

Closing Speech by Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General

Octopus Conference on Cybercrime (6-8 June 2012)

Distinguished guests, dear friends,

The number “7” is considered by many as a lucky number.

I understand that in Chinese it symbolises “togetherness” and is a lucky number for relationships.

I am therefore concluding this 7th Octopus Conference on Cybercrime with much optimism. This lucky number bodes very well for future relationships and co-operation against cybercrime.

We have had here more than 250 public/private sector experts from among over 80 countries, over 30 private sector entities and academia and more than 15 international organisations and initiatives.

The experiences exchanged and the proposals made will inspire effective action against cybercrime:

We learned about the policies, strategies and measures taken by different stakeholders. This will help us cumulate our efforts and reduce the risk of duplication. Among other things, we look forward to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance in Stockholm later this month, to the Cyberspace Conference in Budapest in October, and to the Internet Governance Forum in Baku in November. I call in particular on other “fellow” international organisations to engage in closer co-operation. Let us work with each other, not alone. As international organisations, we have the obligation to use the resources entrusted to us to provide the best possible service to society.

We reviewed the global state of cybercrime legislation and received confirmation that the process of global harmonisation of legislation based on the Budapest Convention is accelerating. We need to continue to assist countries and make sure that this process of reform is maintained.

We obtained broad agreement on the benefits of private/public information sharing to prevent cyber-attacks and bring offenders to justice. We are aware that data protection requirements need to be met. We will document and disseminate good practices in this respect.

The Conference has helped to identify the actions to be taken to implement the legislative engagement strategy of Interpol and the Virtual Global Task Force. The more states adopt legislation in line with the benchmarks of the Budapest and Lanzarote Conventions, the more law enforcement authorities of different countries will be able to carry out international investigations to rescue children from sexual exploitation and abuse. I am more than happy to see that follow-up is given to the agreement signed by the Council of Europe and the Virtual Global Taskforce last November to co-operate in this crucial matter.

The Conference discussed the challenges of law enforcement transborder access to data and related jurisdiction issues in the context of cloud computing. The issues involved are highly complex. The presentations and discussions during the conference will be of immense benefit for the work of the Cybercrime Convention Committee on this question.

The Conference confirmed again that measures against cybercrime go hand in hand with the protection of human rights and the rule of law. This includes the protection of personal data. Cybercrime and electronic evidence are transnational challenges. The same is true for the transborder flow of personal data. We need to make sure that countries worldwide adopt appropriate data protection standards. The Data Protection Convention – Convention 108 – offers a solution to any country. I hope that this Conference helped convince additional countries to make use of this opportunity and seek accession to this treaty. I also hope that many states will participate in the negotiation of a modernised Convention 108.

Finally, we obtained inspiration from the visions and wish lists of key public and private sector experts in the plenary panel this morning.

I am certain that we all agree that international co-operation against cybercrime remains one of the key challenges ahead. We have seen much progress in recent years, but co-operation must become faster, more efficient. This is only possible if co-operation is based on trust and a clear framework.

The Octopus 2011 Conference and 10th anniversary of the Budapest Convention last November confirmed that this Convention represents such a framework. With each additional Party, the treaty will become more effective and co-operation also.

I very much welcome recent ratifications of this treaty. Last November, the United Kingdom ratified the Convention. Two days ago, Georgia deposited the instrument of approval, and Austria will ratify in the coming days. I call on all other member states, as well as non-member states, to follow their example!

I am also very satisfied that the European Union continues to be a strong supporter of ratification by all EU Member States and of global implementation of the Treaty. My joint letter with Commissioner Malmström last June - appealing to all EU Member States to expedite ratification on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Budapest Convention - is producing results. Every Octopus conference has taken us a step further and helped us weave a web of responses to challenges on the World Wide Web.

I hope you all found it worthwhile to come to Strasbourg and join this event. I look forward to “togetherness” and lucky relationships as continue to take on the challenge of cybercrime.

Thank you and I wish you all a safe return home!