The European Commission has published a "White Paper on Artificial Intelligence" aimed to foster a European ecosystem of excellence and trust in Artificial Intelligence (AI). It elaborates on the Commission's plan to develop AI in the EU in line with the Union's fundamental rights. Citizens and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback. The *Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS)* has answered the call producing a specific statement sent to the European Commission and other authorities.

We, the *Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS)*, greet with great enthusiasm the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence and all the surrounding R&D funding initiatives as a step ahead to put Europe in the first line of the field. A human-centric AI-for-good will increasingly play a significant role in addressing some of the world's significant scientific, industrial and social challenges of our times.

The BSC-CNS urges the European Commission to promote technological sovereignty for Europe, not only in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and High-Performance Computing. The two of them -together with the colossal amount of public and scientific data that is being collected- will become a crucial factor, not only in outlining Europe's competitiveness on the global markets, but also in assuring Europe's resilience against current and future security and technological challenges. We encourage the EC to commit to establish and maintain the appropriate conditions that will grant continuing access to the public datasets, knowledge and technology needed for research and innovation growing environment. Within this new digital framework, the Ethic, Socio-Economic, Legal and Cultural (ELSEC) values of Europe are the stepping stones for a human-centred AI. Safeguarding European values and freedoms is a crucial objective to maintain our identity.

We, *the BSC-CNS*, believe that there is a need to impulse the adoption of fairness, accountability, confidentiality, and transparency principles by design in AI-based applications in high stakes domains requiring reliability and safety. These principles are crucial to enhance the trust and long-term engagement of citizens. They are essential to address the growing citizens' demand for having a precise model that assure the explainability, transparency and interpretability of those AI systems.

We, *the BSC-CNS*, call the EC to boost efficient mechanisms to assess in detail the current ethical risks, notably in terms of biases related to the use of AI-based technologies in their entire lifecycle and to propose solutions to address them. This assessment ought to be stricter with those AI-based applications in the area of public administration. AI regulation and competitiveness need to be balanced and take effect at the industrial and business level.

We, *the BSC-CNS*, invite the EC to keep developing a reliable and innovative strategy for international leadership on AI and High-Performance Computing. We encourage the member states to have national plans, strategies and procedures aligned with the common European one. European industry is investing significantly in AI. However, to be able to compete on the same conditions with non-EU players, EU programmes must allocate and channel substantial funding to address AI and High-Performance Computing challenges with the aim of preventing the spending gap with the USA and China to grow even further.