity.

In the beginning of the 21st century, CALRE created a Working Group on e-Democracy (2003-2015), which was later renamed to Interactive Democracy (2016-2017). The aim was to discuss the opportunities and challenges of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in parliaments, having in mind the improvement of efficiency, transparency, trust and participatory democracy through new information tools.

Nowadays, in an increasingly connected and data-dependent world, it is urgent to discuss emerging technologies, data governance and cybersecurity. These items are essential to protect ethical and democratic values, ensuring citizens privacy, and promoting a fair, secure and trustworthy economy and society in the digital environment.

It is with these assumptions that the creation of a new Working Group is proposed, which will have, in a collaborative and open way, its main objectives and expected results as the ones described below.

Objectives of the Working Group

1. **The establishment of a Common Framework:** Develop a cooperative structure that allows the regional Parliaments to approach, in a harmonized way, the new challenges of data governance, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, in strict cooperation with the European standards;
2. **Exchange of good practices and technical knowledge:** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among Parliaments to strengthen the capacity



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to respond to technological developments and emerging threats, ensuring that the use of data and technologies, particularly in sensitive areas like artificial intelligence, respect the privacy and security of citizens. Furthermore, it is essential to face the challenges that democracy deals with in the digital context, such as disinformation, manipulation of public opinion and the protection of fundamental rights in the online environment;

3. **Establishment of guidelines for the use of the Ethical, Legal and Responsible Artificial Intelligence:** Develop joint guidelines for the ethical, legal and responsible use of the artificial intelligence;
4. **Raise awareness for the Digital Culture:** Create actions of training and awareness to promote the comprehension of the legislators and the public in general on the impact of new technologies. Increase the knowledge on security practices, digital rights and the importance of privacy in the digital environment.

Structure of the Working Group

The Working Group will be formed by representatives of the Parliaments with legislative power in Europe, technical and legal experts in GDPR, cybersecurity and AI, as well as external expert advisers. The group shall meet periodically, promoting discussions, seminars and workshops to develop specific recommendations.

Conclusion

The establishment of this Working Group represents an important step towards a more connected and safer Europe, where the technological advancements can coexist with the protection of the citizens' rights and the promotion of a fair digital economy. By gathering different parliaments and experts, **CALRE** states its commitment facing the digital challenges in a joint, collaborative and innovative way.



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In addition, this group has the mission to strengthen the bases of democracy in the digital era, making sure that the democratic processes stay transparent, accessible, true and inclusive. The utilisation of advanced technologies, as the artificial intelligence, should be used to improve the citizen participation and make easier the access to information, guaranteeing that all citizens can fully participate in their democratic rights. The preservation of the participative democracy and the fight against disinformation are this groups' equally fundamental priorities.

Horta, 6th December 2024

The President of the Parliament of the Azores

Luís Carlos Garcia