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450 Scientists from 33 Nations Urge EU and National Governments to Strongly Cooperate on Artificial Intelligence, Regardless of Brexit

Today, the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research (CLAIRE) has released an open letter addressed to the political leadership of the European Union, its member states and affiliated countries. The letter calls for a commitment to strong collaboration across all European nations, including the UK, on research and innovation in artificial intelligence, *regardless of the future relationship between the UK and the EU*.

The letter, available online at <https://claire-ai.org/eu-uk-letter>, has been signed by more than 450 artificial intelligence experts and stakeholders from 24 European countries and beyond, including over 330 leading scientists.

Artificial intelligence technology is poised to bring fundamental change to the way we live and work. It will also play an important role in addressing the grand challenges we face as individuals and as societies. As a general-purpose technology, artificial intelligence is a global “game changer” and a major driver of innovation, future growth and competitiveness. However, to fully realise the benefits and responsibly manage the risks associated with Artificial intelligence, cooperation across Europe (and beyond) is essential.

The importance of excellence in artificial intelligence and closely related areas is well reflected in the text on a comprehensive policy on artificial intelligence and robotics, adopted a week ago, on 12 February 2019, by the European Parliament. To ensure ongoing excellence in artificial intelligence, it is of crucial importance to pursue a bold and ambitious, pan-European vision. This must include the considerable strength found in the UK - a country with a rich and proud tradition in computing science and artificial intelligence.

The open letter, therefore, urges top-level decision-makers to ensure and strengthen ongoing collaboration on artificial intelligence between the UK, the EU27 and associated countries, under all possible future relationships between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

About CLAIRE

CLAIRE, the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, seeks to strengthen European excellence in human-centred Artificial Intelligence research and innovation, aiming to achieve impact and brand recognition similar to CERN.

The CLAIRE network is comprised of 247 Artificial Intelligence laboratories and institutes, which jointly employ over 7000 Artificial Intelligence experts and support staff. CLAIRE is also supported by over 2600 individuals, including more than 1500

PhD-level experts in Artificial Intelligence and more than 600 supporters from industry; by 20 national Artificial Intelligence associations; by the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI); by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI); and by the European Space Agency (ESA).

CLAIRE aims to establish Europe as a hotbed of Artificial Intelligence research and innovation, by creating a network of centres of excellence in Artificial Intelligence, strategically located throughout Europe, and a new, central hub, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, and fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise.

For further information, see <https://claire-ai.org>.