



EUROPE'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A call to safeguard the human person

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming our societies at an unprecedented speed. Its applications offer significant opportunities for integral human development and the common good. At the same time, these developments raise profound anthropological, ethical, social and legal questions that cannot be addressed by technological or economic considerations alone. Humanity stands at a decisive moment in which technological progress must be guided by a renewed commitment to the dignity of every person, justice and fraternity. In the time of Artificial Intelligence, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that “at the heart of the Christian understanding of the human person lies the great biblical affirmation that men and women are created in the image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26-27) of the Triune God” (Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica humanitas*, 50). He calls us to the “pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace” (*ibidem*, 15).

Listening to the concerns and fears expressed by many we, the bishops representing the EU Episcopates, acknowledge the efforts already made to regulate the use of AI and encourage the European Union to assume leadership in this area in accordance with its founding values and mission. Europe is called to act with urgency, ambition and responsibility to strengthen its digital capacities and to shape the research, design and development of these technologies, promoting a genuinely human-centred vision.

Europe must exercise a positive and leading role in contributing to international cooperation and governance that respect human rights, prevent harmful use of technology and support equitable access to its benefits, as well as safeguard peace and our common home. This must be achieved with a collective sense of responsibility, involving institutions, businesses, intermediary organisations, educational communities and citizens.

We, the bishops of COMECE, therefore strongly encourage the European Union and its Member States to implement the following principles and promote them in international fora:

Human dignity and human agency must remain paramount.

The common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, care for creation and justice must guide technological innovation.

Responsibility, transparency and accountability must accompany AI.

AI must not become a source of discrimination, exclusion or manipulation.

AI must not diminish or displace the uniqueness of the human person, and human beings must not be reduced to data or commodities.

The digital and technological commons require responsible governance.

Democracy and the rule of law must be protected.

AI must contribute to peace and human fraternity.

Artificial Intelligence must remain a means at the service of the human person, the common good and peace. Its future must be shaped not only by what technology can do, but by what human dignity, responsibility, solidarity and fraternity require. The Catholic Church will continue to accompany the European Union in a path that safeguards the human person in the time of Artificial Intelligence.

Signed by the bishops delegated by the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union gathered for the autumn Plenary Assembly of COMECE (16 October 2026).