

## **Mrs Olga Kefaligianni's speech ( young MP ) – Greek delegation**

Please allow me to make an initial general/broader comment: the fourth industrial revolution will very soon bring overwhelming changes in all fields, the economy, labor relations, machine learning, education, every day life.

Robots (which will become part of the production process), artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and biotechnology, internet of things to name but a few of the things that will radically change our lives.

There are two basic goals/challenges in this context:

The first is to ensure that the society will benefit from the technological evolution in the years to come.

Social justice and democracy should be core elements of the fourth industrial revolution, i.e. reducing social inequalities (present or future) and strengthening/deepening/disseminating democracy ideals.

The second challenge is to ensure that more women participate in key positions, be it in politics and parliaments or in important posts which will be further developed because of the fourth industrial revolution, namely medicine and education.

National parliaments have a significant role to play, but they have to realize the size of the changes and incorporate them in their procedures.

All countries, including my country Greece which has stayed behind in digital convergence, should make huge efforts to become up to date with the new data.

Our own role as parliamentarians is to acknowledge the importance of STEM education and publicly promote the practical, innovative way of teaching natural sciences.

At the same time we should by all means participate in campaigns to tackle digital illiteracy in order for technology to extend to even more age groups and to reach even more remote areas. We should encourage young women and men to \*\*\* with science and technology and support the initiatives of technological science institutions/foundations/entities.

Let me stress the fact that in Greece we have delayed incorporating innovation: the Greek parliament only started using the electronic voting system in January 2018! at the same time that both our collective and our personal practices should be directed towards technological applications.

In order to realize the value of introducing technology and innovation in all fields of every day life, it is important to lift dividing lines between natural sciences and other more theoretical scientific fields.

The logic/rationale of natural sciences, for example mathematics, can be applied in rhetoric: building an argument, proving or not proving a position, making a hypothesis on the basis of possibilities.

This is why it can be very useful everywhere, from debating to diplomacy.

(Given all the aforementioned facts), it is therefore made clear that national parliaments

should and could play an important role in enforcing international treaties/agreements, for example the 2030 Agenda on sustainable growth (adopted by the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations, September 2015).

It is our role as parliamentarians to attain/reach the goals of sustainable development through our legislative work, through necessary funding and through political initiatives. It is above all our duty to ensure that legal frameworks and the socio-economic environment do not hinder/stand in the way of innovation and growth, as was the case in my country for many years.

The only way for countries to go forward is through innovation. Therefore it is to the interest and to the benefit of governments and parliaments to invest in innovation.