



20 September 2021

Commissioner Vice President Margrethe Vestager
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Secretary Gina Raimondo
U.S. Department of Commerce
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Dear Vice President Vestager and Secretary Raimondo,

We write to you, on behalf of the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP), regarding the upcoming meeting of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council and the need to advance democratic values and fundamental rights in the transatlantic alliance. We support your efforts to promote transatlantic cooperation and urge you to also include steps to curtail high risk implementations of AI technologies.

The CAIDP is an independent non-profit organization, established to advise national governments and international organizations on AI and digital policy.¹ We have provided recommendations to the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the G20 nations, the US National Security Commission on AI, and others. The CAIDP published *Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values*, a report providing a comprehensive assessment of AI policies and practices in 30 countries, undertaken by a team of international experts. These policies and practices were evaluated to determine whether they align with values of fairness, transparency, and accountability as well as the protection of fundamental human rights.

Key findings from the CAIDP assessment include:

- The OECD/G20 AI principles have helped frame national AI policies
- AI safeguards build on data protection law
- Facial surveillance is an AI “red line” for democratic governments
- Concern about autonomous weapons remains
- AI policy is in the early days, but the pace is accelerating

¹ Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP), caidp.org, [@theCAIDP](https://twitter.com/theCAIDP)



We support the goal of the Trade and Technology Council to strengthen the transatlantic alliance on digital policy, and to promote trustworthy AI. Democratic governments should also work together to ensure that democratic values are preserved as technology moves forward. Through our evaluation of AI policies and practices in different countries, the CAIDP developed five broad recommendations for the development of digital policy:

- Countries must establish national policies for AI that implement democratic values
- Countries must ensure public participation in AI policymaking and also create robust mechanisms for independent oversight of AI systems
- Countries must guarantee fairness, accountability, and transparency in all AI systems
- Countries must commit to these principles in the development, procurement, and implementation of AI systems for public services
- Countries must halt the use of facial recognition for mass surveillance

We also call your attention to the recent report of UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet. Commissioner Bachelet urged a moratorium on the sale and use of AI that pose a serious risk to human rights until adequate safeguards are put in place. She also called for a ban on AI applications that do not comply with international human rights law.²

We fully support the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Commissioner and urge the TTC to issue a similar statement. Now would be the appropriate time for the EU and the US to suspend the use of facial surveillance and to commit to align the development of AI systems with democratic values and international human rights law.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We are available to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Rotenberg".

Marc Rotenberg
CAIDP Founder
rotenberg@caidp.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karine Caunes".

Karine Caunes, PhD
CAIDP Global Program Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Kisselburgh".

Lorraine Kisselburgh, PhD
CAIDP Board Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Merve Hickok".

Merve Hickok
CAIDP Research Director

² *UN Urges Moratorium on AI that Violates Human Rights*, CAIDP Update (Sept. 15, 2021)