Brussels, 29 January 2025

Joint Statement by ADRA, the European AI Forum, and EIT Digital on the:

Reaction to the Announcement of Stargate and DeepSeek

With the announcement of STARGATE by US President Trump, together with OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank as the project's main partners, in addition to the AI chips restrictions as well as executive orders on empowering US AI leadership, the OECD Global Tax Deal, and US energy policy, the United States of America is underlining its ambition to further expand its global leadership in the field of AI. Notwithstanding the marketing strategy, with a total investment of up to 500 billion USD, the AI infrastructure in the US would be massively expanded and by that creating a unique competitive advantage for US AI innovation.

Instead of being passive and frightened by those announcements, we believe this is yet another strong case for the European Union to lead a European response with a bold more desirable vision. Relying on US companies is no longer an option. Europe must implement what it takes to build a powerful, energy-efficient and strategically autonomous AI infrastructure such as the EU AI Stack that supports an open, sovereign, competitive and innovative European AI ecosystem.

The EU has an opportunity to establish itself as a global leader in responsible AI, crafting an ecosystem that is competitive and reflective of European values: transparency, accountability, and sustainability. Europe can lead with purpose, not by merely catching up to the U.S. or China, by defining a bold, forward-looking vision for AI that ensures Europe's relevance, resilience, and influence in shaping the technological future of the global order.

There is a definite groundswell of industrial interest in such a scheme emerging, as demonstrated by the call to actions from representatives of SAP, Siemens, Schneider Electric at Davos during World Economic Forum, as well as in our own interactions with the European AI ecosystem of Start-ups, universities and businesses. **Policy-makers must leverage this momentum and consider a bold and ambitious strategy to substantially increase its efforts on the AI opportunity**.

We also took note that on 23 January 2025, the state-owned Bank of China communicated spending 1 trillion yuan (140 billion USD) over five years on the AI ecosystem, including building sovereign power. Recent reports of the DeepSeek R1 breakthrough made in China also demonstrate the importance of developing AI in an open-source model. This aspect also resonated at this year's AI House in Davos. **China's focus on using AI to consolidate its geopolitical influence cannot be underestimated.** Its state-subsidised investments and strategies to integrate AI into every facet of its industrial and military ecosystem, highlight the urgency for the EU to take decisive action.

In addition, significant action is urgently needed to **reduce red tape**, **stimulate private investment and an entrepreneurial/risk-taking mindset**, **incentivise AI spin-offs** and promote the **adoption of European AI solutions across all industries and sectors** through a mix of fiscal and policy instruments. Furthermore, efforts should be made to adjust the Common Market to the modern economy, as strongly pointed out last year in the reports from Mario Draghi, Enrico Letta and Ursula von der Leyen. Reducing bureaucratic obstacles is a geopolitical necessity. Streamlining the adoption of AI will empower European companies to scale faster, compete globally, and reinforce the EU as a hub of technological leadership.

If the European Union does not succeed in improving the conditions for the development and use of AI in Europe as quickly as possible, it will inevitably risk falling further behind in global AI development. This has consequences for all parts of science, innovation and the economy, as AI is a driver for scientific discoveries, entrepreneurial renaissance and economic renewal. Moreover, dependence on non-European AI providers will continue to grow, further jeopardising not only Europe's technological competitiveness but also its digital sovereignty.

A European response is now needed. Having shown a global leadership role in fostering responsible and trustworthy AI through the first horizontal AI regulation, the EU must now urgently shift its focus and display the same leadership to boost the innovation and global competitiveness of European AI start-ups. The EU should together with the European industries pledge to invest in AI infrastructure and research, innovation and deployment of state-of-the-art AI technologies made in Europe. **A robust European AI strategy will not only secure technological sovereignty, but also prevent a world where innovation is monopolised by competing superpowers.** To do this, the EU and its Member States must now boldly act together to ensure technological independence and economic competitiveness.

Signatories:

Daniel Abbou, *President of the European AI Forum EAIF*
Emanuela Girardi, *President, Adra*
Federico Menna, *CEO of EIT Digital*
Rim Tehraoui, *Chair of Hub France IA*
Piotr Mieczkowski, *Managing Director of Digital Poland Foundation and Board Member of National Chamber of Commerce for Electronics and Telecommunications (KIGEiT)*
Linas Petkevičius, *Managing Director of Artificial intelligence association of Lithuania*
Kaloyan Ratchev, *Board Member European AI Forum, Board Member AI Cluster Bulgaria*
Richard Benjamins, *Chairman of the EIT Digital Supervisory Board*
Damir Firšt, *Board Member of CroAI Foundation*
Orestis Trasanidis, EIT Community AI Leader
Fredrik Heintz, *Profesor Linköping University, Sweden and VP AI Research, Adra*
Morten Irgens, *Deputy Chair, CAIRNE (Confederation of Laboratories of AI Research in Europe), Board Member of Adra, Vice Dean of Innovation and Impact, Copenhagen Business School*
Francesco Ferro, *CEO & Owner of PAL Robotics*

About the European AI Forum:

The European AI Forum (EAIF) is the umbrella organisation of national European AI associations and clusters. Combined, we represent over 2.000 members, making us the largest European AI organisation. We represent members such as SMEs, corporates, organisations and individual experts in AI.

About the ADRA:

Adra was created as the private side of the European public-private Partnership on AI, Data and Robotics (ADR), one of the industrial partnerships in Horizon Europe. Together with the growing community of 160 members, and founding organisations (BDVA, CAIRNE, ELLIS, EurAI and euRobotics), the association drives development and uptake of these technologies to creating new markets, applications and attract investment; creating economic, technical and societal impact.

About EIT Digital:

EIT Digital is the leader of the EIT AI Community and is actively involved in several strategic EU AI projects. With 320 partners, a presence in 23 European cities and a hub in Silicon Valley, EIT Digital has supported the creation and growth of more than 300 AI startups and scaleups. Additionally, EIT Digital has developed unique Master and Professional School programs on AI, with thousands of alumni, emphasizing entrepreneurial education.