Editorial

2026 : the year Europe must scale up.

Artificial intelligence has become a central driver of competitiveness, economic transformation, and sovereignty.
Yet as adoption accelerates, **Europe remains dependent on external players for its critical building blocks**:

Europe holds only **5%** **of global computing power.**

Hyperscalers control most of the continent's cloud infrastructure, and a share of its startups are considering relocating to deeper, less complex markets.

This fragility stands in sharp contrast to the momentum of Europe's ecosystem.

Investment grew by **18%** in **2025**.

Europe is home to world-class research, a rapidly accelerating entrepreneurial fabric, and technological champions capable of competing on a global stage. **The challenge is no longer merely to innovate, but to enable these young companies to scale here** — by more fully leveraging the firepower of Europe's leading corporations.

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AI EUROPEAN BAROMETER BY JFD

2nd edition
European AI Barometer

AI & European Autonomy: How to Reconcile Sovereign Choices, Excellence and Competitiveness?

"The European AI Barometer is an essential compass **to guide Europe toward more responsible, competitive, and high-performing AI**.
In 2026, JFD pursues a **clear objective**: to help turn Europe's hidden champions into global leaders through the power of collective action — because **Europe lacks neither talent nor ideas, but scale**."

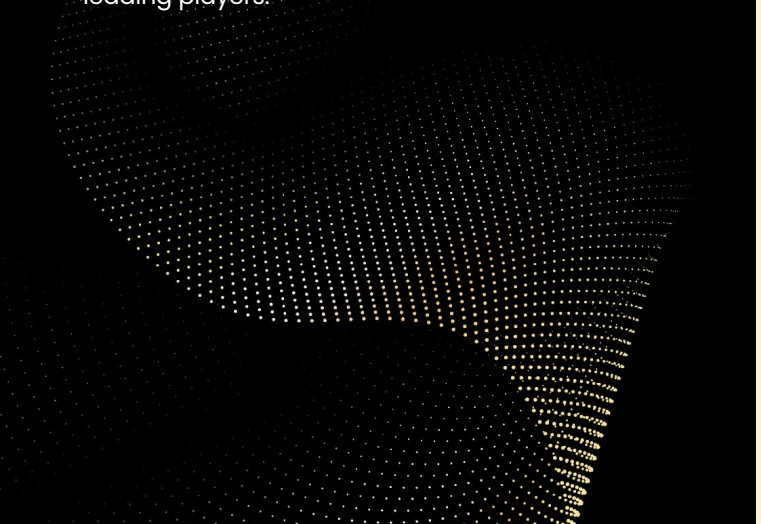
Delphine Remy-Boutang,
Founder & CEO
JFD - Where Innovation Accelerates

Artificial intelligence is becoming the technological backbone of the decades ahead.

Yet behind its promise of efficiency and innovation lies a more fragile reality.

> **What position does Europe truly hold across the AI value chain?**
>
> **And how far can it innovate without losing control?**

The 2026 edition of the JFD Barometer sheds light on a critical challenge: **without a decisive shift to scale, Europe risks seeing value creation move elsewhere**. Based on more than **30 executive interviews, 3 strategic committees** with our key partners, and an **extensive desk research**, this new edition explores current dependencies, barriers to growth, and the first concrete paths toward autonomy emerging among Europe's leading players.



1 Key insights 2026

STRUCTURAL DEPENDENCIES PERSIST

Across the entire AI value chain, Europe remains heavily dependent.

70% of the European cloud **is controlled by US hyperscalers.**

5% of global computing power is **held by Europe**.

Critical materials and networks are also dominated by non-European players.

SCALING HELD BACK BY FRAGMENTATION

Europe innovates, but struggles to scale. European startups face a **shortage of private capital** and a **less diversified buyer landscape**.

+7x investment flows into **AI startups in the US** than in Europe, where funding rounds above €100M remain rare.

23% of AI startups are considering **relocating their headquarters to the US** due to a lack of a competitive environment.

YET, A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A COMEBACK

Despite these constraints, Europe retains strong strategic assets:

4/5 European founders now **build their companies in Europe**.

15% of **global AI scientific publications** originate in Europe.

Academic excellence, open-source ecosystems, and leadership in critical sectors such as healthcare form a strong foundation for European AI autonomy.

2 Regaining control

Across Europe, companies are demonstrating that **pragmatic autonomy is not only possible, but already underway.**

Some **regain control over their core technology building blocks**. Others support the **scaling of European AI players** by creating the conditions for the industrial diffusion of innovation. Many invest in **empowering their teams to strengthen autonomy**, while others actively manage their technological dependencies.

Together, these strategies form a shared movement toward a chosen, gradual, and operational autonomy.

3 Levers to regain strategic autonomy

Europe can regain momentum by **strengthening its existing assets. The challenge is not to control everything, but to align efforts.**

At the company level: embedding the cost of dependency into procurement decisions, diversifying suppliers to avoid lock-in, and breaking down silos to speed up innovation.

At the continental scale: increasing the visibility of European solutions, mobilizing sector-based coalitions, and committing to trusted AI lay the groundwork for a pragmatic path to autonomy.

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