<u>**Thank you Roberto Viola**</u>
<u>**Interinstitutional declaration on Digital Principles (digital compass for 2030)**</u>

- <u>**The European Way:**</u>
  <u>**less is more; less speed more quality; less efficiency more effectiveness**</u>

What is a digitally skilled population?
- Capable of ***using*** AI and other digital systems?
- Open to ***be used by them*** as data engines (if you are not at the table you are on the menu)?
- Or learning ***to interact*** with them, while being protected from rogue systems?
  - Does such interaction imply ***programming*** (interacting with the motherboard)? Is it about something similar to alphabetisation as a precondition for democracy in the digital era?
  - Or would that require ***participation in the making*** of these systems, and deciding on the trade-offs that are inherent in their research design?
  - Does it refer to a better understanding of what computing systems can and cannot do for us, based on ***addressing the logic of the backend systems that run public and private services, products and infrastructure?*** Is it about education in the true sense: laying the foundations for citizenship in terms of critical and independent thought?

The AI Regulation aims to lead the way to ***high quality*** AI rather than ***high speed*** AI. If that is the European way I am all for it. Digitisation should not be a goal in itself: more is not necessarily better, we must become more picky about where digitisation, algorithmic decision making and AI actually contribute to solving problems we have or foresee, without generating even bigger problems (e.g. redistributing risks).

'Digital principles' only make sense if they are expressed in terms of ***individual and collective rights*** that are both effective and practical (to borrow the words of the ECtHR)

1. We need effective and practical protection against ***overdependence on high-risk AI*** systems for critical infrastructure such as e.g. sustainable energy, education, recruitment, public transport
2. We need similarly effective and practical protection against ***manipulative, discriminatory, and privacy-invasive AI practices*** in both the private and the public sector, including protection against automated dissemination of ***deep fakes and fake news***
3. The ***institutions*** of democracy and the rule of law ***are critical infrastructure*** that must be protected from naïve overreliance on high-risk AI systems

Do we need new rights or new obligations?
Or do we need to highlight how **overdependence on digital and AI infrastructure**
- Impacts the substance of existing fundamental rights
- Hides the fact that protection of fundamental rights cannot be automated?

My digital principle no. 1:
Respect for human dignity means that **humans are not in the loop** but
- in the centre and in charge on the side of the provision of digital services and products, and
- in the centre and respected when interacting with digital and AI systems (note I am avoiding the reduction of citizens to users – we must move from use to interaction.