

Minutes

1st Meeting of the Expert Group on Cybersecurity of Products with Digital Elements¹
12 February 2025, Brussels (hybrid)

1. Nature of the meeting

The 1st meeting of the Expert Group on Cybersecurity of Products with Digital Elements (the ‘CRA Expert Group’) took place in Brussels, with the possibility to join remotely. Participation was restricted to the members of the Expert Group.

2. Welcome and introductions

The Commission welcomed the experts to the first meeting of the CRA Expert Group and delivered introductory remarks to contextualise the work of the Expert Group and present the main areas of focus for the implementation of the CRA.

Priority will be given to the implementing and delegated acts that have a statutory deadline in the CRA (technical descriptions of important and critical products; terms and conditions to apply the cybersecurity-related grounds for delaying the dissemination of notifications), as well as supporting ENISA in the establishment of the Single Reporting Platform.

The Commission will also work on guidance for the implementation of the CRA, likely with a staggered approach, and the Expert Group will assist the Commission with the various items that may require clarification. The Commission also already adopted a standardisation request issued to the European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) for the development of harmonised standards.

Other areas of focus for the Commission’s work include supporting Member States in setting up notifying authorities and defining accreditation requirements for conformity assessment bodies, as well as in ensuring the timely appointment of market surveillance authorities by the Member States and the activation of the Administrative Cooperation Group (ADCO). The Commission is also working on the interaction between the European Common Criteria-based cybersecurity certification scheme (EUCC) and the CRA and the potential for presumption of conformity, and a study by ENISA on this topic will be published shortly.

Further clarifying the interaction with Directive 2014/53/EU (the Radio Equipment Directive, RED) and notably the sequence of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/30 and the CRA is also a priority, as set out already in the CRA recitals. A delegated act to exclude motor-vehicles (L-category vehicles) covered by Regulation (EU) 168/2013 from the application of the CRA is also under preparation, to be accompanied by a parallel delegated act making the application of UN R 155 on ‘Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with

¹ Published in the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, code number E03967.

regards to cybersecurity and cybersecurity management system and providing for specific conformity assessment procedures' mandatory for such vehicles.

A tour de table was then held for each expert to introduce themselves and/or their organisation/authority. The full list of participants can be found under point 7.

3. Approval of agenda and of the rules of procedure of the Expert Group

The draft agenda was adopted, with some changes to the order of points discussed.

The Commission presented the standard Rules of Procedure that govern the operation of the Expert Group. Business Europe and Digital Europe requested that documents are circulated to experts as soon as possible to provide them with the necessary time to discuss internally and that minutes are provided in a timely manner after each meeting. The Commission also clarified the documents can generally be circulated within members of the same organisation or public authority, but not externally, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Where necessary, the Commission will further specify if restricted handling of documents is required, possibly via TLP marking.

The Commission reminded Type A experts to promptly inform DG CONNECT of any relevant change to their declarations of interest, including as regards upcoming activities, in which case they must immediately submit a newly completed declaration of interests describing the change.

The rules of procedure were adopted without objections and are now published on the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities.

4. List of points discussed

Working methods and practical arrangements

The Commission presented an overview of the working methods for the Expert Group. It intends to organise an average of three plenary meetings a year; between meetings, informal thematic work strands will be set up, open to interested experts. The Commission will chair the work strands, which will aim to provide dedicated input on specific topics the outcome of which will then be discussed in the Expert Group plenary meetings.

Experts' remarks were generally supportive of the proposed working methods. As suggested by some of the members of the Expert Group, the Commission will put in place a tracker (e.g. an Excel sheet) to monitor the progress of each work strand.

The Commission clarified that the organisations can bring in additional representatives, where needed. The Commission may also invite external experts or observers, where appropriate, and inform the Expert Group in advance.

Spain requested that a work strand be established on notifying authorities and accreditation requirements. Further remarks were also raised concerning other topics for the different work

strands; these are summarised in the section on “guidance on the implementation of the CRA”.

Preparations for the implementing act on the technical description of the categories of important and critical products

The Commission presented the state-of-play concerning the implementing act on the technical descriptions, to be adopted by 11 December 2025. At the time of the meeting, the draft implementing act was undergoing an “interservice consultation (ISC)” within the Commission, before being subject to a public Have Your Say consultation. Once the draft is made public, the Commission will set up individual work strands to provide input and assistance on a number of selected descriptions, to complement the analysis of the responses to the Have Your Say consultation.

In response to questions, the Commission confirmed that, at the time of the meeting, it was not working on delegated acts to expand the list of important and critical products or to make certification schemes mandatory for critical products.

Guidance on the implementation of the CRA

The Commission presented a high-level overview of items that it intends to address in guidance. This includes the items that are indicated in the legislation (scope, including remote data processing solutions (RDPS) and free and open-source software; support period; interplay with other legislation; substantial modification) as well as other relevant topics such as the reporting obligations, due diligence and, possibly, risk assessment. The Commission explained that the guidance on support period would also be drafted in coordination with the market surveillance authorities and the ADCO.

The Commission invited experts to flag other areas where guidance may be necessary, as well as to indicate which topics should be prioritised in the early stages of implementation.

Recurring topics raised by the experts included the scope of the regulation, particularly with regards to open source (applicability of the CRA to open-source projects, notion of natural vs legal person, of steward vs manufacturer) and of software as a product and its placement on the market; the interplay with existing Union legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 (Machinery regulation), Directive 2014/53/EU (the Radio Equipment Directive), Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (the AI Act), Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 (digital operational resilience for the financial sector (DORA)); the issue of composition, due diligence and of shared responsibility of manufacturers across the supply chain, including the notion of tailor-made products; conformity assessment procedures, including module H and self-assessment; reporting obligations, including the need for simplification; SBOMs; spare parts. UNIFE also noted that specific guidance will be required for products with digital elements delivered through long-term contracts with delivery starting before December 2027 and finishing after December 2027, as this is connected to issues related to product authorisation/homologation, interoperability, homogeneity of the overall delivery for a specific customer.

Guidance on the implementation of the CRA: Risk-assessment

On the topic of the risk-assessment, the Commission tabled some ideas for discussion and collected advice from the experts on the most appropriate way forward. In particular, the Commission clarified that while important and critical products listed in Annexes III and IV are subject to more stringent conformity assessment procedures, this does not affect the risk assessment obligation of manufacturers, which should be carried out on the basis of the intended purpose and reasonably foreseeable use of the product, as set out by the CRA.

The Commission asked for the experts' opinion on the role of standardisation in defining such principles, the potential need for guidance on a risk classification and/or a risk-assessment methodology as well as on the need to clarify the regulatory expectations.

Some experts advocated for minimal guidance and warned against excessive codification; others noted that guidance will nonetheless be necessary, either via the standardisation process or via Commission guidance, as most manufacturers may not know how to conduct risk-assessments and this could be particularly beneficial for SMEs. Still others flagged that the ISO 27000 and IEC 62443 series could serve as the basis for this work.

Experts agreed that this issue should be prioritised. The Commission will activate a work strand on this topic to advance discussions.

Update on standardisation work

The Commission presented the standardisation request that was adopted by the College on 3 February 2025 and was submitted to the European Standardisation Organisations. The Commission also presented current funding opportunities and encouraged experts to get involved in the standardisation work.

The Expert Group will not work directly on standardisation, but regular updates will be provided and discussion and feedback from the experts on how this process advances will also be welcome.

5. Conclusions and next steps

The Commission will propose to the Expert Group a series of work strands to be set up, and will request experts to express their interest in joining.

The Commission will prioritise areas where concrete output needs to be generated as a priority. Such areas include:

- Technical descriptions
- Open source
- Remote data processing solutions
- Risk assessment
- Market surveillance and notification of conformity assessment bodies.

Additional work strands, including on substantial modifications, due diligence and reporting obligations will be set up in the near future (or existing work strands will be re-used for these topics).

On interplay with other legislation, a work strand will not be set up, but further consultation of the Expert Group will take place.

The Commission also clarified that it will take stock of all other suggestions for clarification that the experts would raise, even if not all would give rise to a work strand in itself.

6. Next meeting

The Commission will provide a tentative planning of future meetings of the Expert Group; it can be expected that plenary meetings will take place indicatively in February, May/June and October/November every year.

In 2025, meetings will be expected to take place on Wednesday 4 June and Wednesday 22 October 2025.

7. List of participants

Type A

- Lukasz Kister
- Roger Riera

Type C

- APPLiA (Home Appliance Europe) (APPLiA)
- BSH Hausgeräte GmbH (BSH)
- BUSINESSEUROPE
- Cisco Systems Inc. (Cisco)
- DEKRA e.V. (DEKRA)
- DIGITALEUROPE
- Eclipse Foundation AISBL (Eclipse Foundation)
- Ericsson
- European DIGITAL SME Alliance (DIGITAL SME)
- European Electronic Component Manufacturers' Association (EECA), and particularly the European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)
- Eurosmart
- Idemia Identity & Security France (Idemia I&S)
- Koninklijke Philips (Philips)
- Legrand
- Microsoft Corporation
- Nokia
- Open Source Security Foundation (OpenSSF)
- Orgalim – Europe's Technology Industries (Orgalim)
- Red Alert Labs (RAL)
- Siemens AG (SAG)

- Sovereign Tech Agency GmbH (STA)
- Stackable
- The Apache Software Foundation (ASF)
- The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation (ANEC)
- UNIFE (UNIFE)

Type D

The public authorities of the following Member States:

- Austria (AT)
- Belgium (BE)
- Croatia (HR)
- Cyprus (CY)
- Czechia (CZ)
- Denmark (DK)
- Estonia (EE)
- Finland (FI)
- France (FR)
- Germany (DE)
- Greece (EL)
- Ireland (IE)
- Italy (IT)
- Latvia (LV)
- Lithuania (LT)
- Netherlands (NL)
- Poland (PL)
- Portugal (PT)
- Romania (RO)
- Slovakia (SK)
- Slovenia (SI)
- Spain (ES)
- Sweden (SE)

Type E

- European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)
- Norwegian Communications Authority (Nkom)

Annex I – Final agenda

| | AGENDA ITEM | TIME | NOTES |
|-----------|--|---------------|--|
| | <i>Welcome coffee and communications check</i> | 09:30 - 10:00 | |
| 1. | Welcome and introductions | | |
| 1.1 | Introductory remarks by Raluca Stefanuc, Deputy Head of Unit, Cybersecurity and Digital Privacy Policy, DG CONNECT | 10.00 - 10.20 | |
| 1.2 | Tour de table – presentations | 10.20 - 10.50 | |
| 2. | Administrative issues | | |
| 2.1 | Adoption of the draft agenda and of the rules of procedure of the Expert Group | 10.50 - 11.00 | <i>The rules of procedure have been circulated to members ahead of the meeting</i> |
| | <i>Coffee break</i> | 11:00 - 11:10 | |
| 2.2 | Working methods and practical arrangements | 11:10 - 12:30 | |
| | <i>Lunch break</i> | 12:30 - 13:30 | |
| 3. | Preparations for the implementing act on the technical description of the categories of important and critical products | | |
| 3.1 | Presentation by the Commission & follow-up discussion | 13:30 - 14:15 | |
| 4. | Guidance on the implementation of the CRA | | |
| 4.1 | Presentation by Commission on items that require guidance & follow-up discussion | 14:15 - 15:00 | |
| | <i>Coffee break</i> | 15:00 - 15:10 | |
| 4.2 | Risk-assessment: presentation by Commission & follow-up discussion | 15:10 - 16:00 | |
| 5. | Update on standardisation work | | |
| 5.1 | Presentation by Commission | 16:00 - 16:30 | |
| 6. | Conclusions | | |
| 6.1 | Next steps | 16:30 - 16:45 | |
| 6.2 | AOB | 16:45 - 17:00 | |