

From Plausible Tomorrows to Prompt Action on AI: **AI-Augmented Risks and National Security**

Woensdag, 10 december 2025

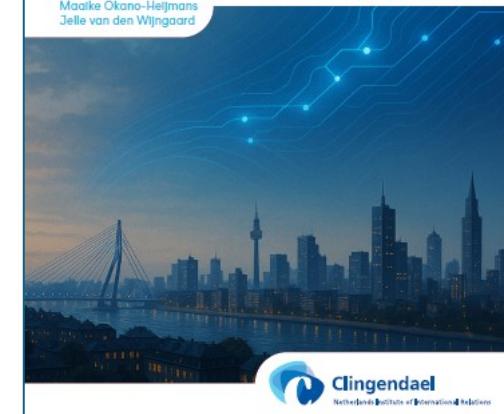
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**From Plausible Tomorrows
to Prompt Action on AI**
Dealing with AI-Augmented Risks
to Dutch National Security

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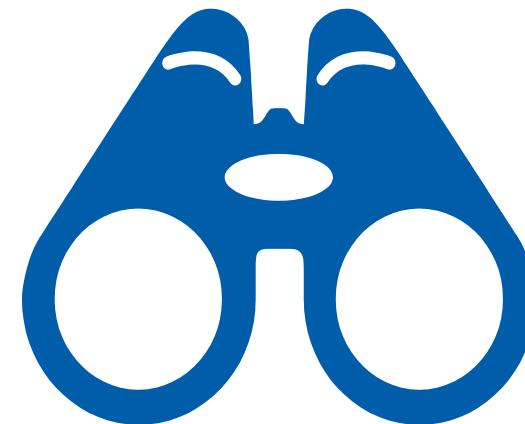
Clingendael Report



Why Foresight Matters

AI capabilities
accelerating fast

**Dual(-use) nature of AI:
augmented risks tied with
new opportunities?**



**EU strategic position: US/China
dominance as a challenge to the EU's
long-term sovereignty and
competitiveness?**

**Lower barriers → more actors →
greater instability**



How do we plan for what is to come?

Two Key Uncertainties on AI development



Access to advanced AI



Ubiquity of AI integration in society



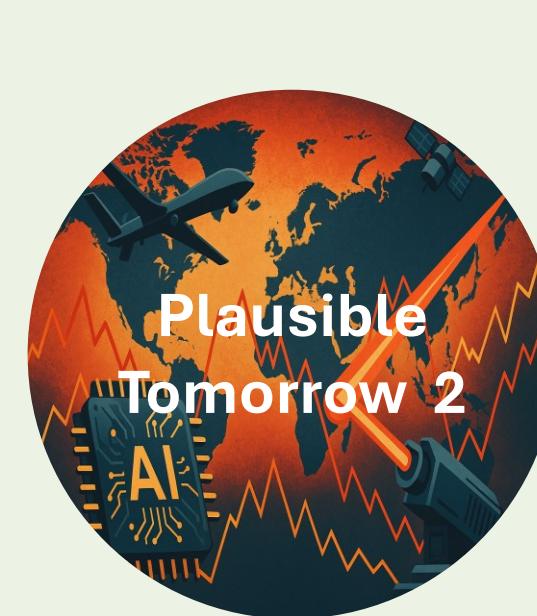
Three Plausible Tomorrows

NL AND EU MEMBER STATES HAVE ACCESS TO
THE LATEST MODELS (E.G. OPEN SOURCE)

AI DOES NOT BECOME
UBIQUITUOUS



Plausible
Tomorrow 1



Plausible
Tomorrow 2

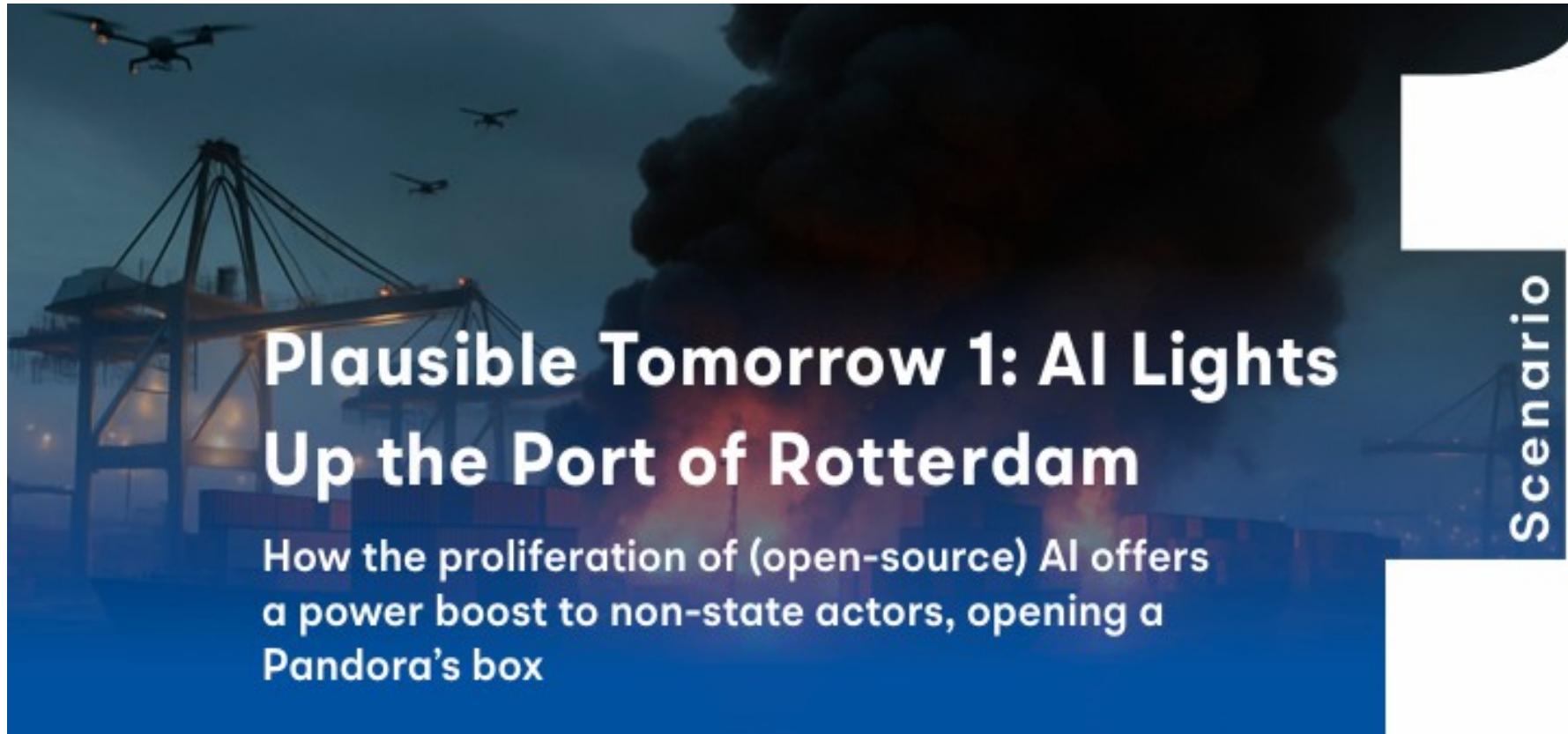


Plausible
Tomorrow 3

NL AND EU MEMBER STATES HAVE
NO ACCESS TO THE LATEST MODELS

AI BECOMES UBIQUITUOUS (VIA E.G. AGENTIC AI)





Plausible Tomorrow 1: AI Lights Up the Port of Rotterdam

How the proliferation of (open-source) AI offers a power boost to non-state actors, opening a Pandora's box

Scenario





**Plausible Tomorrow 3:
White Flag Festival:
Surrender to the AI Gods**

Scenario

How the Netherlands and Europe are forced to
obey either the Americans or the Chinese

Cross-Scenario Risks & Emerging Opportunities

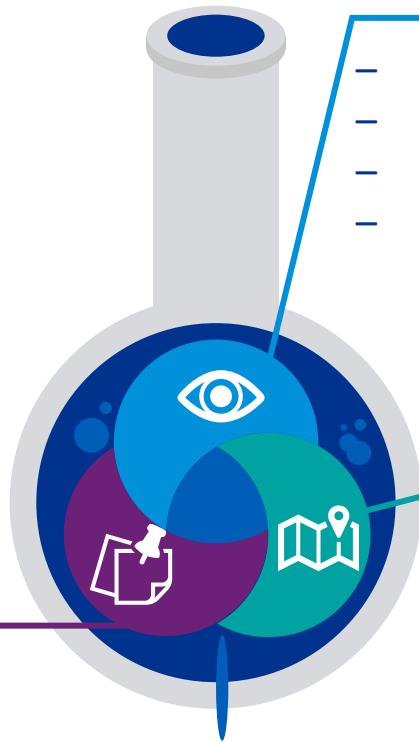
- Further truth decay: integrity of information ecosystem (mis/disinformation)
- Critical infrastructure vulnerabilities
- Rapid labour & economic disruption
- Security risks from autonomous/dual-use systems

- Strategic niches (AgriTech, semiconductors, HealthTech, etc.)
- Building sovereign compute & secure supply chains
- Foster public–private collaboration to scale strategic AI solutions
- Position NL/EU as leaders in safe, trustworthy, rights-preserving AI

Policy Priorities & Call to Action

- Regulate and enforce controls on dual-use / agentic AI systems
- Enforce secure update and maintenance practices
- Safeguard health, defence, and infrastructure domains
- Invest in strategic sectors and niches, and diversify to build resilient supply chains

Action



Foresight

- AI proliferation will empower many actors
- Depth of AI integration is highly uncertain
- Critical sectors face new systemic vulnerabilities
- NL/EU can seize advantage in strategic niches

Strategy

- Protect the democratic and information environment
- Build EU/NL technological and compute sovereignty
- Anchor AI governance in a rights-based approach
- Foster international partnerships to shape global AI norms and guardrails





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THANK YOU

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Ten Baseline Insights & Key Uncertainties

1. AI seen as a strategic race by the US and China
2. Uncertainty in time horizons increases with AI: What is short- and long-term?
3. Accessibility paradigm is shifting: Proliferation of accessible powerful AI
4. Agentic AI changes the scale and autonomy of automated systems
5. There is AI beyond LLMs

