



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



09.04.09

Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

COM (2009) 149 – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection "Protecting Europe from large scale cyber-attacks and disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience"

Information and Communication Technologies systems, services, networks and infrastructures (ICT infrastructures) form a vital part of European economy and society, either providing essential goods and services or constituting the underpinning platform of other critical infrastructures. They are typically regarded as critical information infrastructures (CIIs) as their disruption or destruction would have a serious impact on vital societal functions.

This Communication develops the European policy to strengthen the security of and the trust in the information society.

The activities planned in this Communication are conducted under and in parallel to the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP).

The actions proposed in this Communication complement existing and prospective measures in the area of police and judicial cooperation to prevent, fight and prosecute criminal and terrorist activities targeting ICT infrastructures.

This initiative takes into account NATO activities on common policy on cyber defence, i.e. the Cyber Defence Management Authority and the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. Lastly, due account is given to international policy developments, in particular to the G8 principles on CIIP15; the UN General Assembly Resolution 58/199 Creation of a global culture of



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cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures and the recent OECD Recommendation on the Protection of Critical Information Infrastructures.



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European Union makes it easier for crime victims to obtain compensation

The Commission has adopted the Report on the application of Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims, which aims to make it easier for victims to obtain compensation in cross-border situations.

The Directive establishes a system of cooperation between national authorities to facilitate access to compensation for victims of crime in cross-border situations, i.e. where the crime was committed in a Member State other than the victim's country of residence. Its aim is to ensure appropriate compensation for victims of crime throughout the European Union and to make it easier to seek compensation in cross-border situations. It also provides for a compensation scheme and closer cooperation between Member States.

The report on the application of the Directive shows, *inter alia*, that:

- all Member States but one have enacted national measures transposing the Directive; infringement proceedings have been started against the one Member State that has so far failed to do so;
- not all implementing measures have been brought into line;
- the Member States are providing fair and appropriate compensation for victims; substantial degree of conformity seems to have been achieved across the Member States;
- although the decision-makers and those in charge of providing assistance are satisfied with the way in which the present system is working, applicants for compensation find the application procedure complicated and time-consuming, and the language barrier is a serious obstacle to processing victims' claims.

So, while the Directive has improved cooperation between the Member States' authorities and made it easier for victims of crime to obtain compensation, it has not yet been possible to exploit its full potential.

The Commission therefore feels that the application of the Directive could be improved, particularly as regards collecting data on its implementation as a basis for evaluating the efficiency of the procedure and the availability of information about the Directive and the national compensation schemes, both at Member State level and on the websites of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters and the European Judicial Atlas in Civil Matters.



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COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The following are some of the main results of the Council meeting on matters of Justice and Home Affairs which was held on the 6th and 7th April 2009:

The Council reached agreement on a general approach for a framework decision concerning the prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings.

Ministers for justice held a first exchange of views on new proposals aimed at stepping up efforts in the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation of children and the trafficking in human beings.

In the field of legal migration, ministers of interior continued the examination of a future instrument for establishing a single permit and a common set of rights for foreign workers in the EU.

They took note of the outcome of the visit paid last March by a EU delegation to the new US Administration in Washington.

Without debate, the Council adopted a decision transforming the European Police Office (known as Europol) into a EU agency. Europol's mandate is also extended to all serious cross-border crimes in order to facilitate assistance to the member states in cross-border criminal investigations. A new director for Europol was appointed by unanimity.

In the field of environment, the Council formally adopted the various legal acts configuring the climate change and energy package.

It also adopted without discussion a recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean sea.