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Public Safety Communication Europe Forum

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Forum for Public Safety Communication Europe

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POLICY

New EC Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

On 1 April 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection entitled "*Achievements and next steps: towards global cyber-security*". This Communication is addressed to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. It was also subject to discussions at the Ministerial Conference on CIIP in TELECOM Networks held on 14-15 April 2011, in Balatonfüred (Hungary). More information about this event is available at:

http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/story/index/story_id/16251

The European Commission calls for Member States to protect critical information infrastructures from cyber attacks and disruptions. Cyber security and the protection of critical information infrastructures are very important for people and companies to trust the internet and other networks and are a key priority of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

Recent events have demonstrated that new and technologically more sophisticated cyber attacks can disrupt or destroy vital societal and economic functions. For this reason there is a need to create a well functioning network of governmental/national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in Europe as well as to organise more regular cyber attack simulations and to look into governance issues for the security of emerging technologies.

More information is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/395&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The Commission launches a public consultation in the field of security industry

In order to promote Europe's security industry, on 14 March 2011 the European Commission launched a public consultation with the aim of inviting all stakeholders to share their views on the best policy measures to be taken so that Europe becomes a world leader in this industry. The deadline for contributions is 15 May 2011.

The EU security industry has to tackle problems such as a fragmented internal market and a weak industrial base. National regulatory frameworks and standards are very different and the market for security products is highly diversified. Therefore, the Commission considers of vital importance the following objectives:

- To develop a fast-track system for approval of priority technologies.
- To make substantial further progress on harmonisation and standardisation.
- To consider coordinated public procurement.
- To accelerate research and development on security technologies including dual-use.

More information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/security/industrial-policy/public-consultation/index_en.htm

ENISA publishes study on botnet threats

On 8 March 2011, the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) published a comprehensive study on the botnet threat and how to address it. Botnets are networks of computers used without their owner's knowledge for cybercrime and the automated theft of valuable data. The study includes two reports.

The first report - "*Botnets: 10 Tough Questions*" is a policy-level distillation of ENISA's consultation with top experts from all sides of the fight against botnets. It discusses questions such as how much can we trust published figures about botnets or the role of governments in the fight against them.

The second report - "*Botnets: Measurement, Detection, Disinfection and Defence*" is a comprehensive report on how to assess botnet threats and how to neutralise them. The recommendations cover legal, policy and technical aspects of the fight against botnets and give targeted recommendations for different groups involved. A third report focusing on legal issues in the fight against botnets will follow in the second quarter of this year.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.enisa.europa.eu/media/press-releases/facing-the-cyber-zombies-2013-eu-agency-gets-tough-on-botnets>

Spectrum policy: ITRE amendments to the European Commission's proposal

On 12 April 2011, the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted a compromised amendment concerning the allocation of spectrum for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR). Following a number of lobby activities, the lead ITRE committee agreed on the following compromised wording of article 7.3.:

"The Commission shall ensure that sufficient spectrum is made available under harmonised conditions and in harmonised bands for PPDR (Public Protection&Disaster Relief) and to take actions to support the development of safety services and the free circulation of related devices as well as the development of innovative interoperable solutions for PPDR. To ensure the efficient use of spectrum the Commission shall in this regard examine the possibilities for PPDR to use military frequencies."

The RSPP will be now subject to plenary vote in June 2011 which should set a good basis for future negotiations with the Council in the second reading.

More information is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110411IPR17410/html/Radio-spectrum-more-frequencies-for-mobile-internet-users>

PSCE ACTIVITIES

Active participation of PSCE at two key RSPP events

The EU workshop on "The future of PPDR services in Europe", which took place on 30 March 2011 in Brussels, jointly organised by DG INFSO, DG HOME, DG ENTERPRISE and DG ECHO featured the presentation of one PSCE Board Member and Chair of the User Committee. To this end, Mr Egil BOVIM provided information on the "Future role of rescue teams and their needs in regard to high-speed mobile PPDR communications". Besides the speakers from PPDR national organisations, PSCE was the only association invited to present its expertise.

Public Protection and Disaster Relief is a priority topic for the citizens, national governments and the European Union. The PPDR services, including police forces, fire brigades, ambulance services, maritime and coastguard services, are the primary protectors of life and property in cities, towns and beyond, throughout the Union. Wireless PPDR communications are widely perceived as a high-value use of spectrum and the value of this use cannot be expressed

solely in economic terms, as PPDR systems are used for safety of life and regarded as necessary government services. Effective communication is an essential requirement for PPDR operations.

The objective of the workshop was therefore to better understand the level of national commitments regarding public safety and security tasks which require high-speed mobile communications (broadband). In this context, the presentation of PSCE representative, presenting the users' point of view, was particularly interesting. A high number of PSCE members, who participated to this event, reflected the importance of current debates related to Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP).

All presentations from the invited speakers are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/radio_spectrum/activities/index_en.htm

The summary report can be found on the PSCE website under this location: working documents/PSCE documents since 2010/ 2011/PSCE- 015 – 2011.

Furthermore, another event dedicated to RSPP was consequently organised on the same day by the Kangaroo Working Group of the European Parliament. The topic "A critical mission: the radio spectrum policy programme as an opportunity to foster public safety" was addressed by MEP Gunnar HÖKMARK (rapporteur on RSPP), MEP Paul RUBIG, Pearse O'DONOHUE (Head of Unit "Radio Spectrum Policy", DG INFSO of the European Commission) as well as by PSCE representative Mr Egil BOVIM.



Image of panelists from the Kangaroo workshop

PSCE meets DG HOME

On 31 March 2011, following the PSCE Board meeting, PSCE Board members together with the Secretary General met Mr. Olivier LUYCKX (Head of Unit of Crisis management and fight against terrorism, DG HOME, European Commission) with the purpose to discuss topics of mutual interest and explore the

potential possibilities for future cooperation.

Considering the need to develop a more comprehensive EU approach strategy for the prevention and reaction to disasters, while referring to the recent Internal Security Strategy, PSCE presented its activities and expertise with the view to initiate active collaboration with DG HOME.

In particular, the PSCE highlighted its work in the field of future emergency technologies and referred to the cooperation with DG ENTERPRISE for mainstreaming the user requirements and their needs in communication tools. It was stressed that one of the regular activities of PSCE is to foster the exchange between industry, users and researchers at the occasion of the annual conferences during which the national civil protection authorities are actively present.

Mr. LUYCKX welcomed the opportunity to learn about PSCE activities. He presented the role of his Unit and outlined some of the relevant elements of the Internal Security Strategy. As an outcome of the meeting, a DG HOME representative will act as one of the keynote speakers in the upcoming PSCE Conference to be held on 7-8 June in Brussels in order to present the latest developments in the field of internal security.

PSCE joins the EP3R discussions

On 16 and 17 March 2011, PSCE participated to the first working group meetings of the European Public-Private Partnership for Resilience (EP3R) which aim is to prepare the background for the envisaged revision of Directive 2008/114/EC.

Background

The Council Directive 2008/114/EC on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure (ECI) applies to the energy and transport sectors and should be assessed and reviewed as of January 2012. The need to include other sectors within its scope, in particular the ICT sector, will be analysed. It was already intention to do so when adopting this Directive, but it proved to be difficult to identify critical infrastructures for ICT. It is therefore objective of Working Group 1 (which PSCE is the member of) to identify key assets, resources and functions for the continuous and secure provisioning of electronic communications across countries, in order to prepare background information for the European Council when reviewing the Directive in 2012.

Meetings

The EP3R meetings were convened by the European Commission (EC) and the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). The workshop was attended by around 40 experts from Member States public authorities,

the private sector and academia.

The meeting aimed to discuss the establishment of three Working Groups on the following topics:

- WG1: Key assets, resources and functions for the continuous and secure provisioning of electronic communications across countries
- WG2: Baseline requirements for security and resilience of electronic communications
- WG3: Coordination and cooperation needs and mechanisms to prepare for and respond to large scale disruptions affecting electronic communications

The participants were invited to split in breakout sessions in order to contribute their views and provide comments on the three specific areas. The discussions were structured around thematic sheets jointly developed by the European Commission and ENISA on the basis of inputs received at the EP3R meeting of June 2010. The three thematic sheets provide the general context, objectives, scope, specific tasks, timing and working methods for each area. Results of breakout sessions were presented at the end of the day.

Finally, a synthesis of the written feedbacks received on the non-paper of 23 June 2010 on the establishment of EP3R was presented.

Conclusions and next steps

This meeting has been the first instance where specific areas were discussed in detail, it was also helpful in clarifying the way forward with regard to the practical arrangements at EP3R working level.

Taking into consideration the inputs received at the meeting, the European Commission and ENISA will revise the draft Terms of Reference of the working groups.

The non-paper on the establishment of EP3R will also be revised for the next EP3R meeting scheduled in early 2011 (exact date is to be confirmed).

All document of the meeting are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/nis/strategy/activities/ciip/impl_activities/ep3r_17_11_2010/index_en.htm

PSCE publishes the Position Paper on disaster response

On 25 March 2011, PSCE published the Position Paper on the Communication entitled *“Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance”*, adopted by the European Commission on 26 November 2010.

Some of the elements presented by this Communication lay in the heart of the PSCE activities. Being the cornerstone of the PSCE mission, “the improvement of public safety services and the safety of the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world” is equally one of the main objectives of the EC’s proposal.

In the context of the upcoming related parliamentary discussions, the PSCE Board of Directors endorsed the Position Paper proposing concrete amendments on specific strategic issues having a direct link to the scope of its activities and expertise. In particular, the document addresses the following:

- Regular EU trainings on interoperability
- Filling the gaps in civil protection response capacities through the smart funding
- Effective use of Member States military assets
- Developing an Emergency Response Centre
- Developing a web-based tool enabling real-time communication between interested parties

PSCE encouraged the Members of European Parliament to consider recommendations of all relevant stakeholders and experts in order to achieve a truly stronger European disaster response.

The draft report on this Communication was discussed on 18 April 2011 within the European Parliament’s Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

The full version of the Position Paper is available at:

http://www.psc-europe.eu/fileadmin/files/psc-e-library/01_working_documents/1_PSCEDocuments_since_2010/2011/PSCE-004-2011.pdf

A draft report on “Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance” is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-462.621+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

PSCE Annual Report 2010

PSCE Board has recently approved the PSCE Annual Report 2010.

The document reports on the organisation’s activities throughout the preceding year. It is intended to give its members and other interested parties an overview of information concerning the PSCE mission, structure, membership, partnerships as well as policy issues, conferences, projects and other communication and

dissemination activities undertaken by PSCE during 2010.

The full version of the Report is available at:

http://www.psc-europe.eu/fileadmin/files/psc-e-library/02_Public_documents/Forum_Documents/Annual_Reports/PSCE-003-2011.pdf

PSCE welcomes 2 new institutional members

During past few months, *National Police Computing and Material Service* (Norway) and *Belgian Tetra Users Committee* joined PSCE. PSCE membership currently consists of 52 institutional members which are classified in three groups:

1. Users - Persons who are responsible for the management, specification, design, installation, maintenance, operation and use of public safety communications systems and information management systems, are eligible for this category of Membership.

2. Industrials - Persons who are working in business, industry and organisations, who receive compensation in any form for services rendered or products sold, are eligible for this category of Membership.

3. Researchers - Persons who are involved with a recognised research authority such as an academic establishment or research consultancy and regularly conduct research into the development and use of public safety communications and information management systems, are eligible for this category of Membership.

The category of membership decides which Committee the different member belongs to.

More information concerning the PSCE Membership is available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=45>

ACRIMAS validation workshop

On 10 June 2011, the ACRIMAS (Aftermath Crisis Management System-of-systems Demonstration Validation) Workshop will take place in Brussels.

ACRIMAS is scenario-based and user-centric Research &

Development project which started in February 2011. It is conducted by a consortium comprised of fifteen organizations ranging from NGOs to think tanks and private sector actors to governmental research institutions. The ultimate objective of the project is to enable a gradual evolvement of crisis management (CM) capabilities, procedures, technologies, policies and standards. This will be carried out through real field tests, facilitating European wide collaboration, cooperation and communication in CM and improving cross-fertilization between MS organizations.

The role of PSCE, as one of the partners of the consortium, is to consolidate and validate user requirements, raise awareness on research and future developments, update a research and technological roadmap, bring in user perspectives and participate in awareness raising and dissemination.

More information is available at: <http://www.acrimas.eu/>.

PSCE – related EU funded projects

In the PSCE's efforts to achieve consensus on key public safety communication and information management systems issues, it is important to be aware of and recognize other projects, initiatives, platforms and/or networks within this field. For this reason, PSCE is regularly taking stock of relevant EU funded projects, for which short presentations are available on PSCE website.

Some PSCE members are taking part in the project HELP (Enhanced Communications in Emergencies by Creating and Exploiting Synergies in Composite Radio Systems) which started on 1 February 2011 for a period of 15 months. HELP is a Framework 7 Coordination and Support Action (CSA) from Call FP7-SEC-2010-1 on the topic "Aftermath crisis management - phase I". It will establish the technical foundations and a strategy development roadmap for a solution framework aimed at increasing the wireless communication capabilities of public safety organisations by proposing innovative approaches for the management of network and spectrum resources.

The project has five detailed objectives: (1) to identify operational user requirements, scenarios and overall system requirements; (2) to define a solution framework (system concept) for the provision of public safety communications over diverse wireless infrastructures; (3) to define a framework for the management of the composite emergency network; (4) to conduct a techno-economic analysis; and (5) to establish a consolidated basis and roadmap for the realisation

of the envisioned solution framework.

More information is available at: <http://www.fp7-sec-help.eu/>

The overview of all past and current EU funded projects in the field of public safety communications are available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=97>

Next PSCE conference

The next PSCE Forum Conference will be held on 7 & 8 June 2011 in Brussels, Belgium.

The event will take place at MAI premises, located in the avenue Louise area, the heart of the uptown centre of Brussels at 40, rue Washington, - 1050 Brussels.

This time, PSCE event will focus on:

- Internal Security Strategy and synergies between defence and PPDR
- Critical Infrastructure Information Protection
- Radio spectrum needs and future implementation
- Urban security and use of video surveillance.

The topics will be addressed by high level speakers among which the following:

- Pierce O'DONNOHUE, DG INFSO - Directorate B - Electronic Communications Policy , Radio spectrum policy
- Jaak RAES, Director of the Civil Protection, Belgium
- Gerard LAPIERRE, European Defence Agency
- Ligia FERREIRA, Co-Chair of NATO IRCSG (Industrial Resources and Communications Services Group) in Communications constellation
- Speaker from DG HOME, Crisis management and fight against terrorism

Preliminary agenda is available at:

http://www.psc-europe.eu/fileadmin/files/docs/Events/2011/Brussels/PSCE_012-2011_PSCE_Conference_Draft_Agenda-7-8_June_2011.pdf

The participation should be confirmed by filling out the registration form available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=392#c993>

As for accommodation, participants are advised to book individually and directly their hotel room at one of the following hotels in the meeting area vicinity where prior

bookings have been made for this special event.

- Mercure Brussels Center Louise, a 4 star hotel (EUR 135,- Single / EUR 150,- Double)
- NH Brussels City Centre, a 4 star hotel (EUR 135,- Single / EUR 155,- Double)
- Hotel Capital Brussels, a 3 star hotel (EUR 95,- Single / EUR 105,- Double)

The reservation forms for room bookings are available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=392#c993>

The deadline for room reservation for all the above mentioned hotels is 6 May 2011. After this date, hotels will release the rooms and further bookings will be possible upon availabilities.

Any further enquiries regarding this event could be addressed at secretariat@psc-europe.eu

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