Cyberspace and EU action to 2030

A webinar co-organised by the French Permanent Representation to the European Union with the support of the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

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CONCEPT

Cyberspace is today at the core of prosperity and sovereignty. **Our societies are growingly dependent on digital networks and services increasingly exposed to malicious cyber activities** led by both States and non-States actors. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed deep cyber vulnerabilities and spurred a sharp rise of cyber criminality, notably through ransomware attacks, increasing pressure on individuals, companies, and sometimes critical infrastructures as essential as those of the health sector. The rise of malicious behaviour in cyberspace increasingly undermines and threatens the integrity, security, economic growth of our respective societies, and can lead to destabilising and cascading effects with enhanced risks of conflict.

In addition, the growing trend towards fragmentation of the cyberspace and its exploitation for political and ideological purposes directly challenges **the EU's economic, security and democratic interest**. It goes contrary to the EU's position of advancing a global, free, stable, secure and open cyberspace.

The EU's **recent push toward digital and technological sovereignty** is vital for EU security and economic prosperity. The EU has already come some way in developing tools that reinforce cyber cooperation between the Member States across the four main Cyber communities: digital security, cybercrime, cyber diplomacy and cyber defense.

The Strategic Compass and the first-ever threat analysis done at the EU level has provided, regarding cyber, a clearer view over the wide range of pressing challenges and risks the Union faces. It is also a unique opportunity to **strengthen, in the cyber realm, the EU's abilities and tools related to solidarity, resilience, technological edge and freedom of action**.

By offering a transversal approach, this workshop aims to foster **a comprehensive reflection on the required level of ambition for 2030, discuss the EU's current assets and vulnerabilities and put forward concrete policy orientations** for an enhanced and more ambitious EU action towards security and stability in cyberspace.

PROGRAMME

09:15-09:30

Introduction

Claire RAULIN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the EU Political and Security Committee, France

09:30-10:45

Session I – An assessment of the current state of play, challenges and threats

Speakers

Olivier KEMPF
Associate Fellow, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique

Raquel Jorge RICART
Sociologist and Fulbright Fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs

Tadej RUPEL
Ambassador, National Coordinator for External Aspects of Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, Slovenia.

Carl Fredrik WETTERMARK
Senior Advisor, Cyber and New Technologies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT
Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:45-11:00

Break

11:00-12:30

Session II – Setting an adequate level of ambition for the EU in 2030

Speakers

Frédérick DOUZET
Professor, Geopolitics, Université Paris 8

Bart GROOTHUIS
Rapporteur for the NIS2 Directive, Member of the European Parliament

Guillaume POUPARD
Director General, Agence nationale de la sécurité des systems d'information, France

Jaroslav ŠMID
Deputy Director, National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB), Czechia

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT
Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

12:30-12:40

Closing remarks

Claire RAULIN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the EU Political and Security Committee, France