



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 25.4.2018
C(2018)2442 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Joint Communication on Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU {JOIN(2017) 450 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților to the measures set out in the Joint Communication. The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților that a strong emphasis is needed in education and digital skills. Cybersecurity education should be developed at all levels, starting from regular training of a cyber workforce, additional cybersecurity training for all Information and Communication Technology specialists, and new specific cybersecurity curricula.

Faced with an increasing risk of cybersecurity incidents that affects several Member States or the Union as a whole, a plan needs to be in place to allow for a rapid, operational and collective reaction of the European Union and the Member States. As stated in the Recommendation on coordinated response to large scale cybersecurity incidents and crises, this plan should build on existing crisis management mechanisms, such as the Council's Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements, and also coordinate where necessary with international organisations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The Joint Declaration by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation signed in July 2016 has boosted cooperation on cybersecurity. In addition to the existing dialogue, in 2016 the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation signed a Technical Arrangement on cyber defence information sharing. Further focus has been given to the planning and conduct of operations, training, education and exercises as well as on cyber aspects of crisis management. The first ever Parallel and Coordinated Exercise took place in 2017 with a special focus on cyber aspects. Other exercises where the European Union has participated included the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Cyber Coalition exercise in 2017.

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The Commission shares the view that the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security should be reinforced and given a permanent mandate, thereby becoming the European Cybersecurity Agency. The Agency's tasks do not replace or overlap with the roles and responsibilities of Member States. The Commission's proposal for a strong, permanent and focused mandate of the Agency builds on its main achievements - in the field of cooperation, support to capacity building and policy development and implementation at Union level – and the requirements of European Union law, in particular the important tasks attributed to the Agency by the Directive on Security of Networks and Information Systems (the 'NIS Directive')¹. At the same time, it entrusts the Cybersecurity Agency with some new responsibilities in the future European Union cybersecurity certification framework, which forms integral part of the proposal for a Cybersecurity Act.

The cybersecurity certification framework will provide the Union 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.

The proposal is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached before the end of its current mandate in 2019.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera Deputaților in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*

¹ 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.