

# Statement on the Transformative AI Strategy for Europe

October 2026

## Europe must act now

To safeguard Europe's capacity to act in the age of transformative artificial intelligence<sup>1</sup>, a group of leading figures from economics, AI research and politics, convened by Monika Schnitzer, Chair of the German Council of Economic Experts, published the strategy 'A Transformative AI Strategy for Europe'<sup>2</sup> on 14 September 2026. Their key message is that, **without urgent and far-reaching action beginning this year, the prosperity, sovereignty, and security of all Europeans are at risk as AI advances at a rapid pace. Bitkom shares this assessment.** In July 2026, Bitkom recommended making preparedness for artificial general intelligence (AGI) a national priority and identified specific areas for action.<sup>3</sup>

Bitkom supports the strategy's overall direction and welcomes its concrete and comprehensive proposals in light of the urgent need for action. Bitkom sets out its position on the strategy's five immediate objectives below:

### Full support:

- **Secure Europe's share of global AI compute, in a 'European Way' that benefits local communities:** Bitkom expressly supports the target of increasing **the EU's share of global AI computing capacity to 15 percent by 2030**, as well as the proposed measures to accelerate planning, permitting and grid connection procedures.
- **Make Europe's institutions ready to act in a world with transformative AI:** Bitkom strongly supports bringing frontier AI expertise into the European Commission and

<sup>1</sup> The authors of the Transformative AI Strategy define 'transformative AI' as AI systems that change the basic structures of society, including the economy, science, and geopolitics, at a materially faster pace than any technology in history has. Bitkom defines artificial general intelligence (AGI), following the International AI Safety Report, as an AI model or system that equals or surpasses human performance on all or almost all cognitive tasks. AGI is thus defined by its capabilities, whilst transformative AI is defined by its impact. AGI would almost certainly have transformative effects; however, transformative effects can occur even before AGI is achieved.

<sup>2</sup> Schnitzer, Monika et al., *A Transformative AI Strategy for Europe*, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Bitkom e. V., *Make AGI preparedness a national priority*, 2026.

the German Federal Government, including the establishment of a strong national AI safety and security institute.

- **Ensure resilience to AI crises:** Bitkom expressly welcomes the proposed measures to minimise risks and strengthen resilience to AI-related crises. However, it is important to ensure that their implementation does not unduly hamper innovation.

### Support with reservations:

- **Create a Member State Alliance for Supply Chain Security:** Bitkom supports closer European coordination to manage critical dependencies, strengthen strategic levers and secure access to key technologies in collaboration with trusted partners. However, countermeasures must remain targeted and proportionate, while preserving open markets and reliable trade agreements.
- **Make Europe the global leader in AI assurance technology:** Bitkom expressly supports investment in research and pilot projects involving AI assurance technology. Bitkom welcomes common EU assurance levels, provided they are based on a balanced understanding of sovereignty.

The question is no longer whether artificial intelligence will transform the foundations of our economy, government and society, but whether Germany and Europe will actively shape this transformation or merely be subject to it. The window of opportunity to shape this transformation is still open, but it is closing rapidly.

Bitkom therefore calls on the German Federal Government, the European Commission and the European Parliament **to begin implementing the strategy without delay and take the first steps before the end of 2026**. Representing over 2,200 companies in the digital economy, Bitkom stands ready to contribute to the further development and implementation of the strategy.

#### Publisher

Bitkom e.V.  
Albrechtstr. 10 | 10117 Berlin

#### Contact

Marvin Pawelczyk | Policy Officer Artificial Intelligence & Cloud  
T 030 27576-108 | [m.pawelczyk@bitkom.org](mailto:m.pawelczyk@bitkom.org)

Janis Hecker | Head of AI – Regulation & Strategy  
T +49 30 27576-239 | [j.hecker@bitkom.org](mailto:j.hecker@bitkom.org)

Lucy Czachowski | Head of AI & Cloud – Resilience and Infrastructure  
T 030 27576-320 | [l.czachowski@bitkom.org](mailto:l.czachowski@bitkom.org)

#### Responsible Bitkom committee

AI Working Group

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Bitkom 2026

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