



DIGITAL CZECH REPUBLIC 2019 - conference

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After the introductory words at the Digital Czech Republic 2019 Conference, organized by the European Liberal Forum and the Institute for Politics and Society, Vera Jourova as a first speaker began with the topic of Internet, which not only politicians but also ordinary people blame for their problems. Dita Charanzova began her speech with a provocative question, "Is the Czech Republic digital?" According to her, the key is what we can do to increase scientific-research projects. According to the OECD, China's spending on this department is more than 2%, Europe is at this threshold, but the target is 3%. The question is, how many skilled scientists or other goods really end up in Europe. Exports cover only three areas - automotive, aviation and pharmaceuticals. Most of the investments go to the US and China, which transform our ideas into real products. Europe should concentrate on making investments directly to the European industry. Competition is also important, but in the global world we cannot think of competition between European countries. Development will go in the right direction if we focus on supporting European products and we will not leave Europe only as a research centre.

We have to say "yes" to artificial intelligence as it is also a challenge for the future for Europe. This requires a free flow of data. Artificial Intelligence goes hand in hand with ethics. It is important to concentrate on what the financial technologies bring to our companies and our citizens. The Internet is a good servant, but a bad lord. It has been the biggest advantage of several years, but it is also a challenge of democracy.

Roberto Viola, Director General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) at the European Commission, addressed the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a European context, mentioning both opportunities and challenges. Namely, Mr. Viola focused on four areas in which efforts should be concentrated according to the newly agreed EU Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence.

The conference was a successful event attended by many politicians and experts which find the topic of digitalization as a main interest of their country.