

ADVANCING THE EU'S CYBER POSTURE

EU diplomacy and deterrence in the context of increasing confrontation in cyberspace

Co-organised by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Union Institute for Security Studies, and the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct

3 February, 2023, 13:00-16:30, Scotland House, Rdpt Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Bruxelles

In the context of rapid digitalisation and increasing malicious behaviour in cyberspace emanating from both state and non-state actors, developing a clear and effective cyber posture is essential for upholding the EU's cyberspace vision as well as its support for conflict prevention and the rules-based international order.

In the last several years, the EU has aimed to strengthen its ability to prevent, deter and respond to cyberattacks, using a combination of tools and partnerships. As part of promoting the EU's vision for cyberspace, the May 2022 [Council Conclusions on Cyber Posture](#) stressed the importance of making cyber issues an integral part of the Union's accession negotiations and of the EU's strategic and political dialogues with international partners. The Council Conclusions also called for strengthening the [EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox](#), which is expected to be revised by Q2 2023. While much progress has been made, concrete implementation of the Toolbox has also been criticised for insufficient impact and unclear messaging, while the total efficacy of deterrence as a method of conflict management remains disputed.

At the same time, many countries are moving towards pre-emptive or at times offensive capabilities in cyberspace, as adversarial dispositions and malicious behaviour have grown more prominent. As a uniquely positioned international security actor, the EU should ideally work to strengthen and clarify its cyber posture to better respond to threats and engage with these changing dynamics, especially given the differing capabilities and positions of its member states. The questions that will be addressed in this session include:

1. What are key trends in the cyber postures of major international actors globally, and what are the implications for the EU?
2. In light of increasing confrontational behaviour in cyberspace, how can the EU adapt and strengthen its cyber posture so that it better aligns with the EU's desired role as a positive and pacifying force in cyberspace?
3. With the twin objectives of conflict prevention and deterrence, how can the EU make a better use of the revised Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox?

AGENDA

13:00-14:00

LIGHT LUNCH

14:00-14:25

OPENING REMARKS

Mikael LINDVALL

PSC Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union

Manon LeBLANC

Head of the Cyber Policy Sector, the European External Action Service (EEAS)

14:25 - 16:25

PANEL: ADVANCING THE EU'S CYBER POSTURE - EU DIPLOMACY AND DETERRENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF INCREASING CONFRONTATION IN CYBERSPACE

Chair

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Speakers

Raluca CSERNATONI

Research Fellow, Carnegie Europe & Professor, Brussels School of Governance

Carl-Fredrik WETTERMARK

Cyber Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Heli TIIRMAA-KLAAR

Director Of Digital Society Institute, ESMT Berlin

Regine GRIENBERGER

Cyber Ambassador, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Laura CARPINI

Cybersecurity Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

16:25-16:30

CLOSING REMARKS

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies