

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

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EU Statement on Cyber security

The European Union thanks Dr. Deborah Schneider, Special Adviser of the US Department of State on Cyber Affairs, for her thorough and thought provoking presentation. We welcome and appreciate the initiative taken by the Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation and the Chairman in Office to organize this Joint FSC-PC meeting dedicated to Cyber Security.

Cyberspace has become essential for the economic, social and political health of all states. It underpins many of our daily activities, both professionally and in our personal lives, and also fundamentally supports much of states national infrastructure. This growing dependency exposes us to new vulnerabilities.

The European Union has actively been tackling this issue over the recent years. Already in 2004 the EU established ENISA - the European Network and Information Security Agency. The Agency contributes in an essential manner to achieve a high and effective level of Network and Information Security within the European

Union. Furthermore, in 2006, the EU adopted a Strategy for a Secure Information Society. The 2008 Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy includes cybersecurity as one of the global challenges and key threats, alongside Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Terrorism and Organised Crime, Energy Security and Climate Change.

In March 2010, the European Council adopted the European Union's Internal Security Strategy. It describes cyber-crime as a global, technical, cross-border, anonymous threat to our information systems which poses many additional challenges for the law-enforcement agencies in the EU. Later this year, the EU Commission will adopt a Communication on the Internal Security Strategy which will include action oriented proposals. Further concrete steps are foreseen within the context of the EU Stockholm Programme 2010-2014.

Threats to Cyber security are both transnational and cross dimensional. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated response that unites internal, foreign and defence policy. The OSCE's unique cross-dimensional approach to security can provide an excellent foundation to meet this challenge. Such approach also requires close co-ordination and complementary work of the FSC and the PC and its Security Committee.

The Athens Ministerial Council Decision 2/09 has provided an important impetus for work on transnational threats including cyber security. We also recall the March 2009 Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security. In this context, the United States' recent initiative that attempts to

outline future “OSCE Contributions to International Cyber security Efforts” is timely.

We have also taken note with interest of the fact that the First overview by the Secretary General on progress made in the implementation of the Athens MC.DEC.02/09 includes this topic as requiring further cooperation among the various members of the OSCE family. We are looking forward to his proposals to further strengthen programmatic coordination between OSCE executive structures.

The issue of a comprehensive and multidimensional approach is particularly relevant in the context of the Corfu Process. In the Corfu meeting on Transnational Threats, the EU proposed to examine the need for, among other documents, an OSCE Strategy for Cyber Security. In this area we must build on existing OSCE capacities and expertise on antiterrorism, organised crime, drug and human trafficking and police-related activities, in close collaboration and coordination with the UN, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations that pursue relevant activities in this field.

The EU stands ready to collaborate closely in this area with the Chairs of the OSCE and of the FSC, as well as with all interested Delegations.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade

Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.