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From:	European Committee of the Regions
To:	Mr. Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen, Secretary General of the Council of the European Union
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Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act") - Letter from the European Committee of the Regions to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union

Delegations will find in ANNEX a letter from the European Committee of the Regions to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union.

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European Committee of the Regions

The Secretary General

Brussels, 22.12.17 02130
SGCAB/TW/KT/AP/lhp (2017) D2664

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen
Secretary General
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act") – COM (2017) 477 final

Dear Mr Secretary General,

The European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) commission for social policy, education, employment, research and culture (SEDEC) decided during its meeting on 28 September 2017 to include the dossier *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act")* into the opinion on "Digital Single Market: Mid-term review", rapporteur Mr Alin-Adrian NICA (RO-EPP). The opinion will be adopted at the CoR Plenary session on 31 January-1 February 2018.

The CoR suggests that the European Commission's new cybersecurity strategy should help improve the prevention, detection and response to cyber incidents and lead to better information sharing and coordination between Member States and the Commission against major cyber incidents. Achieving this will require close cooperation in partnerships involving Member States, the EU institutions, local and regional authorities, the private sector and civil society.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the digital single market objectives can be met only if values, society and the national economy are safeguarded from the harmful effects of cyberattacks and if fundamental values, such as freedom of expression, the right to privacy and the promotion of open, free and transparent use of cyber technologies, are upheld.

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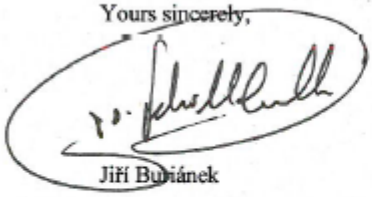
Furthermore, the CoR suggests that that an EU cybersecurity agency with full operational capacities should be set up and regulated, with responsibility for the entire cybersecurity lifecycle and for the prevention, the detection of and the response to cyber incidents when they occur.

To conclude, the CoR believes in the importance of keeping up the efforts to combat cyberattacks by implementing, in an appropriate legal framework, security measures which will improve the protection of critical infrastructure so that individuals and companies can enjoy a safe, reliable digital environment, while also upholding fundamental rights and other core values of the EU.

The CoR trusts that these recommendations will be duly considered and endorsed in your future work on this issue.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Alexander Popov, the administrator in charge, by telephone (02 282 2351) or email (Alexander.Popov@cor.europa.eu and/or sedec@cor.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,



Jiří Buriánek

Cc: Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General