Counter-Expertise to the AI Commission Report: Executive Summary

The [Artificial Intelligence Commission](#), established by the French government and chaired by Ms. Bouverot and Mr. Aghion, was meant to position France as a leader in addressing AI challenges for the years to come. [Its final report](#), published on March 13, 2024, proves to be a missed opportunity, despite the crucial importance of this document for France's technological and economic future. Our counter-expertise, supported by [X] recognized experts and [Y] organizations, highlights the shortcomings and methodological biases that taint this document.

Our main criticism is the report's unscientific approach, which disregards, without providing any justification, the opinions of a significant portion of AI experts. Despite warnings from many world-class researchers, including a majority of AI safety experts, about potentially catastrophic risks in the short and medium term, **the Commission chooses to ignore them**. This approach compromises France's ability to anticipate and manage the major challenges posed by AI, thus jeopardizing national security and the future of our society.

Our analysis reveals systemic failures in the report, which we can summarize in seven main criticisms:
1. Ignoring warnings from the majority of AI experts without justification.
2. No anticipation of future AI developments in the short term.
3. Complete omission of the scientific field of AI safety.
4. Distortion of data and facts to support an excessively optimistic vision.
5. Systematic minimization of identified risks, particularly in terms of employment and cybersecurity.
6. Failure to apply the precautionary principle to potentially catastrophic risks.
7. Lack of rigor compared to similar reports from other countries.

These failures are illustrated by shocking examples:
- **Existential risks:** The report mocks warnings about existential AI risks without any scientific justification, going so far as to confuse the [statement](#) from the Center for AI Safety signed by hundreds of leading experts with the [open letter](#) from another institution.
- **Employment:** The report openly manipulates data on AI's impact. First, it describes an approach as inconclusive, then claims two sentences later that it shows a 'positive effect on employment'. It then cites a study predicting a 30% risk of work replacement by AI, but immediately ignores it to conclude, without justification, a positive effect.
- **Cybersecurity:** While AI already outperforms 88% of human hackers in certain competitions, the report dismisses these risks in two sentences.

- **Artistic creation:** Without citing any sources or references, the report claims that 'AI does not endanger the originality of creation'. This statement ignores the alarming reports emerging on AI's impact in the artistic field and obscures the profound transformations that AI could bring to this sector.
- **Lack of anticipation:** The report systematically evaluates risks based solely on past AI capabilities, implicitly assuming a sudden halt in technological progress. This approach amplifies all the previous problems: the already underestimated risks for employment, cybersecurity, and artistic creation are multiplied if we consider the rapid and continuous evolution of AI capabilities.

These shortcomings are mostly explained by the composition of the Commission itself, marked by **major conflicts of interest** and **a lack of diversity in opinion and expertise**. The Commission includes no AI safety experts and is dominated by industry representatives favorable to accelerated and poorly regulated AI development.

Faced with this alarming situation, we recommend:
1. A reshuffling of the Commission, eliminating conflicts of interest and adding diversity of expertise.
2. Urgent consultation with AI safety experts.
3. Following this consultation, the drafting of an addendum addressing the ignored risks.
4. The opening of an informed public debate on the future of AI in France.

France's hosting of the AI Action Summit in early 2025 provides an opportunity to lead on AI safety issues. **These issues represent nothing less than the future of our society and, potentially, humanity itself.** It is imperative that France finally takes the full measure of the challenges and dangers posed by AI, and acts accordingly.