



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018)3534 final

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion concerning the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU {JOIN(2017) 450 final} and the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on [the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)], the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act") {COM(2017) 477 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the support for the aims of the actions put forward in the Joint Communication. It agrees that there is a strong education dimension in cybersecurity and therefore welcomes the importance that the Poslanecká sněmovna places on education and digital skills. Cybersecurity education should be developed at all levels and begin starting from regular training of a cyber workforce, additional cybersecurity training for all Information and Communication Technologies specialists, and new specific cybersecurity secondary curricula.*

*Cyber defence is addressed as one of the priority areas in the European Defence Action Plan and the Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and Defence, which both aim at advancing defence cooperation within the Union framework. The European Defence Fund is expected to further facilitate the efforts in addressing security challenges and strengthen cyber defence capabilities at European level.*

*Regarding the Cybersecurity Act, the proposal for a strong, permanent and focused mandate of the European Union Cybersecurity Agency builds on the main achievements of the Agency - in the field of cooperation, support to capacity building and policy development and implementation at Union level – and the requirements of Union law, in particular the important tasks attributed to the Agency by the Directive on Security of*

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*cc Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK  
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*Networks and Information Systems (the 'NIS Directive')<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, it entrusts the European Union Cybersecurity Agency with some new responsibilities in the to-be-established Union's cybersecurity certification framework, which forms integral part of the same proposal.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Poslanecká sněmovna shares the view that the European Union Cybersecurity Agency should be reinforced and given a permanent mandate. The Agency's tasks do not replace or overlap with the roles and responsibilities of the Member States. On the contrary, they support the Member States in improving their capacity to prevent, detect and respond to incidents and to contribute to operational cooperation at Union level in particular as far as cross-border issues are concerned.*

*The cybersecurity certification framework will provide Europe with a much needed common and flexible approach in this area, making certification stronger and at the same time more accessible to both suppliers and users of Information and Communication Technologies. Flexibility will allow the framework to address new cybersecurity risks in a timely manner. The use of international standards in the certification framework is very important as it allows European suppliers to compete equally on a global and open market.*

*The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. On the basis of the constructive discussions that are taking places with the co-legislators, the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached before the end of its current mandate in 2019.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union; OJ L 194, 19.7.2016, p. 1–30.