

International cooperation on cyber-security

Report



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Programme

The debate built on the conclusions of the SDA's recently released report "Cyber-security: The vexed question of global rules" and examined the international cooperation mechanisms both in place and urgently needed. What obstacles still stand in the way of improving cooperation and what role should be played by international and regional organisations? What are the legal difficulties that stand in the way of greater cyber-security, and how do governments plan to reconcile the rights of citizens with their own concerns over national security?

Speakers:

Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva, Head of Unit, Internet, Network and Information Security, European Commission

Troels Oerting, Assistant Director of Operations, EUROPOL

Chris M. Painter, Coordinator for Cyber Issues, US State Department

Jeffrey C. Snyder, Vice President, Cyber Programs, Raytheon

Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Cyber Security Policy Advisor, European External Action Service (EEAS)



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Speakers & moderator



Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva
Head of Unit, Internet, Network and Information Security
European Commission

Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva is Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Information Society and Media, responsible for network and information security policy as well as internet governance issues.

Angelova-Krasteva has a great deal of experience in issues of justice, freedom and security, having worked in Directorate-General for Home Affairs as well as the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior.

Before joining the European Commission, Angelova-Krasteva was the Justice and Home Affairs Counsellor at the Bulgarian Permanent Representation to the EU.

She holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Sofia, and post-graduate qualifications from the Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung in Berlin and the Sussex European Institute in the United Kingdom.



Giles Merritt
Director
Security & Defence Agenda

Giles Merritt is among Brussels' most influential commentators on EU issues. He was a pioneer of the public policy debate on Europe's future, both as a journalist and think-tanker.

Merritt is also the head of the SDA's sister think-tank Friends of Europe, whose debates and reports cover the whole spectrum of non-defence topics of interest to EU-level policymakers, researchers and stakeholders. In addition, he is the editor of the policy journal Europe's World launched in 2005 as an EU-wide platform for debate.

Merritt's work with think-tanks began in the mid-1980s, when he devised and chaired a series of Business Policy Seminars on behalf of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). He went on to act as Moderator at the French-language debates organised by the Club de Bruxelles, and at many of the conferences held by Aspen Institute Italia. In 1992, he accepted an invitation to be the director of the new Philip Morris Institute for Public Policy Research (PMI), and was responsible for the highly successful series of quarterly Discussion Papers that PMI produced until its closure in 1999.

Merritt's background as a journalist and commentator has been crucial to the success of the organisations he leads. From 1968 to 1983, Giles Merritt was a staff correspondent of the Financial Times and reported successively from London, Paris, Belfast/Dublin and Brussels. From 1984 to the present day, he has contributed columns on EU matters to the Op-Ed pages of the International Herald Tribune, and his articles range widely over political and economic issues.

Speakers & moderator



Troels Oerting
Assistant Director for Operations
EUROPOL

Troels Oerting is Assistant Director for Operations at Europol and designated chief of the future European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3). He is responsible for deliverables made by ten dedicated units covering support to the 27 EU member states.

Furthermore, he holds responsibility for strategic development and international cooperation with international law enforcement agencies such as Interpol or FRONTEX as well as for budget and the multiannual work programme.

Oerting previously worked as Assistant Director of Europol's Information Management and Technology (ITM) Department, as Director of Operations in the Danish Security Intelligence Service and Director and Head of the Danish Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA). Prior to this, he was Director and Head of the Danish National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) and Detective Chief Superintendent responsible for combating national and international cases of organized crime, financial crime, fraud, tax evasion, money laundry, corruption and internal affairs.

Oerting has also held the role of head and member of Europol's delegation to Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI), Interpol, the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC), the Baltic Sea Task Force, the Committee Article Thirty-Six (CATS), the Committee on Internal Security (COSI) and the Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG).



Chris M. Painter
Coordinator for Cyber Issues
Office of the Secretary of State, US Department of State

Chris M. Painter has been on the vanguard of cyber issues for twenty years. Most recently, he served in the White House as Senior Director for Cybersecurity Policy in the National Security Staff.

During his two years at the White House, Painter was a senior member of the team that conducted the President's Cyberspace Policy Review and subsequently served as Acting Cybersecurity Coordinator. He coordinated the development of a forthcoming international strategy for cyberspace and chaired high-level interagency groups devoted to international and other cyber issues.

Painter began his federal career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles where he led some of the most high profile and significant cybercrime prosecutions in the country, including the prosecution of notorious computer hacker Kevin Mitnick. He subsequently helped lead the case and policy efforts of the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in the U.S. Department of Justice and served, for a short time, as Deputy Assistant Director of the F.B.I.'s Cyber Division.

For over ten years, Painter has been a leader in international cyber issues. He has represented the United States in numerous international fora, including chairing the cutting edge G8 High Tech Crime Subgroup since 2002. He has worked with dozens of foreign governments in bi-lateral meetings and has been a frequent spokesperson and presenter on cyber issues around the globe.

Speakers & moderator



Jeffrey Snyder
Vice President of Cyber Programs
Raytheon Company

Jeff Snyder is the Vice President of Cyber Programs, Raytheon Company. Over the past 20 years, Snyder has held increasingly responsible positions involving Strategic planning, business development, and operations with a variety of high technology firms.

Prior to joining Raytheon, he was Vice President, Cyber Programs for CUBIC Corporation, where he formed Cubic Cyber Solutions, Inc. and lead an initial Cyber acquisition to launch the new subsidiary, and as Vice President, Business Development at SAIC Corporation, overseeing marketing, business development, and execution for the firm's large and diverse Information Assurance and Cyber Security Business area. Snyder is also a Senior Vice President of Cyber Programs for the Centre for Strategic Cyberspace + Security Science (CSCSS), where he is responsible for directing the Centre's cyber-centric programs and initiatives.

Snyder received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently completed the Navy's graduate-level Nuclear Engineering program and served with the US Navy as a nuclear submarine officer. Snyder earned his Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Central Florida with a focus on Strategic Planning and Growth Strategies for Technology Firms. He is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences and industry events focused on Cyber and Critical Infrastructure Protection.



Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar
Cyber Security Policy Advisor
European External Action Service (EEAS)

Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar advises the European External Action Service in Cyber Security Policy. Prior to this position, she was seconded as a Cyber Security Policy Advisor to NATO where she helped to develop the new NATO Cyber Defence Policy and its Action Plan.

She has been working on cyber security issues since 2007 when she led an interdepartmental working group to develop the national Cyber Security Strategy after the cyber attacks. In 2008-2010 she coordinated the implementation of Estonia's Cyber Security Strategy and managed the Estonian National Cyber Security Council. She oversaw the development of Estonia's Critical Information Infrastructure Protection system and facilitated public-private partnerships at national level. She also worked closely with European Union institutions for the launch of the EU Critical Information Infrastructure Protection policy, as well as with other international organisations.

Tiirmaa-Klaar has served at various managerial positions at the Estonian Ministry of Defence between 1995 and 2005, including the Head of Security Policy Analysis Section, Head of NATO Section and the Head of International Organisations Section.

In 2005-2007, she established the Department of International Studies at Tallinn University where she introduced the International Relations and Security Studies programmes at graduate level. She holds a PhD degree in International Relations.

International cooperation on cyber-security

The latest event in the Security & Defence Agenda's Cyber Initiative quickly made one thing clear — cyber-security has hit the mainstream.

No longer a subject on the periphery of the average policymaker's understanding, SDA Director Giles Merritt remarked that the past year has seen an explosion of "real and concrete political, diplomatic and industrial policy making, international discussion and action."

As the recommendations of the recently published executive summary to the 2012 Security Jam have made clear, actionable strategies in the area of cyber-security are no longer purely theoretical. The challenge instead is to make these actions as effective as possible between international actors and across sectors.



As Assistant Director of Operations at Europol, and the appointed head of the newly created European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3), Troels Oerting described how his agency will attempt to network together various actors in this field. "We need to work with the computer emergency response teams (CERTs), ENISA, the Commission, and international partners, too," he said. Oerting explained that such an "inclusive approach" is vital, as defining exactly whose jurisdiction an incident falls under takes time.

Yet in the face of a cyber-attack, time is of the essence.

"You cannot see immediately who should take the lead, so you have to have a mechanism to react immediately; you cannot allow things to drop between chairs." European actors may need to learn some hard lessons to create this rapid reaction reflex. "We would like to generate synergy between existing capabilities — it is not entirely a well-oiled machine when it comes to coordination, we will need to improve", he explained.



"You cannot see immediately who should take the lead, so you have to have a mechanism to react immediately; you cannot allow things to drop between chairs."

Troels Oerting

Adding that the costs of cutting edge cyber-forensics tools for investigating cyber-crime were astronomical, Oerting advocated that Europe should focus on avoiding wasting resources.

"Overlap is understandable, but duplication is idiotic", he said.

Chris Painter, Coordinator for Cyber Issues in the Office of the US Secretary of State, expressed optimism about the plethora of international efforts to coordinate cyber-security. From the Budapest cybercrime convention to the 2011 London “cyber-security treaty” debate, “there is an increased imperative for policy formation. Every national, regional or international organisation is dealing with some part of cyberspace right now”, he said, a move that will help everyone bear an otherwise excessive burden.

This move is also important because it allows actors to approach this issue in the context of wider international value systems. “Cyber-security was put as a security issue, a cost issue. Now it’s in a large framework focusing on long-term goals such as enabling economic growth, the free expression of ideas and other social values.”

When cyber-security becomes both ideologically supported and economically sound, concrete results will follow. When considering hostile actors in cyberspace, “transparency and confidence building is the key”, he added.



“Cyber-security was put as a security issue; a cost issue. Now it’s in a large framework focusing on long-term goals such as enabling economic growth, the free expression of ideas and other social values.”

Chris Painter

“It has been taken up by the OSCE as a long term project — it’s important to develop these confidence building measures, to support a stable cyber environment.”

He also emphasised the power and value of international armed conflict norms such as protection for non-combatants and humanitarian principals in approaching the cyber-domain. “Those norms still apply.”

Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva, Head of Unit for Internet, Network and Information Security at the European Commission’s DG INFSO, emphasised the need to bring the various competencies and capabilities of the EU member states up to speed. “The level of preparedness is variable between member states”, she said. “We have to be more strategic in our planning, and more responsible about how we tackle future threats and challenges.”



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Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva

The EU official affirmed the importance of industry engagement with this policy focus. “There should be concrete measures to stimulate and raise the engagement of industry.” She added that “we are thinking in particular of the need for risk assessment — it is important for industry to make assessments, particularly for cross border effects.”

She went on to outline the legislative proposals the European Commission intends to launch later this year to enhance information sharing across the EU. This includes the expansion of breach notification laws to include a wider survey of European core services.



“We are considering this further, to enhance the obligation to other areas that are of critical importance — including energy, transport, financial sectors and banking.”

Angelova-Krasteva finished by highlighting recent EU-US cyber-security table top exercises, and a planned major exercise in 2014. “We are already achieving very concrete progress — we are also planning to raise further awareness in the private sector, in areas such as fighting botnets and enhancing cooperation on smart grids.”

From the industrial perspective, Jeffrey Snyder, Vice President of Cyber Programs at Raytheon, emphasised the need to coordinate new technology development. “We always look for opportunities to partner, looking to how can we minimise re-invention, avoid duplication of investment and develop some common capabilities to circumvent this real threat across the Atlantic,” he said.

Snyder emphasised that in recent years, traditional cyber-security processes such as intrusion signature recognition — the basis of most commercial anti-virus software — is becoming obsolete, as it cannot catch and prevent “zero day” (ie. never before seen) intrusions.



“Once a signature is detected, it’s too late.”

Jeffrey C. Snyder

“Once a signature is detected, it’s too late,” he warned.

Instead, technology needs “to understand and analyse the signature, to populate the sensors to stop the intrusion ahead of time.” This will require investment in technology, and a focus on intrusion prevention, not immunisation to existing threats.

The industrial expert also proposed that the EU should examine the US inter-state Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISAC) - anonymous networks for cyber-security information sharing that avoid potentially damaging industrial disclosures.

“Could this be analogous to what you need to do in the EU?”

Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Cyber Security Policy Advisor at the European External Action Service, emphasised that all of these sectors have to be factored in to a coherent, multi-level policy. “What

makes our job hard is to find proportionate responses according to the different levels and severity of the threat we are faced with", she said.

The Estonian expert also feared that the private sector was not mobilising fast enough to tackle this challenge. "A sectoral, industry-led approach hasn't really emerged yet, because the private sector is soul searching for what to do," she explained. "Critical service providers need to team up and exchange information and best practices."

Part of the reason for this inertia is that "the array of mixed polices and papers make it hard to understand what is going on." In this instance, Europe's high level of concrete activity may be leading to confusion.

To make it easier, Tiirmaa-Klaar stressed three levels of activity — inter-governmental policy making and information sharing; sectoral approaches such as critical infrastructure protection; and the operational cooperation required between CERTs and other professional groups. "We need to concentrate on the most important areas— there is too much going on otherwise."

However, the expert also expressed doubt that the ability for stakeholders to come up with any global "cyber arms treaty". She focused instead on international capacity building. "Sooner or later we'll have to deal with this - how to raise the global minimum level of capability." For Tiirmaa-Klaar, the key could lie in exporting current inter-EU CERT or information sharing frameworks abroad.



"Once we succeed within the EU model, we should think of a global one."

Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar

"Once we succeed within the EU model, we should think of a global one", she stated.

A vigorous debate followed, with contributions from NATO's Jamie Shea, DefenceNews reporter Julian Hale and Security Europe Editor in Chief Brooks Tigner spurring further questions. Ideas in the area of cyber-crime — such as the need for a "clearing house" to avoid duplicating pan-European investigations, were put forward. Further scepticism about the possibility of a global "cyber arms" treaty was also expressed.

In summarising the debate, Giles Merritt made an observation analogous to the "Red Queen" theory of nuclear weapon escalation — an idea based on the character from the surreal world of *Alice in Wonderland*, who runs a race forever without making any progress. "With the sheer speed and range of developments in cyber threats, it seems to me that everyone is moving quite fast now, and still running on the spot."

So as fast as Europe is now moving in policy circles, the pace of online change is faster still.



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Upcoming cyber-initiative events

Cyber protection of critical infrastructure



Most cyber-attacks have so far had criminal and financial motives, but for governments the nightmare scenario remains an attack on critical infrastructure. Is a radical approach like cutting such networks off the “public” internet the best solution and could developments like smart grids aggravate this threat? What innovations could make critical infrastructure systems more resilient? Have insurers been party to international governance discussions, and what can software corporations do to help? Is the idea of an EU-wide rapid reaction force for cyber-attacks either feasible or desirable?



Past cyber-initiative events

9 November 2011 - Defining cyber-security

Evening debate - Keynote speaker: EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström



November 9th marked the launch of the SDA's cyber-security initiative. A high-ranking panel assembled discussants to tackle the core question of “Defining cyber-security”. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström warned that denial about the scale of threats in cyberspace is naïve. “This is a battle we may not win”, she warned, calling “on all governments and industry to put this high on their agenda.” Additional insights were provided by Robert G. Bell, Senior Civilian Representative of the Secretary of Defense in Europe & Defense Advisor of the US Ambassador to NATO and Troels Oerting, Assistant Director for Operations, Europol.

30 January 2012 - Public-private cooperation in cyber-security

Dinner debate - Keynote speakers:

Gabor Iklody, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges

Neelie Kroes, Vice President & Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, European Commission



SDA Director Giles Merritt opened up this policymakers' dinner with some tough questions about cyber-security: “What costs are involved, who will bear them? How do we balance between public and private? How do we try and create an international fabric of responsibility?” Such questions defy easy answers, but all panellists agreed on one basic principal. As Vice President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes stated, “we need to exchange good practices, before we run out of time.”

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