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NOTE

From: DE-PT-SI Trio Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: DE-PT-SI Trio Presidency priorities for the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues (HWP)

Delegations will find in Annex DE-PT-SI Trio Presidency priorities for the Horizontal Working Party on cyber issues (HWP).

**DE-PT-SI Trio Presidency priorities for the
Horizontal Working Party on cyber issues (HWP)**

The Presidencies of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia lay out their common efforts with a view to strengthening a free, open, safe and secure cyberspace in the European Union and beyond, in the various cyber-related fields with a particular focus on those of cyber diplomacy, fight against cybercrime and cybersecurity. The Trio Presidency will be guided by the shared European values and by the understanding that the European Union and its Member States must stand together in facing cyber threats, but also in promoting cooperation worldwide.

Cyber Diplomacy

In the UN fora GGE and OEWG, a common European position, including active engagement and outreach with third countries will amplify the European voices and contribute to the implementation of and adherence to norms of responsible state behavior, respect of human rights and international law in cyberspace worldwide.

The Trio Presidency affirms that malicious behavior in cyberspace must carry consequences. They recall that the European Union has a set of tools available in order to respond to external threats such as the cyber diplomacy toolbox, including the cyber sanctions regime and they emphasize the need to make use of these existing tools when facing malicious behavior in cyberspace with an aim to influence the behavior of potential aggressors, mitigate cybersecurity threats and contribute to conflict prevention and greater stability in cyberspace.

New Council conclusions on cyber diplomacy will have the potential to take reflect international and European developments of the last years such as the aforementioned UN fora as well as the establishment of the EU cyber sanctions regime and thereby provide an updated and comprehensive framework for European action in the field of cyber diplomacy. This enhanced European approach to cyber diplomacy will strengthen European Digital Sovereignty by enlarging the EU's capacity to act, not only in the light of malicious cyber activities, but also in shaping global cyber discourses.

The Trio Presidency will step up efforts to promote synergies between civilian cyber resilience, the fight against cybercrime as well as cyber defence and aim at holding regular table top exercises in order to develop a shared situational awareness concerning cyber threats and improve coordination between the concerned EU bodies and Member States.

The Trio Presidency aims at holding regular informal meetings of the EU Cyber Ambassadors or Cyber Diplomacy Coordinators, starting in the first month of the German Presidency. Where appropriate, selected third countries may be invited to participate in relevant sections of these meetings.

Cybersecurity

- Effective cybersecurity requirements for connected devices

The Trio Presidency will jointly step up efforts at European level to establish effective cybersecurity requirements for devices connected to the internet. To raise the level of cybersecurity throughout all sectors horizontally, the certification framework established under the Cybersecurity Act seems to be the adequate method of choice, and must be accompanied by the introduction of mandatory cybersecurity requirements for the internal market along all sectors simultaneously. As a first step we will propose Council conclusions on this matter to be adopted swiftly.

- European Cybersecurity Centre

The Trio Presidency will continue the negotiations on the Proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre towards the finalization of the legislative procedure. Our aim is to promote a swift implementation of the Centre and the National Coordination Centres. We are convinced that it is of special importance to promote the EU's strategic autonomy and to foster competitiveness by strengthening the role of the Centre in the field of cybersecurity research and innovation.

- NIS Directive

The Trio Presidency welcomes the plan of the Commission to review the NIS Directive. We will actively shape this process through the involvement of the NIS cooperation group. We respect the continuous need for Member States to gain experience and exchange information in applying the provisions of the actual NIS Directive. We will promote the discussion about the further development of this Directive in the HWP.

- Joint Cyber Unit

We look forward with interest to the proposal of the Commission on the establishment of a Joint Cybersecurity Unit as announced in the Commission Communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future of 19 February 2020. The Trio Presidency is ready to discuss it in the HWP.

- Cybersecurity Act

We will support the further implementation of the Cybersecurity Act by enhancing the cooperation with ENISA and especially in the field of certification. In this regard, we will support the work of the European Cybersecurity Certification Group (ECCG).

- European Cybersecurity strategy

We look forward to possible developments concerning the European Cybersecurity strategy.

Confronting new cyber developments

In light of an increased global systemic competition in which cyber related issues play a key part, the HWP will be ready to address new developments like artificial intelligence, quantum and cloud computing.

