

## EUROPE'S STANCE ON TECH

### **Lucia Sinapi-Thomas, Executive Director of Capgemini Ventures**

Clément, across the three papers you co-wrote that were published by Ifri, you point systematically at the necessity for Europe to take action but what would you say are the priorities?

### **Clément Tonon, Member of the French Council of State**

First, I think the EU has taken the technology problem the wrong way. I am European and we started with regulation in 1995, I think it is the first directive on data protection, at a time when we were already lagging behind in industrial terms. We started with regulation and today we are starting to think in industrial terms, so it was the wrong way around. You make an Amazon or a Microsoft by working with governments, but if you do not have a European actor that can provide the same level of quality then you lose. I think that European sovereignty very much lies on its ability to foster an ecosystem of industrial actors in the GovTech sector and in that sense, the pandemic has raised awareness. Thomas Gomart wrote an article about the end of digital innocence in Europe and that is a very well-chosen word. There are initiatives coming up with GAIA-X, as far as cloud computing is concerned. There are national initiatives with the Blue project with Orange, Capgemini, etc., which is very encouraging. It is also true for health governance because there is currently no common health policy in Europe. If you look at the European story it can be traced back to the 1950s and at that time the French Health Minister, Paul Ribeyre tried to promote a common health policy at the same time as the common defense policy. It failed so there is no common health policy and I think that the Covid-19 shows that we have to move towards a European health policy driven by data. I really hope it will be at the top of the agenda for the French Presidency of the EU at the beginning of next year.

### **Lucia Sinapi-Thomas**

Thank you, that is a very interesting insight. We have also seen on the market that because there is a need to converge around the use of data there is a need to work in terms of ecosystems. We see actors, and you mentioned Blue, but there is another initiative around health that is called Future4Care, that brings together Generali, Sanofi, Orange and Capgemini to promote the emergence of startups creating solutions leveraging health data usage. this requires a context of data availability and made accessible as interoperability around data is key to create the expected value.



### **Mehdi Benchoufi, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of EchOpen**

One striking fact on this topic is that data is very important, sovereignty is essential and there is some kind of digital innocence. However, it is a way to be quite defensive. What are we doing to make our history ambitious, move forward and be concrete? How do we build companies that acquire very heterogeneous data that can be very meaningful for the health system? We can make whatever bloc we like around Europe but let me give you some examples. If I am a medical doctor and go to the hospital, I check my phone and since I am going every day, Google knows that I am a health worker. If I stay for a long time without leaving the hospital, they know I may be a patient and since hospitals are built by departments, checking with Google Maps means that they will know if I have diabetes or some other disease. This is there for health but then you go home and ask Google what the time is, what the weather will be, etc. The fact is that you are living with incredibly powerful data, which is vocal data because in 10 years with artificial intelligence it will be possible to identify from corrupt vocal data that you are anxious, depressed or it might be the beginning of Alzheimer's Disease or Parkinson's, or a stroke. This exists in Europe. I am not talking about Android systems and all this kind of thing, I find these companies incredible, but how can we do such a thing in Europe and build global companies that get really diverse and massive data? This is very important, and this is our sovereignty. What I notice when you take blocs, Russia, China and the US, they have their own search systems, Yandex, Google, etc., and we do not have one. This is interesting and something we should be aware of and perhaps threatened by.

### **Lucia Sinapi-Thomas**

Therefore, we also need industrial solutions. The position reached by Amazon with the combination of AWS in cloud and e-commerce can illustrate this indeed. Their platform is open to third party retailers, who by using it are sharing sensitive competitive information. Slike Mirakl, which is European-based and offers an alternative e-commerce platform solution for retailers, are in that context a strategic play, and we want more of that. The high valuation Mirakl reached in their recent funding round testifies for how the market also takes that view.