



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade {JOIN(2020) 18 final}.

This Strategy constitutes a key component of Shaping Europe's Digital Future {COM(2020) 67 final}, the Commission's Recovery Plan for Europe {COM(2020) 98 final} as well as the Security Union Strategy 2020-2025 {COM(2020) 605 final}.

A safe and open cyberspace is vital to allow EU citizens and businesses to reap the benefits of the digital transition. The various initiatives outlined in the Strategy will strengthen EU's resilience and technological sovereignty in the cybersecurity field, whilst also helping to prevent and deter future cyber-attacks.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the aims of the Strategy, notably in relation to the need for increased situational awareness and exchange of information as well as the activities of the European Space Agency.

The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares the view that products and services should adhere to high cybersecurity standards. To that end, the Commission and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) are working on three cybersecurity certification schemes. Furthermore, as mentioned in the Cybersecurity Strategy, the Commission is considering whether to propose new horizontal rules to improve the cybersecurity of connected products and associated devices.

The Commission concurs that the civil society can play a significant role in promoting cyber awareness in the Member States. It is accordingly committed to reinforcing regular and structured exchanges with various civil society organisations.

Promoting stronger cooperation at Union level is a key priority, and the Joint Cyber Unit will serve as the virtual and physical space to bring together the different cyber communities,

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which is rightly a key concern of the Camera Deputaților. The Commission will make concrete proposals setting out its vision for the Joint Cyber Unit in close consultation with the Member States in 2021.

The Commission agrees that particular attention must be paid to the healthcare sector. The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity has published a number of guidelines addressed to entities operating in that sector, including guidelines on procurement aimed at ensuring that hospitals take cybersecurity into account when procuring products and services.

The Commission shares the Camera Deputaților's view that investment in major cybersecurity projects is vital to bolster Europe's capabilities to prevent cyber-attacks. The Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre will coordinate such projects in areas such as cyber threat intelligence, secured hardware and software, improved future-proof cryptography and security certification.

In that regard, the Commission is pleased that the Romanian authorities are committed to ensuring a rapid setting up of the Centre and are collaborating closely with the relevant Commission services to that end.

Furthermore, the identification of emerging threats is key to ensuring that Europe maintains its capability to fend off cyber-attacks. Under the Cybersecurity Act (Regulation (EU) 2019/881), the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity is tasked with performing long-term strategic analyses of cyber threats and incidents with the primary objective of identifying such emerging threats.

The Commission, together with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, intends to strengthen the cyber dialogues with third countries as well as with regional organisations, such as the African Union. Moreover, as part of the EU-Africa Strategy {JOIN(2020) 4 final}, the Union will promote the implementation of key internet standards and well-established internet security standards.

The Commission has taken due note of the views expressed by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion and will take them into account when putting forward concrete proposals to implement the initiatives outlined in the Strategy.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission*