



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Staying in control in the AI era.

Eight technology leaders on governance, sovereignty and keeping a grip on AI — the lines that stuck with us.

The AI Governance Forum 2026, hosted by Dropsolid and Beltug



“

Adoption is everywhere. Control is nowhere.

67% of people already use AI. Only 18% of organizations have a framework to govern it.



Jan Smedts

CEO, Digitaal Vlaanderen

“

The best day to start was three years ago. The second best is today.

Realize even 20% of your AI ambition and it creates a ripple effect.

Carlo Schots

CEO, Dropsolid Solutions



“

Open source is the gateway to true sovereignty.

If we build strong vendors around open source, Europe can build its own stack.

Dominique De Cooman

Founder & CEO, Dropsolid AI



“

**AI is not an IT topic.
It touches the
whole organization.**

Don't plug AI into old processes — rethink
them from the ground up.

Marieke Laeremans

Project Manager, BELTUG





“

**In 95% of cases our
AI pen-testing finds
more issues than
a human — ten
times faster.**

Fight fire with fire: give the model the
context and stay ahead of the attackers.

Roeland Delrue

Co-founder, Aikido Security

“

**You can't govern AI
with only engineers,
or only lawyers. You
need to see over
technology and
regulation at once.**

Raphaël Weuts

AI governance expert & former professor



“

**You don't measure
the success of AI.
You measure the
success of what
you're doing.**

AI is just one more enabler — strategy
comes first.

Cyril Guilloret

Banking & data leader

“

**Rent AI and it's
someone else's
house. The day they
lock it down, you
don't get in.**

The real choice is between renting AI and
owning it.

Öztürk Taspinar

Sovereign AI expert



THE THROUGH-LINE

Control is a choice you make early.

Governance, optionality and sovereignty aren't constraints on AI — they're what let you keep using it on your terms.

Read the full recap →

Link in comments.