

Hard choices: EU technological sovereignty and the geopolitics of AI

13:00-15:00, European Parliament, Room 4Q2

Background

Much of the AI ecosystem on which Europe increasingly relies is developed and controlled outside the EU. This comes with a large transfer of economic value to the US and leaves the EU with limited influence over what will become of this technology.

In response, the EU is pushing for technological sovereignty, culminating in the [Technological Sovereignty Package](#), published by the European Commission on 3 June 2026. It proposes to promote open source software, to increase demand for EU cloud providers, and to advance chips production in the EU.

However, also in June, the EU signed up to the United States' Pax Silica declaration, which signals a commitment to deeper integration into US supply chains on AI. The declaration is non-binding and unspecific, and the European Commission claims it is complementary to its efforts to promote the EU's technological sovereignty, but are the two really compatible?

Jacob Helberg, the US Under Secretary of Economic Policy and architect of the Pax Silica initiative, thinks the answer is no. The same day the EU signed the Pax Silica declaration, he published [a statement](#) in which he dismisses nations' efforts to achieve digital sovereignty. At the same time, recent security incidents at AI labs, and the ensuing calls for a slowdown and additional safeguards, point to the need for a global approach.

What this shows, is that an effective EU strategy on technological sovereignty is by no means a given. Even after a long list of security incidents, political pressure, and an entrenched transfer of data and value to US tech firms, the EU still struggles to put forward a tech policy that defends its interests, while recognising existing dependencies and trade-offs. With this event, we want to explore a way forward for a more constructive transatlantic cooperation on this nascent technology.

Programme

12.30 – 13:00 **Registration**

13.00 – 13:15 **Opening remarks**

Laura Ballarín Cereza, Member of European Parliament, IMCO
Coordinator, S&D Group

Knut Dethlefsen, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Competence
Centre on the Future of Work

13:15 – 13:30	Keynote Speech: EU tech sovereignty and Pax Silica – complementary policies or a clash in the making? <i>Francesca Bria, Honorary Professor at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) at UCL in London and Board Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC)</i>
13:30 – 14:35	Plenary debate: Getting real. Increasing technological autonomy on AI. - Michael McNamara, Member of European Parliament, Renew (tbc) - José Ignacio Torreblanca, Distinguished Policy Fellow, ECFR - Leevi Saari, Researcher, University of Amsterdam - Charlotte Baylac de La Codre, Head of Public Affairs, Mistral (tbc) <i>Moderator: Natasha Lomas, Tech Editor, Euractiv (tbc)</i>
14:35 – 14:45	Reaction: Roberto Viola, Director General, DG Connect (tbc)
14:45 – 15:00	Closing remarks: Alex Agius Saliba, Member of European Parliament, S&D Group VP on Digital Policies