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| **Question(s):** | | N/A | Virtual Geneva, 2 September 2021 | | |
| **DOCUMENT** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | Brian Copsey | | | |
| **Title:** | | Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Standardisation possible effects on the lives of Persons with Disabilities and specific needs | | | |
| **Purpose:** | | Discussion | | | |
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| **Keywords:** | Artificial Intelligence: AI |
| **Abstract:** | Artificial Intelligence no longer only in Science Fiction books. |

Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Standardisation possible effects on the lives of Persons with Disabilities and specific needs

*The following comments and views are my own and should not be associated with any organisations I normally represent at ITU.*

Whilst this document focuses on items raised during the initial extremely illuminating EU discussions, similar regulation/standardisation discussion is undoubtedly taking place elsewhere given the concerns with the misuse of personal data

This is an extremely difficult subject to fully express and debate is ongoing but I hope to have provided enough examples to start a debate and consider the next steps, (if any) and I seek your help in achieving this

**AI**; the first problem is that there is no clear cut definition and whilst most people would consider AI as something associated with large computer systems such as Deep Blue[[1]](#footnote-1) which in 1997 beat the world chess champion ***BUT*** as technology has moved on and even a self-tuning broadcast radio can now be considered containing AI.

Looking at devices in use by Persons with Disabilities and specific needs almost all medical devices can be considered to contain AI, consider a hearing aid, almost all have programs which sample the ambient audio level and adjust the user level accordingly, many other devices such as heart monitors sample the current heart beat reference a database and provide stimulus if necessary.

Also, in every day life intelligent speakers have become a wonderful assistance to operate a number of associated devices within the house, such technology broadens its scope on almost every front: house, car, computer etc

Whilst EC discussion has now focused on national level AI as the first stage *but* will undoubtedly return to devices in the future.

**Problem**: Whilst it is not clear currently exactly what will be required within a device there is little understanding of problems of any user let alone Persons with Disabilities and specific needs.

**Request**: I would suggest that the meeting discusses this issue and considers preparing information/advice documents which can be an input to such discussions which will undoubtedly appear in many member states

1. https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/ibm100/us/en/icons/deepblue/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)