

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT ON CYBER SECURITY
32ND JOINT MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
4 JUNE 2008**

We welcome the initiative taken by the Estonian FSC Chair and the Finnish PC Chair to discuss the issue of cyber security in a joint FSC-PC today. We thank the Minister of Defence of Estonia for coming today, and for his most interesting presentation.

Canada takes cyber security and internet-related threats to national security very seriously. Currently, Canada is developing a National Cyber Security Strategy to coordinate cyber security activities within the government, to engage the private sector in promoting their cyber security work and to promote online safety for citizens.

This work was initiated as part of Canada's National Security Policy and has received new impetus and attention due to increasing cyber incidents, and the recognition that cyber security is a fundamental part of Canada's critical infrastructure strategy.

The cyber threat is extremely diverse and includes foreign national security-related espionage, economic espionage against industry and critical infrastructure, computer assisted crimes such as identity and information theft, attacks against physical and virtual infrastructure, and the use of internet technology by terrorists.

Noting that the cyber threat is multi-faceted and must be combated with an integrated and inclusive approach, Canada is acting to address electronic threats to government, our critical infrastructure and the use of the internet by terrorists and criminals. In addition to our domestic efforts, we are coordinating with our international partners wherever possible, as securing cyberspace is a shared responsibility among nations.

An example of this international cooperation would be Canada's participation in Cyber Storm II, an international cyber security exercise held in March, involving participants from around the world, including two other OSCE participating States: the UK and US.

Canada is also an active participant on cyber security issues in a number of other international organizations, such as the G8 High-Tech Sub-Group of the Roma/Lyon Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group, and the Committee of Experts on Crime in Cyberspace of the Council of Europe. Regarding the Council of Europe's work, we look forward to

Mr. Seger's presentation today. Canada is pleased to be a signatory to the Council's Convention on Cybercrime. Most recently, we have worked at the regional level, for example, inside NATO, the Organization of American States, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Counter Terrorism Task Force of APEC, with our international partners to address this threat. Further to the Minister of Defence's comments this morning, Canada warmly welcomes the recent establishment of a NATO Centre of Excellence on Cyber Defence in Tallinn, Estonia.

The exercise held in March with two other OSCE participating states is an important tool for strengthening our ability to deal with incidents threatening our cyber security. Moreover, Canada's participation in this exercise is an example of our ongoing commitment to working with our international partners to protect critical infrastructure, while strengthening Canada's ability to deal with actual emergencies. We look forward to hearing the experiences of other organisations and participating states this morning.