

EPP Women Congress

Putting People at the Heart of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Threats

Venue: European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

PROGRAMME

Thursday 12 November 2026 | European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

- 14:30 **Welcome coffee and registration of delegates**
- 15:00 **Opening of the Congress and welcoming address**
- **Mairéad McGuinness**, President EPP Women, Special Envoy EU on the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief and former European Commissioner
 - **Ms. Sari RAUTIO**, EPPW Vice-President and President of the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions, member of the City Council of Hämeenlinna, Finland
 - **Henna VIRKKUNEN**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Technological Sovereignty, Security and Democracy (video message)
- 15:30 **'Artificial Intelligence: Putting People at the Heart'**
- **"Can Regulation of AI harness the real opportunities of the technology, while keeping people in control?"**
- Moderated by **Mairéad McGuinness**, EPP Women President
- **Arba KOKALARI**, MEP, Committee on IMCO, FEMM, Rapporteur Digital Omnibus on AI (confirmed)
- 15:50 **Family photo**



16:00

Round table discussion

"Balancing Innovation, Ethical Responsibility and Women's Empowerment in the era of AI?"

moderated by EPP Women President with:

- **Eva MAYDELL**, MEP, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
- **Friederike LADENBURGER**, COMECE, legal adviser for ethics, research and health
- **Marieke MOL**, Team coordinator Digital Autonomy and Sovereignty Ministry of Interior Affairs, The Netherlands
- **Ioana SURPATEANU**, Founder & CEO, blackledgr | Frontier Technology and Digital Assets Expert

17:00

Plenary debate moderated by EPP Women President

17:30

Conclusions