

The good thing about a delayed Trilogue

While the Council noodles over their mandate text, we'd like to respectfully urge Members of the European Parliament to reconsider their position on Text and Data Mining.

Right now, the exception to allow TDM for broader purposes, including innovation, is optional. A series of member states have already indicated that they will introduce such an exception in national law. Member States are fine with an optional exception because they hope to gain a competitive advantage over others in developing and attracting artificial intelligence sectors.

But while national governments are promoting a Europe of nation states, shouldn't the European Parliament propose a harmonised, European approach?

Here's why this is MEPs' time to shine:

- Europe's AI landscape is thriving and has big plans: AI guidelines, strategies and recommendations aim to make Europe a trailblazer in this sector. Build on a strong privacy footing, data access remains the key factor to enable a successful data economy. The Parliament and those MEPs who fought for an open innovation can expect praises for enabling Text and Data Mining.
- TDM is not only a low hanging fruit, it's right here for MEPs to take: After the Commission called for a mandatory exception and the Council has no objections - what else are MEPs waiting for? Asking for this will come for free, no bargaining chips lost. MEPs can eat their cake and have it too.

We encourage MEPs to take the opportunity to support Europe's AI startups, research and an entire ecosystem. Changing this one word would mean hope and opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators in Europe, give them a fair chance to compete with the big guys. And startups would know they have friends in the European Parliament.

Allied for Startups is a worldwide network of over 40 advocacy organisations focused on improving the policy environment for startups. We are working together to create a consensus on policies that can positively impact startups and grow digital entrepreneurship and digital economy at large. Our mission is to ensure that the voices of startups are heard in government.