European Commission promotes cybersecurity

Over 150 policymakers, academics and private sector representatives from more than 80 countries and international organisations are gathering to attend an international conference to further advance on the pursuit of a secure and safe digital environment. The event is organised by the European Commission and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

Almost 3 billion people now use online platforms to communicate, work, learn or access government services. As the global internet usage continues to expand, the development community is looking at how to enhance the beneficial experience of the internet. With cybercrime increasing and cybersecurity challenges growing, the policies addressing the risks to an open, secure and safe digital environment need to be a part of this global discussion. The challenge is even more pressing in those parts of the world where numbers of internet users are growing the fastest – in Africa and Asia. Global awareness of risks is increasing only slowly and effective action is often hobbled by limited resources or a lack of expertise.

Opening the event, Deputy Director General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, Klaus Rudischhauser, pointed out that “Transnational networks of criminals, hacktivists and terrorists constantly challenge the safe use of the Internet. To effectively address the threat they pose, we need strong international cooperation, we need strong NEEDS - Networks Enhancing the Economy, Development and Security.”

Director of the EUISS, Antonio Missiroli, added that “Networked problems require networked solutions. Reducing the vulnerabilities of our virtual webs calls for real-world solutions developed by physical networks of lawmakers, technology experts, trainers or engineers.”

The conference will explore concrete ways in which cyber capacity building can further stimulate global economic and social development while at the same time reducing vulnerabilities in cyberspace. Participants will share their respective needs in three main areas: cybercrime and justice, protection of critical infrastructure, and resilient e-development.

Press Contact:

Maria Sanchez Aponte, Press and Media Officer: maria.sanchez-aponte@ec.europa.eu