

Cybercrime@EAP launching conference

30.05.2011

Welcoming speech by the Minister of Justice of Estonia, Mr. Kristen Michal

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly glad to welcome you all here in Tallinn, Estonia at the launching conference of the Cyber@EAP project. I would like to thank the European Union and the Council of Europe for having organised this project and for choosing Estonia as the country for the launching conference.

As you all probably know, the issue of cyber-security and fight against cyber-crime are very important for Estonia and we have therefore also been promoting that at the international level, including the European Union and the Council of Europe. When it comes to raising awareness and promoting international standards regarding fight against cyber-crime, we have worked with these organisations closely.

I would like to point out that at the moment the Budapest Convention is the only binding international instrument on cyber-crime. I am very happy to see here the representatives of the countries that are already parties to the Convention, and from the countries that have shown interest in the Convention. Currently the Committee of the Parties to the Budapest Convention is chaired by the Estonian expert. Therefore we hope that those states that haven't joined the Convention yet would do so in the future.

When speaking about the activities of the Council of Europe, then the Estonian government has supported the Project on Cyber-crime for many years. We hope that we can continue doing so in the future as well. Promoting the Convention not only in Europe but worldwide should not be just Estonia's, but everybody's interest. And as a country that has suffered from large-scale cyber-attacks we mean that seriously. We have seen first-hand how vulnerable IT can be and due to the global nature of the Internet, an attack can come from anywhere in the world.

Threats in the cyberspace have become global. In most cases they are trans-border by nature. The same applies to cyber-crimes. If a criminal in one corner of the world has access to the Internet, he can do a lot of damage all over the world despite his geographical location.

What is most dangerous, is that not only private individuals and companies suffer from these kinds of cyber-crimes, but a state as a whole can be a victim as well. Besides financial interests cyber-criminals may also have other motives, including political. So cyber-crime is not only a crime against property, but it can be a crime against the national security.

As the threats have become global, the responses must be global as well. One country alone is not capable of fighting cyber-crimes and preventing cyber-attacks. In order to do so, cooperation between different countries is needed. For an effective cooperation, however, a framework is needed, and fortunately the Budapest Convention provides that. In order to achieve positive results in investigating cyber-crimes and finding the criminals behind them, the Convention must be implemented effectively by all.

I would like to thank once again the organisers of this project, the European Union and the Council of Europe, as well all the representatives of different countries who have come here, and I wish you a fruitful launching conference and a successful project.