



*Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

Draft Programme

AIDA-AGRI Joint Public Hearing on

“Artificial intelligence in agriculture and food security”

Monday 14 June 2021, 13:45-16:45 CET

European Parliament, Brussels

Remote participation

Room: ANTALL 4Q2

CONCEPT NOTE

AI, Agriculture and Food Security

What impact is AI having on the agriculture industry? How can AI accelerate the transition to a sustainable, healthy and inclusive agri-food value chain? What will the future of modern agricultural technology look like? These are some of the substantial questions guiding the EU efforts towards a more innovative Common Agricultural Policy.

On 1 June 2018, the European Commission presented the legislative proposals on the future of the CAP. The proposal for the CAP reform includes a range of actions to boost knowledge, innovation and (digital) technology in support of adopting more sustainable models and practices. The recently published EU Green Deal aligns with the CAP as it sets out to create an inclusive, competitive and environmentally friendly future for Europe. As EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, stated: *"We need forward looking answers, based on intelligent and smart solutions optimising our resources and addressing multiple objectives – environment, climate, economy and health – at the same time with fair opportunities for all - without leaving anyone behind."*

In addition, the Farm to Fork Strategy was adopted by the Commission as part of the EU Green Deal. One of its established key drivers for sustainable production and consumption is access to fast broadband internet in rural areas. This will enable mainstreaming precision farming and use of artificial intelligence alongside increased application of satellite technology. Similarly, the complementary Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, focuses on investing in research, innovation and knowledge exchange to gathering the best data and developing the best nature-based solutions.

Against this background, the increasing adoption of AI systems within all stages of the agricultural food chain implies a promising future for agriculture and an essential contribution to ensuring food security in the EU. From crop yield predictions and price forecasts to utilizing drones for identifying plant diseases, using AI and robotics can lead to productivity gains, improved working conditions for farmers and increased competitiveness while remaining inclusive towards rural areas and SMEs. Besides technology's potential to save costs in the long run, innovative applications can reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and farming practices.

However, the challenge of regulating AI reflects some valid concerns regarding secure use of data, lack of suitable infrastructure and trained experts in that field as well as farmers facing difficulties with investment capabilities. Job security is a recurrent consideration since increased automation might affect the current employment structure.

In this public hearing, the AIDA and AGRI Committees of the European Parliament will host two panels of leading experts for an exchange of views on the future of agriculture in the digital age and on how to balance the effects of technological advancements

OPENING REMARKS

13:45-13:55

13:45-13:50 **Mr Dragoş Tudorache**, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (TBC)

13:50-13:55 **Mr Daniel Buda**, Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

PANEL I (AGRI)

How can AI promote the transition towards a smarter and more sustainable future agriculture?

13:55-15:15

Chair: Mr Daniel Buda, Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

13:55-14:00 **Dr Sjaak Wolfert**, Independent researcher associated with Wageningen University & Research, Senior scientist at WUR, The Netherlands

14:00-14:05 **Francesca Hennig-Possenti**, Chair of the artificial intelligence group at CEMA, Senior inhouse lawyer at John Deere GmbH & Co. KG Germany

14:05-14:10 **Dr Steven Davy**, Research Unit Manager of the Programmable & Autonomous Systems (PAS) Unit at Walton Institute for Information and Communication Systems Science (WIT), Coordinator of the CYBELE project, Ireland

14:10-14:15 **Pieluigi Londero**, Head of Unit Implementation support and IACS, European Commission

14.15-15.15 **Exchange of views with AGRI MEPs (2 min. per political group +2 min. answer)**

- slot 1: **EPP**
- slot 2: **S&D**
- slot 3: **Renew**
- slot 4: **ID**
- slot 5: **Greens**
- slot 6: **ECR**
- slot 7: **The Left**
- slot 8: **NI**
- slot 9: **EPP**
- slot 10: **S&D**
- slot 11: **Renew**

PANEL II (AIDA)

How can AI be used in agricultural development and in achieving food security?

15.15-16.35

Chair: Mr Dragoş Tudorache, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (TBC)

15.15-15.20 **Juan Francisco Delgado**, Executive Vice-president of European Foundation on Innovation (INTEC), Senator for the European Parliament Union of the World Business Angels Forum (affiliated to the G-20 for issues of Social inclusion) and Vice President of the European Commission of Startups at University of Granada, Leader of the Smart Agrifood Summit

15.20-15.25 **Mute Schimpf**, Food Campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe

15.25-15.30 **Rian Wanstreet**, PhD Candidate at the University of Washington, fellowship holder with Mozilla, Harvard's Berkman Klein Center, and Central European University's Center for Media and Data Studies.

15:30-15:35 **Matija Zulj**, CEO & Founder at AGRIVI

15.35-16.35 **Exchange of views with AIDA MEPs (2 min. per political group +2 min. answer)**

- slot 1: **EPP**
- slot 2: **S&D**
- slot 3: **Renew**
- slot 4: **ID**
- slot 5: **Greens**
- slot 6: **ECR**
- slot 7: **The Left**
- slot 8: **NI**
- slot 9: **EPP**
- slot 10: **S&D**
- slot 11: **Renew**

CONCLUDING REMARKS

16.35-16.45

16.35-16.40 **Mr Daniel Buda**, Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

16.40-16.45 **Mr Dragoş Tudorache**, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (TBC)

The hearing will be [webstreamed](#) on the European Parliament website.

You can follow [AIDA](#) and [AGRI](#) on Twitter.