

Digitaliseringsminister Caroline Stages talepapir

Anledning	CopenhAlgen Forum 2024, Dansk Erhvervs AI-konference
Dato / tid	7. oktober kl. 12:15-12:25
Sted	VEGA, Enghavevej 40, 1674 København
Talens varighed	8 min.
Talens formål	Tale om Danmark og Europas rolle i det globale AI-landskab og adressere udfordringerne forbundet med AI
Publikum og programpunkt	400 deltagere. Publikum består af forskere, virksomhedsledere og politiske beslutningstagere. Åbningstalen. Dansk Erhverv byder ministeren velkommen på scenen.

Det talte ord gælder.

Hovedbudskaber

- We must **do everything we can** to advance the development and use of AI. But we should **not be naïve** about the risks.
- My ambition is to make it **easier for you** to use and develop AI. We need **human intelligence**, if we want to succeed with the artificial one.
- The government has already made **progress** with new AI initiatives. New **digital taskforce** is up and running.
- Our companies and society are **too dependent** on tech giants and foreign firms. We need Danish **champions**, as well as European ones.

[INTRO]

- Thank you, Brian and Nikolaj, for the invitation.
- And **welcome** to all of you!
- It is both a pleasure for me to be here, speaking about a topic that touches all of us and that I'm very excited about
- What inspires me most is seeing so many people come together, **not just to talk about AI but to explore how we can actively shape it into a competitive advantage for Denmark.**
- As a country, and as people, it is in our nature to learn, adapt, and seize the opportunities ahead.

[THE OPPORTUNITIES]

- And one thing is certain.
- AI has a huge potential to **transform** not just public and private sectors, but our entire economy.
- And in many ways, it already has.
- Danish companies already offer solutions to identify energy waste in buildings to enhancing cancer detection in our hospitals; AI is already solving real-world problems.
- But this is just the beginning. Imagine the possibilities if we harness AI to its fullest potential—greener cities, more personalized healthcare, and a public sector that works faster and smarter.
- **And let's not forget the people behind many of these innovations—companies like yours, driving this forward. You make me proud to see how Denmark is already leading the way in AI.**

- Because I believe we must push **further, act faster, and ensure AI becomes a cornerstone of our future.**
- AI is not “just” a technology; **it’s the growth engine of the future.**

[THE CHALLENGES]

- But with great potential comes great responsibility.
- We must not be naïve. AI can become a wild garden if we don't tend to it properly.
- Yes, AI raises concerns—misinformation, ethical dilemmas, geopolitical tensions. These are real issues, and we cannot afford to ignore them.
- But more than that, I worry about something else: that we will not act fast enough to seize AI's opportunities. **Draghi’s recent report on competitiveness was in this regard a call for action.**
- The global race in AI is intensifying, and we cannot afford to lag behind

[THE HOPE]

- I will admit, like many of you, there are times when the rapid development of AI feels overwhelming.
- There are days when I ask myself: "Are we moving fast enough? Are we truly prepared for what's coming?"
- But then I look around at what we've already accomplished—the strides we've made in digitization, healthcare, and energy—and I feel a deep sense of optimism.
- We must channel that energy and optimism into action. Because AI isn't just a tool or a technology; it's a gateway to a better, more innovative Denmark.
- And we have shown time and time again that Denmark is **not a country that is afraid of innovation.**
- We are the ones who leads it.

[THE CAPACITIES]

- I'm proud to say we have a **bigger and stronger** Ministry of Digital Affairs than ever before.
- And I am **already exploring** what I can do to seize the opportunities ahead of us.
- I also want to understand how **I can better support you**, so we can build the right foundations to succeed.
- We need to create the right environment where AI can thrive—both in the public and private sectors.
- **And that requires close collaboration with you**—the innovators, the companies, the researchers who are already leading the way.

[THE SOLUTION]

- One of my top priorities is to help create a thriving ecosystem **where developing and using AI is not just easier but seamlessly integrated into both the public and private sectors.**
- **We must cultivate the right conditions**—because without fertile ground, no innovation can truly grow.
- The recently adopted AI Act is an important step. It sets the framework for our ambitions, marking the first of its kind.
- Now, our focus must be on ensuring its implementation is not only clear and coherent **but actively supportive of innovation.**
- **Our approach will be simple:** empower companies to innovate without unnecessary hurdles or costs.
- We cannot achieve a competitive advantage in AI without **talented individuals.**
- **We need human intelligence, if we want to succeed with the artificial one.**

- We have to **work together** in the public and private sector – and across Europe.
- To rethink the ways we **attract, retain and train** the people, who are going to push Denmark forward.
- We need digital skills, IT specialists, and above all, your innovative minds to lead this transformation.
- And we need more of them.

[THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO AI]

- We have already made **progress** with new AI initiatives.
- The government, municipalities and regional governments has together established a **taskforce** to steer the ambitions for the use of AI in the public sector.
- And soon we will **present our vision** and ambition for the use and development of AI in Denmark.

- I look very much forward to launching and discussing these initiatives **later this year.**

[THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF AI]

- While I am excited by our national efforts, **digital affairs are not bound by country borders.**
- In a world with geopolitical tensions, Denmark **cannot stand alone.**
- That is why many of the solutions to our concerns should be found by working together with our **European friends and American allies.**
- And while we need an open and thriving economy,
- We must also sow the seeds for making **decisions on our own** and with the EU.
- Because Europe is under **pressure.**
- Our companies and society are **too dependent** on tech giants and foreign firms.
- We need Danish **champions**, as well as European ones.

[THE PATH AHEAD]

- As a new minister, I'm looking forward to hearing your input and working closely with you.
- I know that for us to create the best conditions for AI to flourish, we need your insights and collaboration.
- **I encourage you to connect, exchange ideas, and explore how we can expand AI's impact even further, making it an integral part of Denmark's future success.**
- Thank you!