Eastern Partnership Conference
Report on Safety and Security of Cyberspace Topic

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Acknowledgments

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1. Introduction

This report highlights the key points on the safety and security of cyberspace raised during the Eastern Partnership Conference held in Tallinn, Estonia on 4 October 2017.

2. Conference Opening remarks

During the official opening of the conference, Prime Minister Juri Ratas stated that cybersecurity is an enabler for e-government and is no longer just an information technology problem, and that it must be addressed at the global political level. He also stressed that innovation is key, and recommended that governments don't just replicate what others have done, but leverage their experts and visionaries to create new solutions. He concluded by stating that this will lead to open and efficient governments that are closer to their citizens.

Foreign Minister Sven Mikser reiterated that the Eastern Partnership is a high priority for Estonia and the European Union, and that it is important for the security of the continent. He stated that the resilience of the digital infrastructure is of equal importance to that of the physical infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of the Situation Review produced by the E-Governance Academy, and mentioned as an example for all the cooperation between civil society and the IT industry in Ukraine. He concluded by reminding everyone that efforts on digital development and cybersecurity are never complete and that they must continue on a daily basis, these fields presenting both a challenge and an opportunity.

Remarks By Heads of Delegations for the Safety and Security of Cyberspace Session

Mr. Elmir Velizadeh, Deputy Minister of Communications and High Technologies, Azerbaijan, stated that Azerbaijan has excellent opportunities given its high rate of ICT penetration. He highlighted Azerbaijan's legislative and institutional capacities and its engagement with the international community, for example by hosting ITU's regional cyber drill next year.

Mr. Giorgi Cherkezishvili, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia, stated that the legislative reforms in Georgia were very important for stimulating entrepreneurship and industry innovation, as well as addressing cyber-crime. He stressed

that Georgia's rapid rise in the ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index is the result of coordinated work between government departments and private sector, and that international cooperation is essential to securing cyberspace.

Mr. Dmitry Shedko, First Deputy Minister of Communications and Informatization, Belarus stressed that IT being a global factor, security is a global problem.

3. Situation Review 2017 Results in Focus Area #1: Safety and Security in the Cyberspace

Case Study #1: What is Behind Georgia's Rapid Rise in ITU Global Cybersecurity Index?

Mr. Raul Rikk, Programme Director of National Cyber Security, e-Governance Academy, gave a presentation on the 2017 Situation Review on the safety and security of cyberspace, covering its aim, methodology, results and the policy recommendations that are made in the report. Mr. Rikk stressed that more cooperation is needed amongst the countries, particularly on the common capacity gaps, and that all areas must be developed equally.

Ms. Goderdzishvili presented the seven pillars upon which Georgia's work in cybersecurity rests:

- Strategical and political alignment, set in a national cybersecurity strategy, and receiving the highest political support.
- Solid institutional settings, for which having clear roles and responsibilities played a big role.
- A comprehensive and enforceable legal framework, which provides coherence for policies, standards, and methodologies, and in which enforceability is of premium importance.
- Proficiency and cyber professionalism.
- Trust-based Public-Private Partnerships, including the sharing of information between government and critical infrastructure operators.
- International cooperation, through which Georgia provides and receives training and shares information with a number of countries.

- Informed and knowledgeable information society, with targeted training for each segment of society.

Ms. Goderdzishvili attributed Georgia's success in the Global Cybersecurity Index to:

- A comprehensive approach to all major building blocks, which is a matter of orchestration.
- A strategic policy alignment and political willingness.
- A pragmatic and risk-based approach.
- Recognition of the importance of trust, cooperation, and informal channels.
- Integration with European Union information and cybersecurity frameworks.

Panel #1: What should governments do to ensure the reliability of cyberspace?

Panellists:

- Vitalie Tarlev, Deputy Minister of IT Technology and Communication, Republic of Moldova
- Nata Goderdzishvili, Head of Legal Division, Data Exchange Agency, Georgia
- Raul Rikk, Programme Director of National Cyber Security, e-Governance Academy
- Bakhtiyar Mammadov, Chief Consultant of the Legal Department, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, Azerbaijan
- Vlad Semenov, Researcher, Research Institute for Applied Problems of Mathematics and Informatics, Belarus

Moderator:

- Luc Dandurand, Former Head of Cybersecurity and ICT Applications Division, International Telecommunication Union

Key Outcomes:

- The panel recommended to check the results of the Situation Review done by the e-Governance Academy to see what aspects of national cybersecurity can be improved.
- The panel stated that work needs to be done both at the national level and at the international level, and that industry involvement and adequate legislation are important aspects.
- The panel highlighted that Eastern Partnership cooperation opportunities often already exist, such as pooling resources and combining capabilities, and that these should be better exploited.

- The panel also highlighted that compliance with European Union regulations is beneficial for current and future cross-border cooperation.
- The panel expressed its view that "going back to paper" is no longer an option, but rather that governments must keep developing critical information infrastructure and systems, and properly secure them.
- Finally, the panel stressed that security and privacy are not mutually exclusive. Cyber security actually helps protect privacy, and that balancing these properly remains an open problem. The panel agreed that a solution to this problem will always involve oversight of government security activities in order to address citizen concerns over privacy invasion.