

Alexander Pröll
State Secretary

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Ms Henna Virkkunen
Executive Vice-President of the European
Commission for Technological Sovereignty,
Security and Democracy

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Dear Vice-President Virkkunen,

recent developments in the field of artificial intelligence have brought home to Europe a strategic reality that we can no longer ignore. A few days ago, the US government issued an export control order blocking access to two of Anthropic's most advanced AI models – Fable 5 and Mythos 5 – for all foreign nationals. This affects not only users outside the United States, but even the company's non-American employees. Overnight, the world's largest single market – our single market, comprising 450 million people – was cut off from a cutting-edge innovation. Not by our decision. But by that of a foreign government.

This decision was not to be dismissed as a footnote. It was a show of power. And it serves as a reminder of how vulnerable we in Europe are when the key technology of our time lies beyond our sphere of influence and access to it can be withdrawn at the stroke of a pen.

What has happened reminds me of the debate surrounding TikTok. Here, too, the issues centered on national security, data protection and, indeed, geopolitical power. Back then, Europe stood on the sidelines whilst others negotiated ownership, control and sovereignty. We watched. We commented. We lost. I am not prepared to make that mistake a second time.

I would therefore like to put forward a concrete proposal for discussion: let us jointly explore the strategic establishment and participation of Anthropic within the European Union. With legal certainty, market access, capital and a set of values that suits this company.

This is not about undermining our own European companies and models. On the contrary. Mistral, Aleph Alpha and the growing European AI landscape are good, they are important and they deserve our full support. We are investing in them, and we will continue to invest in them. Sovereign strength does not arise from isolation, but from the power of a trusting ecosystem. A company of Anthropic's caliber on European soil would not displace our own champions – it would attract talent, retain capital, set standards and generate a pull that would benefit the entire European innovation landscape. It is precisely this potential, and the associated ecosystem, that is at stake.

For the truth is: no one is better placed than we are. Where else in the world can so much capital, so much scientific expertise, so much industrial depth and so much stability under the rule of law be found in one place? Europe is not the supplicant in this story. Europe is the place where responsible artificial intelligence should find its natural home.

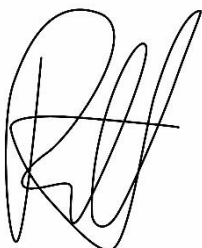
And Anthropic, in particular, is a good fit for us. A company that views the ethical use of AI not as a marketing ploy, but as a core conviction. One that prioritises safety over speed. That is a profoundly European attitude. We should have the courage to say this out loud: this company would not be constrained in Europe; it would be set free.

Yes, it is ambitious. Yes, there will be voices saying it is not feasible. The real question is not whether it is easy. The question is whether we Europeans are prepared to be the architects of our technological future, or whether we wish to remain mere administrators of decisions made elsewhere.

I advocate taking the lead. Let us meet swiftly at the level of the relevant ministers and the Commission to explore the feasibility of such a European initiative. Windows of opportunity for strategic moves rarely remain open for long. If we want to act, we must act now.

With my best and most determined regards,

Alexander Pröll, LL.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom, characteristic of the name Alexander Pröll.