

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2020/2015(INI)	Procedure completed
Intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies		
Subject		
3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies		
3.40.06 Electronics, electrotechnical industries, ICT, robotics		
3.50.15 Intellectual property, copyright		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Legal Affairs	 SÉJOURNÉ Stéphane	16/01/2020
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 HALICKI Andrzej	
		 WÖLKEN Tiemo	
		 REGIMENTI Luisa	
		 BREYER Patrick	
		 DZHAMBAZKI Angel	
		 MAUREL Emmanuel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
 Internal Market and Consumer Protection	 BIELAN Adam	28/02/2020	
 Transport and Tourism	 DELI Andor	15/01/2020	
 Culture and Education	 VERHEYEN Sabine	18/11/2019	
 Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		

Key events			
16/01/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		

01/10/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading/single reading		
02/10/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0176/2020	Summary
19/10/2020	Debate in Parliament		
20/10/2020	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0277/2020	
20/10/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2015(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/9/02279

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE650.527	24/04/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE652.449	27/05/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	IMCO	PE648.600	08/07/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE648.605	13/07/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE648.351	03/09/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0176/2020	02/10/2020	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0277/2020	20/10/2020	EP	

2020/2015(INI) - 02/10/2020 Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ (Renew Europe, FR) on intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence

Technologies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence is an area scientific research whose origins date back to the mid-20th century. The potential of this technology, in terms of innovation, is enormous, and it is important that the European Union adopt an operational legal framework for the development of European AI and public policies that are commensurate with the issues at stake, particularly with reference to the training of people in Europe and financial support for applied and fundamental research. This framework must necessarily include thinking about intellectual property rights (IPRs) to encourage and protect innovation and creativity in this area.

The definition of AI is still a matter for debate, but legal certainty is likely to stimulate the necessary investment in this area in the EU. A form of legislative flexibility should therefore be promoted to take account of the multifaceted reality of AI and create a framework that is future-proof (catering for further technological progress).

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and similar emerging technologies represent a significant technological advance that is generating opportunities and challenges for Union citizens, businesses, public administrations, creators and the defence sector.

EU global leadership in AI

The Union's global leadership in AI calls for an effective intellectual property system which is fit for the digital age, enabling innovators to bring new products to the market. Members called for strong safeguards to protect the Unions patent system against abuse, which is detrimental to innovative AI developers. They stressed that a human-centred approach to AI that is compliant with ethical principles and human rights is needed if the technology is to remain a tool that serves people and the common good.

AI technologies may render the traceability of IPRs and their application to AI-generated output difficult, thus preventing human creators whose original work is used to power such technologies from being fairly remunerated.

The report further addressed copyright, protection of trade secrets and the distinction between IPR for the development of AI technologies and IPR potentially granted on creations generated by AI.

Members also highlighted the increasing need for AI and related technologies in remote or biometric recognition technologies, such as tracing apps in the transport and tourism sector, as a new way of dealing with COVID-19 and possible future sanitary and public health crises, while keeping sight of the need to protect fundamental rights, privacy and personal data.

The Commission was called on to provide balanced and innovation-driven protection of intellectual property, for the benefit of European AI developers, to strengthen the international competitiveness of European companies, including against possible abusive litigation tactics, and to ensure maximum legal certainty for users, notably in international negotiations, in particular as regards the ongoing discussions on AI and data revolution under the auspices of WIPO.

Investment in AI

Members are fully aware that progress in AI will have to be paired with public investment in infrastructure, training in digital skills and major improvements in connectivity and interoperability. In this regard, they stressed the importance of secure and sustainable 5G networks for the full deployment of AI technologies but, more importantly, of necessary work on the level of infrastructure and security thereof throughout the Union.