To equip Europe with the right tools to deal with cyber-attacks, the Commission proposed on 13 September 2017 a wide-ranging set of measures to build strong cybersecurity in the EU.

Cyber incidents and attacks are on the rise:

- +4,000 ransomware attacks per day in 2016.
- In some Member States 50% of all crimes committed are cybercrimes.
- Security incidents across all industries rose by 38% in 2015 – the biggest increase in the past 12 years.
- 80% of European companies experienced at least one cybersecurity incident last year.
- +150 countries and +230,000 systems across sectors and countries were affected with a substantial impact on essential services connected to the internet, including hospitals and ambulance services.

Awareness and knowledge

Despite the growing threat, awareness and knowledge of cybersecurity issues is still insufficient.

- 69% of companies have no or basic understanding of their exposure to cyber risks.
- 60% of companies have never estimated the potential financial losses from a major cyber-attack.
- 51% of European citizens feel not at all or not well informed about cyber threats.
EU RESILIENCE TO CYBER-ATTACKS

The Commission and the High Representative are therefore proposing to reinforce the EU’s resilience, deterrence and response to cyber-attacks through:

- **A European Union Cybersecurity Agency** to assist Member States in dealing with cyber-attacks.
- **An EU-wide certification framework** to ensure that products and services are cyber secure.
- **A Blueprint for how to respond quickly, operationally and in unison when a large scale cyber-attack strikes.**
- **A network of competence centres in the Member States and a European Cybersecurity Research and Competence Centre** to help develop and roll out the tools and technology needed to keep up with an ever-changing threat.
- **A new Directive to combat fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment.**
- **Measures to strengthen international cooperation on cybersecurity, including deepening of the cooperation between the EU and NATO.**

**EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES RELY ON DIGITAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES:**

- Europeans believe that digital technologies have a positive impact on:
  - 75% our economy
  - 64% our society
  - 67% our quality of life

- **86% of Europeans believe that the risk of becoming a victim of cybercrime is increasing.**
- Sectors like **transport, energy, health** and **finance** have become increasingly dependent on network and information systems to run their core businesses.
- The **Internet of Things** is already a reality. There will be **6 billion** devices connected in the EU by 2020.

**STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO TACKLE ILLEGAL CONTENT ONLINE**

With the surge of illegal content online, including online terrorist propaganda, xenophobic and racist speech inciting violence, and terrorism, the social responsibility of online platforms is growing. The Commission has put forward **guidance on how online platforms should step up prevention, detection and removal of illegal content.**