To the Director of the U.S Patent and Trademark Office

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

22 November 2019

Dear Sir

From the Netherlands I read with interest an invitation to submit - a public - comment in relation to the ownership of the content created by Artificial Intelligence.

If AI was given the right of a personhood like companies have been granted a long time ago, the outcome would be even more devastating than what companies (in general) have generated to date. Companies draw personal data from its users under the guise of improving its services, in order to manipulate the user to invest in other goods and services from itself (or other companies through on-selling its rest-data - or content). Rest-Data is information that is not required to improve the said services it wished to improve. In other words, information (content) is being used for other purposes that it was initially collected. By law a company is obliged to make a profit. AI that is produced by a company has therefore the inherent intent to make profit.

As a consequence; If AI was given the right of a personhood like companies have today, the results thereof would be more devastating that what companies have returned to our current state of (global) affairs. To approach this issue from an alternative viewpoint it would be wiser to propose legislation that forces companies to report their Taxation obligations from a Triple Bottom Line perspective.

All (stockmarket-listed) companies report on their TBL activities, whilst only their financial component is being audited by the State. It would be very easy to legislate that a certain percentage of their financial worth needs to be used for social and/or environmental purposes by that company. That way any Government could monitor whether the financial gain of a company (which they are legally bounded to produce) and the products or services they provide, has been offset by benefits from its own social and/or environmental conduct. If a product of a company produces a negative return to our society, it should be the makers of that product who have the responsibility to produce a benefit (other than making a profit) and not the product itself. One cannot blame coal for producing toxins because a person (or company) burns it, to produce heat or electricity. The same argument would hold up for AI.
There is no doubt that the current Taxation System that companies are using today has produced the prosperity of our society in general. If that system has been good for companies, it would also be good for individuals. It has already shown us it’s effect. Nobody can deny that. Therefore, in a Global Tripple Bottom Line Taxation system citizens should also be able to report on their personal activities or responsibilities. (Your current President avoids this obligation, whilst he stated openly that he knew more about Taxation than anyone else in the world.) That way one would create an equal playing field between companies and citizens, whereby the amount of money is no longer the way the world would value progress, but what one (or a company) does with the money it has access too.

Yes I know it would change the current financial system on which the planet has relied upon from the dawn of humanity. To reason that we can not change a system, will prevent exploring an alternative system. However, there is a need for a new system to curb the interconnected problems that nobody seems to have a solution for. A (global) Triple Bottom Line Taxation System would be such an alternative system that will give all the residents of our planet (not just companies) a new lease on life.

I remain with respect,

Frans van Wamel
https://www.autisme-werkt.nl
https://www.linkedin.com/in/vuzion