



**PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR
pri príležitosti otvorenia High-Level Summitu o
umelej inteligencii**

Bratislava, 24. 11. 2025

Dear Mr. speaker Secretary-General Mathias Cormann, President Lagarde,

Distinguished guests,

Excellencies, Friends,

welcome to Bratislava. We meet at a time when artificial intelligence is no longer a distant idea.

It is already in our homes, our hospitals, and our schools. This is not only a talk about new tools. It is a talk about who we are, what we value, and the kind of World we choose to build.

Let me begin with a simple moral truth. Technology must remain at the service of human dignity. Pope Francis reminded us that AI is both exciting and unsettling, and that we need what he calls “algor-ethics”. Clear values that guide how we design and use these systems.

Ethics can't come last. Ethics is the steering wheel. Without it, we risk sliding into a world where privacy is quietly eroded, where old leanings return dressed up as neutral facts, and where machines begin to make choices that belong to people.

There is also a quieter danger: the weakening of our own judgment. When a system answers quickly and confidently, it is tempting to accept it as truth and switch off the inner voice that asks: “Is this really so?” If we give up this voice, we are not just outsourcing tasks; we are outsourcing judgment.

World must therefore hold to a simple rule: AI may speed up decisions, but people remain responsible for them.

And let us remember something essential: AI exists because of education. It was born in classrooms and laboratories, in late-night study sessions and under patient mentoring.

It was created by people willing to learn new things, to master mathematics and code, to test ideas, to fail and try again. Ladies and gentleman, no education, no AI. This simple fact should shape how we govern it and how we teach with it.

With that compass set, we can speak honestly about how AI can make our economies stronger and our public services better, without losing our soul.

AI can be the strongest boost to productivity in generations. Used well, it helps doctors see illness earlier, helps small businesses plan better, and helps towns cut waste and improve daily life.

But to gain these benefits, our public services must be more than digital copies of old paper offices. We need a state that is simple, human-centred, and trusted. With services that are easy to use, answers that arrive quickly, and decisions that we can explain in plain language.

Slovakia has learned that when we pilot boldly, people follow.

We were early in contactless payments, and we built fast mobile networks that made new services possible.

The lesson is simple: when good infrastructure meets public trust, progress happens. This is why Slovakia, a smaller player, wants to act as a European testbed for innovative but safe ideas. Let small countries like ours lead well-designed pilots and share the results with everyone.

In healthcare, that means carefully testing AI that supports doctors and nurses. Triage that helps sort cases, tools that aid early diagnosis, planning that shortens waiting times. All this always with a human in the loop and patient safety first.

In education, it means testing AI that helps teachers explain hard concepts, gives each student practice at the right level, and frees time for real teaching. Never replacing judgment, always amplifying human care.

To make this work, we will follow a few plain rules people can trust. Keep people in control. Protect privacy as a basic duty. Treat security as not negotiable. Make sure important decisions can be explained, checked, and when needed, also challenged.

Set clear rules so that new ideas can grow safely and fairly across borders. And when smart tools save time or money, return those gains back to the public good: into teachers, nurses, and researchers.

The private sector is not just a stakeholder to manage; it is a partner. Our companies, from startups to industrial leaders, will carry AI into thousands of daily tasks. But efficiency without empathy is cold arithmetic. Europe's advantage is to pair productivity with fairness and trust, so growth and dignity move forward together. This is how we remain competitive and cohesive.

All of this rests on one foundation: education. The greatest question of AI is not technical; it is educational.

Yes, let AI become the teacher's amplifier, able to explain the hardest equations, offer tailored practice, and give instant feedback. But the human teacher must remain the curator of meaning, the one who helps young people ask why, compare sources, spot weak arguments, and disagree with respect.

If satellite navigation made many of us forget how to read a map, generative AI can make us forget how to navigate reality. Social media often presents relative truths: short clips, quick takes, emotional spikes, now increasingly shaped by AI. It is easy to live at the surface of problems. Our schools must pull students beneath the surface. We must reward patience and careful reasoning, and celebrate the hard work of understanding.

And let me close this circle: AI began with education and the courage to learn. Now education must guide what AI becomes.

We will teach AI literacy for all, so people know where AI is strong, where it fails, and how to check its claims. We will renew assessment to reward thinking, not memorization.

We will keep a clear division of labour: machines can bring speed and breadth; humans must bring judgment, ethics, creativity, and care.

Above all, we will insist that our schools push students to go deep, not stay shallow. To look past the surface of social media, past the shifting relative truths that float online, and into the solid ground of facts, logic, evidence, and responsibility. If we get education right, we will not fear intelligent machines, because we will raise wiser humans.

World's future will not be decided by the speed of our algorithms, but by the character of our choices. If we join moral purpose with effective government and courageous education,

and if small players like Slovakia are trusted to pilot bold ideas in healthcare and education, AI will not make us less human. It will free us to become more deeply human.

With that spirit, and with leaders such as Christine Lagarde and Mathias Cormann here with us today, let us build a World where technology serves people, and where progress is measured not only in teraflops and tokens, but in trust, dignity, and opportunity.

Thank you very much!