



STOA workshop

Artificial intelligence public perspectives

Participants' booklet

Artificial intelligence public perspectives

Monday, 14 November 2022, 15:00 - 17:30

Room SPAAK 7C50 & online via Interactio

Participants' booklet

Available at <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/en/events/details/artificial-intelligence-public-perspecti/20221020WKS04561>

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#STOAevent

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Table of contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Programme	3
3. Chair and moderation	4
3.1. Welcome: Eva KAILI, MEP and EP Vice-President responsible for STOA	4
3.2. Closing: Ivo HRISTOV, MEP and STOA Vice-Chair	6
3.3. Moderator: Aleksander VÄLJAMÄE, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu	7
4. Speakers	8
4.1. Mieke DE KETELAERE, Adjunct Professor at Vlerick Business School	8
4.2. Nathanael ACKERMAN, Head of AI, Federal Public Service BOSA, AI4Belgium	9
4.3. Serge GORIELY, film maker, researcher	10
4.4. Kanta DIHAL, editor of 'AI Narratives' and 'Imagining AI'	11
4.5. Jutta THIELEN - DEL POZO, Head of Unit, JRC, European Commission	12
4.6. Gerfried STOCKER, Ars Electronica, artistic director	13
4.7. Bennie MOLS, Science & Technology journalist / writer / communicator, author of the book 'Hallo Robot'	14
5. About STOA	15
5.1. Mission	15
5.2. STOA Panel members	17
5.3. STOA administration	19

1. Introduction

The world is experiencing a new technological revolution. Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a challenge at all levels of society and strikes with speed. AI is a regular topic discussed in the circles of politicians, scientists, businessmen. In many areas, AI contributes to an increase of citizens' empowerment. However, AI uptake strongly depends on people's acceptance. But how do citizens perceive AI? Are mentalities evolving in line with the technological revolution in motion? What stories are told about AI? According to the historian Yuval Noah Harari, storytelling is the essence of human survival and prosperity. It is because of the tales we told, that we came to believe in nations, justice, money, books and laws. It seems that the AI narrative largely depends on stories and images offered by culture and arts.

The conference proposes to reflect on the importance of culture and artistic expression shaping the public perception on AI. Understanding what impacts people's relation, emotions to AI is important for policy makers in order to respond to public concerns and expectations. The artistic short film 'The Best Option', produced by STOA for this purpose, will be presented to the public for the first time and serves as an introduction to the debate. Experts from different disciplines together with policy makers and artists will discuss how to promote a lively public debate involving civil society, cultural organisations, academic networks, social media communities and other stakeholders.

2. Programme

15:00 - 15:05 Welcome by Eva KAILI, EP Vice-President responsible for STOA

15:05 - 15:25 Keynote 'Demystifying AI: The good, the bad & the ugly'

Mieke DE KETELAERE, Adjunct Professor at Vlerick Business School

15:25 - 15:45 Projection of a short film produced by STOA: 'The Best Option'

15:45 - 16:20 Conversation: Benefits of informed public debate on AI solutions

- **Nathanael ACKERMAN**, Head of AI, Federal Public Service BOSA, AI4Belgium
- **Mieke DE KETELAERE**, Adjunct Professor at Vlerick Business School
- **Catelijne MULLER**, President, ALLAI
- **Serge GORIELY**, film maker, researcher
- **Eva KAILI**, MEP and EP Vice-President responsible for STOA

Q&A

16:20 - 17:10 Panel discussion: How public debate on AI sparked by art can bridge science, citizens and policy?

- Exploration of AI narratives from literature, mythology, and folklore throughout history

Kanta DIHAL, author of 'AI Narratives - A History of Imaginative Thinking about Intelligent Machines'

- Collaboration of Art & Science to develop a narrative helping to enter in the era of human-AI interaction

Jutta THIELEN - DEL POZO, Head of Unit, JRC, European Commission

- Artistic intelligence on Artificial intelligence

Gerfried STOCKER, Ars Electronica, artistic director

- Turing's Tango - Imagining human centred-AI

Bennie MOLS, Science & Technology journalist / writer /communicator, author of the book 'Hallo Robot'

- The policy makers' perspectives

Ivo HRISTOV, MEP and STOA Vice-Chair

Q&A

Moderator: **Aleksander VÄLJAMÄE**, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu

17:10-17:15 Closing by Ivo HRISTOV, STOA Vice-Chair

*The event will be held in English, with interpretation in DE, FR, IT and ES.
The event will be webstreamed. The link will be published on the event page.*

3. Chair and moderation

3.1. Welcome: Eva KAILI, MEP and EP Vice-President responsible for STOA



Eva Kaili is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), part of the Hellenic S&D Delegation since 2014. In January 2022, she was elected as Vice-President of the European Parliament for the second half of the 9th legislature. Her responsibilities include the Parliament's ICT Innovation Strategy, Informatics & Telecommunications, European Strategy and Policy Analysis System, the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), Corporate Social Responsibility, and replacing the President for business associations, Middle East, and multilateral bodies, including the UN and the WTO. Eva is the first woman to chair the STOA Panel and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence (C4AI). She is a Member of the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy, Economic and Monetary Affairs, Budgets, the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age, and the recently created Committee of Inquiry into the use of the Pegasus Spyware.

Eva has worked intensively on promoting innovation as a driving force of the European Digital Single Market. She has been the drafts person of legislation in the fields of blockchain technology, online platforms, big data, fintech, AI, cybersecurity, as well as EFSI², the InvestEU programme, and FuelEU Maritime. She is also a member of the delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (DACP), the delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP), and the delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (DNAT). Prior to her election as MEP, she was a Member of the Greek Parliament (2007-2012). Before her political career, she worked as a journalist and newscaster. Eva holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and a postgraduate degree in International and European Affairs.

Key message

Artificial intelligence is bound to affect most aspects of our life. The public understanding of such new technologies and a genuine and open public debate on the impacts of different innovations on the European society are essential to build widespread trust and support.

The public perspective on AI has shifted over time: from concerns related to privacy and freedom of choice in pre-covid times to a general hope for AI to be a problem solving technology with high expectations in the post-pandemic world. In the healthcare field for example, Artificial Intelligence can serve to predict and foster prevention for serious illnesses while supporting medical staff in the

diagnostic phase and with several therapeutic methods. Several European Parliament Resolutions highlight the need for a public debate to increase uptake by European citizens by avoiding unjustified fears. For this reason, I initiated a STOA initiative on 'Public perspectives on AI', aiming at looking at public perception of artificial intelligence to better understand people's emotions, concerns and expectations towards this new technology in order to better respond to them in the legislation on AI.

3.2. Closing: Ivo HRISTOV, MEP and STOA Vice-Chair



Ivo Hristov is member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), as well as of several Parliamentary Delegations and Cooperation Committees while also acting as substitute in others.

Ivo Hristov is a journalist and translator of French authors – Romain Gary, Marguerite Duras, André Gide, Philippe Djian, Tonino Benacquista. He graduated in Law from the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and was among the François Mitterrand Institute’s fellows.

Ivo Hristov the author of François Mitterrand’s political biography, published in Bulgarian in 2000.

Journalist at RFI-Bulgaria (1996-1998) and Europe Magazine, published in Paris (2000-2001). He also has experience as journalist at “L’Europeo” magazine, author for “SEGA” newspaper and “Tema” magazine”, correspondent for “Courrier des Balkans” from Bulgaria.

Author and editor of “A-specto” (2014) – a magazine offering political analysis.

In 2016 Ivo Hristov managed the political and communication strategies of the presidential election campaign. After, he became the Head of the cabinet of President Rumen Radev.

In 2019, he was elected Member of the European Parliament from the civil quota of the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

3.3. Moderator: Aleksander VÄLJAMÄE, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu



[Aleksander Väljamäe](#) received his PhD in at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, in 2007 and is currently a researcher at Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia. His current research concerns how multisensory media influence humans on cognitive and emotional levels, with particular stress on well-being and new applications (Brain-Computer Interfaces, neurocinema, neurotheatre). He also actively participates in art-science projects, like his neurosecurity showing DataWe at JRC in 2019 addressing mind manipulation and physiological computing related issues. He is the author of over 30 journal articles and book chapters.

Key message

I have been developing and experimenting neurotheatre - an emerging type of interactive theatre, where audience, actors and AI-based systems can communicate symbiotically via brain-neural computer interaction using motion and physiological sensors and multisensory actuators including touch, sound and visuals. The fusion of science, technology and arts allows for so-called design fiction, a design practice aiming at exploring and criticising possible futures by creating speculative, and often provocative, scenarios narrated through designed artifacts. From this perspective, neurotheatre can be seen as a new integrative research environment for prototyping and exploring new social neuroscience paradigms, like collective decision making or shared emotional experiences. I believe that neurotheatre can help envisioning and reflection on technology-infused futures, questioning the societal and ethical implications of soon-to-be-prevalent technologies such as artificial intelligence, brain-to-brain communication; and technology-enabled scenarios such as collective minds and societies of control.

4. Speakers

4.1. Mieke DE KETELAERE, Adjunct Professor at Vlerick Business School



[Mieke De Ketelaere](#) is Adjunct Professor at Vlerick Business School and Strategic Advisor at imec (IDLab). She holds a master degree in civil and industrial engineering and specialised in robotics and artificial intelligence during her studies. Over the last 28 years, she has worked for several multinationals on all aspects of data and analytics (IBM, Microsoft, SAP, SAS, etc). From a business consulting point of view, she is specialised in defining the AI business canvas, from potential value to predefined risks. With her understanding of the hindsight, insight and foresight of AI technologies, she also frequently acts as an expert and coach behind the scenes. In her public presentations and recent book, Mieke puts the focus on the demystification of the hype around AI. In 2018, she was nominated "ICT Woman of the Year" in Belgium. The State Secretary of Digitalisation, Mathieu Michel, appointed Mieke as "Digital Mind" in 2020.

Key message

Over the past decade, AI technology has progressed in leaps and bounds, becoming a key fabric of our everyday lives in a knowledge economy. On one side, the exciting world of AI opportunities and possibilities keeps growing. On the other side, an increasing number of unanswered challenges and misunderstandings is appearing. The discrepancy between what developers create, what citizens buy, and what governments want, has increased due to the hidden art of the technology and the current siloed approach during development. In my work and my book, I make a case for AI translators who can help society, companies and organisations to better understand AI and solve the current issues. But who are these people? You can think of them as the general practitioners of AI. Generalists who have an all-round knowledge of the field and refer to specialists where necessary. Unfortunately, we don't yet cultivate these kinds of profiles at universities or in companies, where we work in silos. And because of this focus on specialisation, we are not investing enough in bridge builders who connect sectors and fields. How can art help in this needed transformation to let AI land correctly in our society?

4.2. Nathanael ACKERMAN, Head of AI, Federal Public Service BOSA, AI4Belgium



[Nathanaël Ackerman](#) is the managing director of the AI4Belgium coalition and Digital Mind for Belgium appointed by the Secretary of State for Digitalization. He is also head of AI & Innovation for the Belgian Federal Public Service Strategy and Support (BoSa); Digital Champion for Wallonia ; Belgian representative at UNESCO for AI issues, expert of the OECD ONE.AI network, and national contact point for the AI4EU platform. Nathanaël has had a mixed public-private career: from research and teaching AI at ULB, to entrepreneurship. He has been involved in technology transfer for six years. In 2012, he was appointed Director of Innovation and International Relations at the Brussels Enterprise Agency (now hub.brussels). He then created his own company active in the development of Data & AI strategy within several Belgian and French companies. In 2016, he was appointed as an advisor for innovation and AI (to Secretary of State Axelle Lemaire) for the French government. He led the #France AI strategic plan and then co-founded and led the France Artificielle Hub for two years, before returning to Belgium in 2019 to do the same job: contribute to the national AI strategy, and implement it with the ecosystem. Nathanael is a graduate from the Ecole Polytechnique de Bruxelles and Ecole Centrale Paris.

Key message

A better understanding of AI is very important for its acceptance by citizens. This is the key for their involvement, which is essential when building innovation ecosystems to support Europe in the global race on AI. Explaining AI, or ‘translating AI’, would also help a mind-set change that would contribute to AI uptake, for example, new skills to be developed and to be taught. That is why at AI4Belgium, we plan the organisation of an UTOPIA contest, bringing together engineering, art & design schools, and large citizen participation, to develop a positive image of artificial intelligence in the 21st century. We would like to launch this UTOPIA contest at our ‘European AI Week’ next March.

4.3. Serge GORIELY, film maker, researcher



Serge Goriely, PhD in Literature and Master in B&A, is a film director. He worked for several years for television in Luxemburg, France and Mexico and has directed numerous documentaries and short films. Serge Goriely is also a playwright (The Sorcerers, Realdemokratie, Cave Canem) as well as a novelist (STK 2029, Replica). As a researcher at the University of Louvain, Belgium, he has published numerous essays, namely on the Apocalypse on the screen, laughter and religion, and on artists such as Pasolini, Haneke, Mouawad or Kalisky.

Key message

Fictional stories have their place in public debates on AI. Stories are not abstract. They have the power of talking not only to our mind but also to our emotions and imagination. They are magic-like. They can be a portal to something really profound that can touch us, bring us in contact with the nature of things, and even connect to each other. We need stories about AI in order to better grasp the revolution that is underway, the risks that it entails as well as the opportunities that it offers. We will then be better equipped to make the right choices.

4.4. Kanta DIHAL, editor of 'AI Narratives' and 'Imagining AI'



[Kanta Dihal](#) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge. Her research focuses on science narratives, particularly those that emerge from conflict. She currently manages the project 'Desirable Digitalisation', an international research collaboration that investigates intercultural perspectives on AI and fundamental rights and values. She is co-editor of the books *AI Narratives* (2020) and *Imagining AI* (2023). She has a PhD on the communication of quantum physics from Oxford.

4.5. Jutta THIELEN - DEL POZO, Head of Unit, JRC, European Commission



Dr. Jutta Thielen-del Pozo is Head of Unit at the Joint Research Centre, the in house science service and knowledge service of the European Commission. She is responsible for strategic scientific development programmes including the JRC's Centre for Advanced Studies, Exploratory Research, Art and Science, Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships, Open Access Research Infrastructures and Education and Training.

Key message

Through policy making we design the future we want to live in – tomorrow, the day after and in decades to come. However, the growing understanding that the processes governing our daily lives are connected and interacting at local, regional, national and international level while emerging technologies are game changers in ways that are difficult to foresee has left society and experts alike uncertain about this future. While some may want to preserve the past, in fear of the unknown to come, others may embrace the future before it has even started. The increasing number of collaborations emerging between art, science, citizen and policy in public and private institutions over the world have become powerful vehicles to drive the necessary change, innovation and social engagement and tackle societal issues and identify what our future should look like - together. This is particularly important when dealing with artificial intelligence which may not just change our daily lives but even our own human nature and humanity at large.

4.6. Gerd Stocker, Ars Electronica, artistic director



Gerd Stocker is a media artist and telecommunications engineer. In 1991, he founded x-space, a team formed to carry out interdisciplinary projects, which went on to produce numerous installations and performances featuring elements of interaction, robotics and telecommunications. Since 1995, Gerd Stocker has been artistic director of Ars Electronica. In 1995-96, he headed the crew of artists and technicians that developed the Ars Electronica Center's pioneering new exhibition strategies and set up the facility's in-house R&D department, the Ars Electronica Futurelab.

He has been chiefly responsible for conceiving and implementing the series of international exhibitions that Ars Electronica has staged since 2004, and, beginning in 2005, for the planning and thematic repositioning of the new, expanded Ars Electronica Center.

Key message

Just because we got a new name, new hype and, of course, new technical perspectives, we must not believe that we can finally forget the glaring problems we have with the digital world, and hope that the failures and deficits in the cultural and social adaptation of digital technology and the data economy can now be resolved by themselves. Machine learning, i.e. what we like to call AI, is a super turbo booster of everything that has made digital tech so powerful and successful so far. But to the same extent, we will also have to deal with the very same problems we have faced up to now. Cultural adaptation of autonomous digital systems through artistic experimentation should therefore play an essential role in our AI strategies. Because: (1) art helps to develop perspectives that go beyond the technically scientific horizon; (2) art acts as a valuable "second opinion" when it comes to assessing symptoms and causes of dynamic transformation; (3) art inspires and creates "responsible innovation" and "critical awareness" which makes us equally aware not only of latent problems but also of previously undiscovered opportunities.

4.7. Bennie MOLS, Science & Technology journalist / writer / communicator, author of the book 'Hallo Robot'



Bennie Mols is a science journalist, author and speaker with more than twenty years of experience. He specialises in artificial intelligence and robotics, and he wrote more than 700 popular-scientific articles for various media. He gives presentations for all kinds of general audiences. He published twelve books, most notably *Hallo robot* (translated into English), *Robotics for future presidents* and *Turings Tango* (in Dutch only - about artificial intelligence). He regularly appears on radio and tv to talk about artificial intelligence and robots. He graduated in physics and philosophy and holds a PhD in physics. With this background he uniquely combines the fields of science, technology and philosophy, always asking the question how the combination of these three disciplines can improve people's lives.

Key message

AI pioneer Joseph Weizenbaum once said that we must view AI with the same skepticism as an illusionist's show. Unfortunately, over the past decade, the public has come to believe that AI can do much more than is actually the case. Therefore it is important to honestly tell what AI can and cannot do, why it is very different from human intelligence and how humans and AI complement each other. As a science journalist, I see it as my role to tell that honest story. Since the arts can reach people in different ways and also different groups of people, I challenge artists not just to exploit the fear for AI or anthropomorphise AI, as is often done, but also to show how different AI is compared to human intelligence, what AI can and cannot do, and especially how AI can augment human capabilities and thus help in solving certain societal problems.

5. About STOA

5.1. Mission

The Panel for the Future of Science and Technology ([STOA](#)) forms an integral part of the structure of the European Parliament. Launched in 1987, STOA is tasked with identifying and independently assessing the impact of new and emerging science and technologies.

The goal of its work is to assist, with independent information, the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in developing options for long-term, strategic policy-making.

The STOA Panel

The STOA Panel consists of 27 MEPs nominated from eleven permanent parliamentary committees: Agriculture & Rural Development ([AGRI](#)), Culture & Education ([CULT](#)), Employment & Social Affairs ([EMPL](#)), Environment, Public Health & Food Safety ([ENVI](#)), Internal Market & Consumer Protection ([IMCO](#)), International Trade ([INTA](#)), Industry, Research & Energy ([ITRE](#)), Legal Affairs ([JURI](#)), Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ([LIBE](#)), Regional Development ([REGI](#)) and Transport & Tourism ([TRAN](#)).

[Eva KAILI](#) is the European Parliament Vice-President responsible for STOA for the second half of the 9th parliamentary term. The STOA Chair for the second half of the 9th parliamentary term is [Christian EHLE](#), with [Ivo HRISTOV](#) and [Ivars IJABS](#) elected as 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs, respectively.

The STOA approach

STOA fulfils its mission primarily by carrying out science-based projects. Whilst undertaking these projects, STOA assesses the widest possible range of options to support evidence-based policy decisions. A typical project investigates the impacts of both existing and emerging technology options and presents these in the form of studies and options briefs. These are publicly available for download via the [STOA website](#).

Some of STOA's projects explore the long-term impacts of future techno-scientific trends, with the aim to support MEPs in anticipating the consequences of developments in science. Alongside its production of 'hard information', STOA communicates its findings to the European Parliament by organising public events throughout the year. STOA also runs the MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme aimed at promoting mutual understanding and facilitating the establishment of lasting links between the scientific and policy-making communities.

Focus areas

STOA activities and products are varied and are designed to cover as wide a range of scientific and technological topics as possible, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, 5G, genetic engineering, antimicrobial resistance, internet addiction, face recognition, pollution, sustainable agriculture, Covid-19 and health in general.

These activities are clustered within three main thematic areas: Artificial intelligence & other disruptive technologies, The new Green Deal, and Quality of life. In addition, STOA's work addresses four cross-cutting policy areas: Science, technology and innovation; Societal and ethical challenges; Economic challenges; and Legal challenges.

ESMH

The European Science-Media Hub ([ESMH](#)), operating under the political responsibility of the STOA Panel, is a platform to promote networking, training and knowledge sharing between the European Parliament, the scientific community and the media. The ESMH creates a network among policy-makers, scientists and media involving science, academia, educational and research entities, and professional associations of journalists and scientists.

For journalists and media representatives, the ESMH organises training sessions and workshops on current technological developments, both as subjects of their reporting and as means of facilitating their work. Via media monitoring and media intelligence tools, the ESMH follows the most popular topics in the field of science and technology on different platforms including journals, newspapers and social media.

The ESMH makes information available to journalists, other media and citizens about new scientific developments, as well as about scientific topics that attract media attention, and promotes information based on evidence.

Centre for AI (C4AI)

To intensify its activities in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), STOA has launched its Centre for AI ([C4AI](#)). C4AI was established by decision of the STOA Panel on 19 December 2019 and was announced at the high-level STOA workshop '[The Future of Artificial Intelligence for Europe](#)', which took place on 29 January 2020 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Within the context of STOA and based on decisions of the STOA Panel, C4AI produces studies, organises public events and acts as a platform for dialogue and information exchange on AI-relevant topics within the Parliament and beyond. In particular, it provides expertise on the possibilities and limitations of AI and its implications from an ethical, legal, economic and societal perspective. Through these activities, C4AI aims to contribute to the quality and coherence of discussion and policy-making as the EU seeks to coordinate its efforts and influence global AI standard-setting.

5.2. STOA Panel members

	Panel Member	Committee		Panel Member	Committee
	Eva KAILI (S&D, EL) EP Vice-President STOA Bureau member			Rosa D'AMATO (Greens/EFA, IT)	REGI
	Christian EHLER (EPP, DE) STOA Chair STOA Bureau member	ITRE		Jakop DALUNDE (Greens/EFA, SV)	TRAN
	Ivo HRISTOV (S&D, BG) 1st STOA Vice-Chair - STOA Bureau member	ITRE		Pietro FIOCCHI (ECR, IT)	ENVI
	Ivars IJABS (Renew Europe, LV) 2nd STOA Vice-Chair - STOA Bureau member	ITRE		Emmanouil FRAGKOS (ECR, EL)	AGRI
	Atidzhe ALIEVA-VELI (Renew Europe, BG)	EMPL		Lina GALVEZ MUÑOZ (S&D, ES)	EMPL
	Adam BIELAN (ECR, PL)	IMCO		Maria GRAPINI (S&D, RO)	TRAN
	David CORMAND (Greens/EFA, FR)	IMCO		Martin HLAVÁČEK (Renew Europe, CZ)	AGRI

	Panel Member	Committee		Panel Member	Committee
	Marina KALJURAND (S&D, EE)	LIBE		Susana SOLÍS PÉREZ (Renew Europe, ES)	ENVI
	Radan KANEV (EPP, BG)	EMPL		Barbara THALER (EPP, AT)	TRAN
	Maria Manuel LEITÃO MARQUES (S&D, PT)	IMCO		Patrizia TOIA (S&D, IT)	ITRE
	Victor NEGRESCU (S&D, RO)	CULT		Marion WALSMANN (EPP, DE)	JURI
	Michèle RIVASI (Greens/EFA, FR)	ENVI		Pernille WEISS (EPP, DK)	ITRE
	Bronis ROPÉ (Greens/EFA, LT)	AGRI		Juan Ignacio ZOIDO ALVAREZ (EPP, ES)	INTA
	Jordi SOLÉ (Greens/EFA, ES)	ITRE	AGRI: Agriculture and Rural Development CULT: Culture and Education EMPL: Employment and Social Affairs ENVI: Environment, Public Health and Food Safety IMCO: Internal Market and Consumer Protection INTA: International Trade ITRE: Industry, Research and Energy JURI: Legal Affairs LIBE: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs REGI: Regional Development TRAN: Transport and Tourism		

5.3. STOA team

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