



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 May 2001

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LIMITE

**ECO 138
CAB 17
JAI 41
PESC 185**

NOTE

from : Council Secretariat
to : Council
Subject : e-Europe Action Plan : Information and Network Security
- Draft Council resolution

1. The Stockholm European Council on 23/24 March concluded that "The Council together with the Commission will develop a comprehensive strategy on security of electronic networks including practical implementing action. This should be presented in time for the Göteborg European Council."
2. The Internal Market/Consumers/Tourism Council coordinates all activities related to the eEurope 2002 Action Plan.
3. The Telecommunications/Transports Council on 4/5 April 2001 noted the information provided by the Presidency on Work in progress on network security (doc. 7617/01 ECO 100), as well as two Commission communications dealing *inter alia* with this matter :
 - eEurope 2002 : impacts and priorities (doc. 7183/01 ECO 75 CAB 15);
 - "Creating a safer information society by improving the security on information infrastructures and combating computer-related crime : Europe 2002" (doc. 5894/01 CRIMORG 14 ECO 22).

4. The Commission announced its intention to adopt in the near future a communication on information and network security.

This communication should be presented to the Gothenburg European Council and should provide the basis for a debate on this matter.

5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed at its 1940th meeting on the text of the draft Council resolution submitted by the Presidency enclosed (see Annex), noting scrutiny reservations from the Commission on some terms, and from the F delegation on referring to the possible setting up of an independent European entity for information security.

Draft Council Resolution on Information and Network Security

The Council of the European Union,

Recalling the conclusion of the Stockholm European Council that the Council together with the Commission will develop a comprehensive strategy on security of electronic networks including practical implementing action.

Considering that information and network security is an area of increasing importance for the European Union. Recognising that information security issues affect several policy areas of the Union.

Considering that information and network security is about securing the senders' and receivers' identities, protection of the information from unauthorised changes, protection of unauthorised access to information, and to provide a reliable supply of equipment, services and information,

Recognising the role of trust and confidence of individuals and businesses in information security as an important prerequisite for the widespread use of information and communication technologies to achieve increased efficiency and competitiveness in the Internal Market,

Realising that malicious activities or hazardous events directed at information systems pose a significant risk to important functions in society,

Considering that the eEurope Action Plan 2002 calls for action to improve security of on line transactions in the European Union; Recalling that the Action Plan noted the important role of the market in defining the adequate security solutions.

Considering that from an institutional point of view, information security is a topic involving all three pillars of the EU.

- Refers to the Commission Communication COM(2000)890 of 26 January 2001¹,
- Underlines the need for actions both at Member State and European level in the areas of information and network security, and recognises that information and network security calls for a comprehensive cross-pillar approach when developing policies in this area and working on appropriate coordination mechanisms².
- Takes note of the Commission intention to present a communication on a comprehensive strategy on security of electronic networks.

¹ COM(2000)890 final "Creating a Safer Information Society by Improving the Security of Information Infrastructures and Combating Computer-related Crime".

² Commission scrutiny reservation on "mechanisms".

- Undertakes to examine rapidly the proposals for practical implementing action with a view to strengthening and increasing the coherence of policies for information security in the Union, and in addition consider whether institutional¹ structures and procedures for information and network security issues should be strengthened (*inter alia* by setting up an independent European entity for information security², independent observatory, council working party, another appropriate forum, or by strengthening the existing cooperation between the existing Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).
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¹ Commission scrutiny reservation on "institutional".

² F scrutiny reservation on "by setting up an independent European entity for information security".

