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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.2.2026)

Advances in memory, reasoning and autonomous behaviour are driving progress towards Artificial General Intelligence, understood as Artificial Intelligence (AI) capable of performing a broad range of cognitive tasks.

The Commission expects AI to advance further towards human-level reasoning within the next decade. These expectations rely on observed progress, as it is difficult to predict future developments in this rapidly evolving field.

Aware of the implications that AI may have on workers, as part of the actions announced in the Apply AI Strategy¹, the Commission is monitoring AI's impact on labour market to anticipate needs, detect potential disruptions and support inclusive policies.

The Commission will continue to monitor the impact of AI including through the AI Observatory, as announced in the Apply AI Strategy. It will provide indicators to assess the impact of AI in the currently listed and future sectors; monitor developments, trends and the changes it may bring to the labour market. Synergy will be ensured with the European Skills Intelligence Observatory, announced in the Union of Skills.

The proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) identifies 'digital leadership' as one of its core areas with a budget of EUR 54.8 billion, five times the combined budgets of the Digital Europe Programme² and the Connecting Europe Facility³ under the current MFF. This underlines the key role digital systems play in ensuring Europe's economic and political resilience and the strategic importance of digital capacity, which requires consistent investment. Furthermore, the future European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plans, will continue to invest in the AI skills of European citizens to mitigate implications on workers.

¹ Apply AI Strategy <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai>.

² The Digital Europe Programme <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>.

³ Connecting Europe Facility https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en.