# ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee

Activity Report July 2023-June 2024

Chris Hankin (Chair for the reporting period)

## Status of the Committee

### Voting Members (14):

- Chris Hankin (Chair), Paola Inverardi (Vice Chair), Oliver Grau (Past Chair), Fabrizio Gagliardi, Manuel Hermenegildo, Bran Knowles (Chair, Climate Change subcommittee), Alejandro Saucedo (Chair, AI subcommittee), Gerhard Schimpf (Chair, Autonomous Systems subcommittee), Tom Crick, Wendy Hall, Andrew McGettrick (Interim Chair, Data Science subcommittee), Enrico Nardelli, Gurkan Solmaz, Julie Williamson

### Ex Officio (8)

- Yannis Ioannidis (ACM President), Jim Hendler (TPC Chair), Michel Beaudouin-Lafon (Vice Chair TPC), Jeremy Epstein (Chair USTPC), Natasa Milic-Frayling (ACM-W Europe), Vicki Hanson (ACM CEO), Pat Ryan (ACM COO), Adam Eisgrau (ACM Director of Global Policy)

### Executive (5 from among Voting Members per Procedures)

- Hankin, Inverardi, Grau, Gagliardi and Hermenegildo served as the ACM Europe TPC Executive Cttee in FY24, which conducted business by email. There was one physical meeting of the Committee in the reporting period (in October 2023). As projected in last year (FY23), the Committee will continue to use its travel budget for targeted interventions on particular policy issues and will continue to convene the full committee virtually as needed.

### General Members (166, excluding ACM staff)

- For the first time, in FY24 a general call to European members of ACM inviting applications to join the European Technology Policy Committee and one or more of its Subcommittees was made and garnered rapid and significant response. While general members are non-voting, they are invited to suggest and contribute to Committee policy statements, comments in response to requests for input in stakeholder inquiries, and otherwise contribute their expertise to the Committee's deliberations and outputs. General members also are invited to attend a virtual all-members meeting of the Committee at least once each fiscal year. The first such meeting was convened on 7 February 2024. It featured a panel discussion on "Immersive Technologies" with Committee members Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Oliver Grau, Julie Williamson and Q&A from the audience.

## Work of the Committee

In addition to expanding to include general members, the Committee also streamlined its Procedures and therein redesignated its Working Groups as Subcommittees. Substantively, the Committee remained active in responding to EU and UK consultations, and producing other (unsolicited) outputs, as detailed below. Throughout the period we have continued to engage Francisco Medeiros (FM Tech Consult BV) as a part-time consultant, to help promote our policy-related outputs and maintain a network of contacts with key EU policy makers.

- Panel Discussion: Immersive Technologies (February 7, 2024)
- Comments to the EU–US Trade and Technology Council re Terminology and a Taxonomy for Artificial Intelligence, Europe Technology Policy Committee (November 21, 2023)
- Response to European Commission Survey on Draft G7 Advanced AI Principles, Europe Technology Policy Committee (October 20, 2023)
- *Hot Topics* Webinar: Artificial Intelligence, Real Regulation: International Perspectives and Prospects (October 19, 2023)

## Liaison with Other Initiatives

The Committee continues to liaise with several other ACM initiatives or committees, including the TPC, USTPC and ACM-WE.  Through our consultant, we have maintained contact with the European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Committee and the EC Science Advice Mechanism (SAM). In FY24, ETPC successfully proposed to SAM that it modify a major policy document to address AI "explainability" on which it was previously silent.

Having been accepted in FY22 as a supporting partner for the European Green Digital Coalition, Europe TPC continued to engage with it whenever opportunities occurred.
Engagement with the European Internet Forum (EIF) remained in FY24.  This is an important facet of ETPC activities allowing direct interaction with MEPs; ETPC serves on the EIF Program Committee.

## Plans for FY25

With a newly elected European Parliament and reconfigured European Commission (new College of Commissioners), Europe TPC will have both the opportunity and the need to conduct substantial outreach to policymakers and EC senior staff. Specific activities and efforts will include: continued and enhanced involvement in EIF; increased efforts to engage the broader ETPC membership; use more of our travel budget to organise face-to-face meetings with EC senior staff; and working with the Technology Policy Council and USTPC to raise further awareness of our work.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

EUROPE TPC is committed to supporting the work of ACM Women in Europe (ACM-WE) with the aim of increasing the involvement of women in the Europe TPC. A member of ACM-WE is invited to all full Committee meetings. The current members of the ETPC are from the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland with one of the ex officio members coming from France and one from Greece. We have members from Scandinavia and Central Europe as general members and encourage them to join  the subcommittees.