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Balancing innovation and regulation: ensuring new technologies serve democracy and human rights

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Markus WIECHEL and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Member States of the Council of Europe have expressed valid concerns about the impact of new technologies on democracy and human rights. These concerns are addressed in the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225).

At the same time, member States risk over-regulating new technologies because of the lack of broad discussion with innovators and end-users. For example, some member States, such as Iceland and Norway, propose banning Bitcoin mining over environmental and energy concerns. Additionally, the European Union's Anti-Money Laundering Regulation classifies crypto-asset privacy payment tools as high-risk technologies.

This over-regulation increases the difficulty of distinguishing harmful innovations from those that are beneficial. Such an overly cautious policy approach not only undermines economic competitiveness but also increases the emigration of talent. It also overlooks the potential of new technologies for enhancing human freedom, particularly in terms of protection of privacy, for addressing financial exclusion and rebuilding energy infrastructure, while there is a growing demand for cutting edge solutions amid the rapid digitalisation of everyday life.

Many emerging technologies not only protect individual liberties but also expand economic opportunities, such as access to financial services or new forms of economic participation. This connection between economic policy and human rights is crucial: as emphasised in the Assembly [Resolution 2180 \(2017\)](#) "The "Turin process": reinforcing social rights in Europe", "only the enjoyment of socio-economic rights and social inclusion allows people to fully exercise their civil and political rights."

The absence of a standardised methodology to assess the social value of emerging technologies leaves policy makers without the tools to effectively evaluate their impact. To address these challenges, the Parliamentary Assembly should encourage a multidisciplinary analysis of the societal impact of new technologies, in collaboration with human rights activists and industry representatives, with a particular emphasis on engaging youth perspectives.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group