

Conference on xenophobia and racism committed through computer systems Strasbourg, France, 30-31 January 2023 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime

Session 2: Good practices and challenges in implementing the First Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime

The Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols:

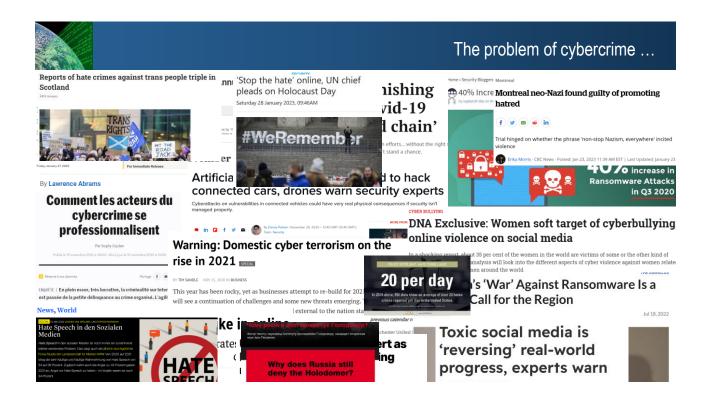
## a framework for addressing xenophobia and racism via computer systems

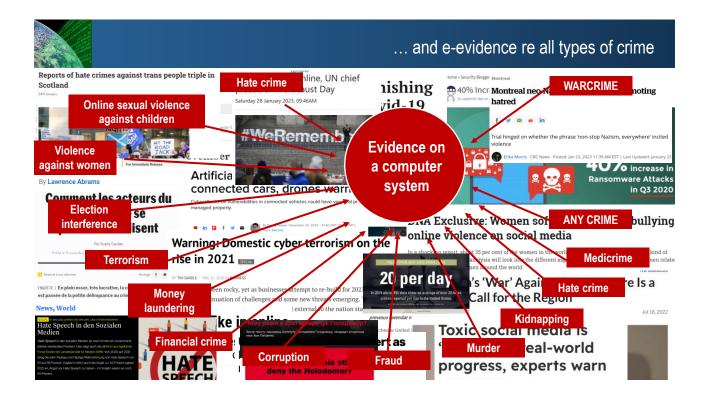
Alexander Seger

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www.coe.int/cybercrime







Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001):

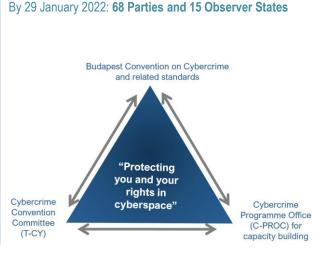
- 1. Specific offences against and by means of computer systems
- Procedural powers with safeguards to investigate cybercrime and collect electronic evidence in relation to any crime
- 3. International cooperation on cybercrime and eevidence

+ 1<sup>st</sup> Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism via Computer Systems

+ Guidance Notes

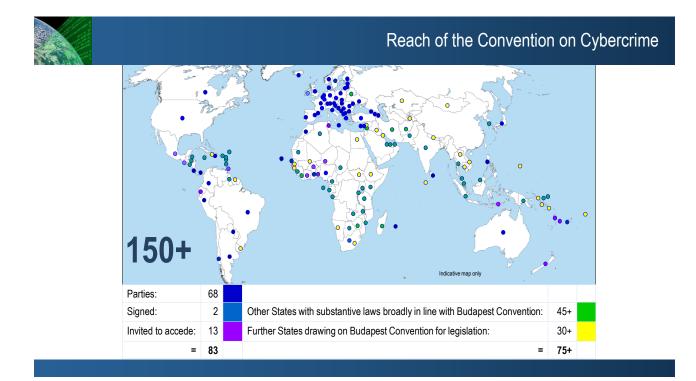
+ 2<sup>nd</sup> Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence (opened for signature 12 May 2022)

The mechanism of the Convention on Cybercrime



|   |   | Content of the Budapest Convention  |
|---|---|---|
| Criminalising<br>conduct<br>Illegal access<br>Illegal interception<br>Data interference<br>System interference<br>Misuse of devices<br>Fraud and forgery<br>Child pornography<br>IPR-offences | <ul> <li>Procedural tools</li> <li>Expedited<br/>preservation</li> <li>Production orders</li> <li>Search and seizure</li> <li>Interception of<br/>computer data</li> <li>Limited by safeguards</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>International<br/>cooperation</li> <li>Extradition</li> <li>MLA</li> <li>Spontaneous<br/>information</li> <li>Expedited<br/>preservation</li> <li>MLA for accessing<br/>computer data</li> <li>MLA for interception</li> <li>24/7 points of contact</li> </ul> |

Procedural powers and international cooperation for any criminal offence involving evidence on a computer system!



29/01/2023



The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: about

## ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON CYBERCRIME, CONCERNING THE CRIMINALISATION OF ACTS OF A RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC NATURE COMMITTED THROUGH COMPUTER SYSTEMS (ETS 189)

Opened for signature on 28 January 2003



## The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: background

- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocol No. 12 concerning the general prohibition of discrimination
- United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965 (177 Parties by June 2015)
- the European Union Joint Action of 15 July 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning action to combat racism and xenophobia
- Council of Europe: European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI, established in 2002 (<u>www.coe.int/ecri</u>)
- The Internet offers new opportunities for acts of xenophobia and racism
- Acts of racism and xenophobia are crimes (not only if speech presents a "clear and present danger")
- = Need for Protocol to Budapest Convention



The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: background

#### Action Plan

## The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers, Brussels, 19 May 2015)

- Reinforcing international legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism, including implementation of:
  - Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism
  - Additional Protocol on Foreign Terrorist Fighters
  - Protocol to Budapest Convention on Xenophobia and Racism
- Education
- Addressing radicalisation in prisons
- Internet: No Hate Speech



## The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: purpose

### Protocol XR – Preamble

- Need to secure a full and effective implementation of all human rights without any discrimination or distinction;
- Acts of a racist and xenophobic nature constitute a violation of human rights and a threat to the rule
  of law and democratic stability;
- Computer systems offer an unprecedented means of facilitating freedom of expression and communication around the globe;
- · Risk of misuse or abuse of computer systems to disseminate racist and xenophobic propaganda;
- Need to ensure a proper balance between freedom of expression and an effective fight against acts of a racist and xenophobic nature;
- This Protocol is not intended to affect established principles relating to freedom of expression in national legal systems.



The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: scope

## Article 2: Definition

*"racist and xenophobic material"* means any written material, any image or any other representation of ideas or theories, which advocates, promotes or incites hatred, discrimination or violence, against any individual or group of individuals, based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as religion if used as a pretext for any of these factors.



The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: scope

Article 3 – Dissemination of racist and xenophobic material through computer systems ► Distributing, or otherwise making available, racist and xenophobic material to the public through a computer system.

Article 4 – Racist and xenophobic motivated threat ► Threatening, through a computer system, with the commission of a serious criminal offence as defined under its domestic law,

- (i) persons for the reason that they belong to a group, distinguished by race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as religion, if used as a pretext for any of these factors, or
- (ii) (ii) a group of persons which is distinguished by any of these characteristics.

Article 5 – Racist and xenophobic motivated insult > Insulting publicly, through a computer system,

- (i) persons for the reason that they belong to a group distinguished by race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as religion, if used as a pretext for any of these factors; or
- (ii) a group of persons which is distinguished by any of these characteristics.

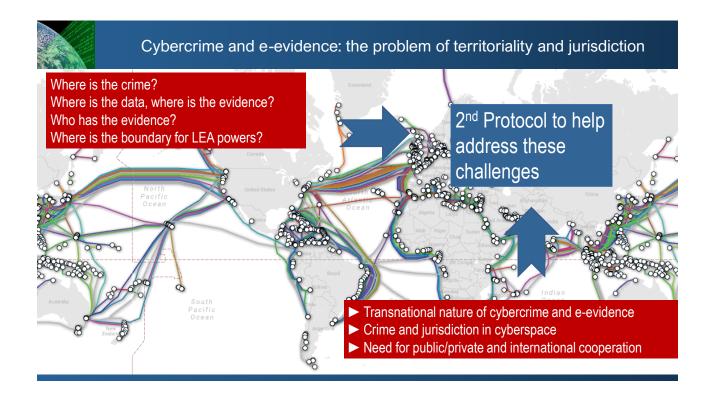
Article 6 – Denial, gross minimisation, approval or justification of genocide or crimes against humanity ► distributing or otherwise making available, through a computer system to the public, material which denies, grossly minimises, approves or justifies acts constituting genocide or crimes against humanity ...

Article 7 – Aiding and abetting



## The first Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism: implementation

| Parties                |                 | Signatories                   |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Albania                | Morocco         | Canada                        |
| Andorra                | Montenegro      | Austria                       |
| Armenia                | Netherlands     | Belgium                       |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | North Macedonia | Estonia                       |
| Croatia                | Norway          | Iceland                       |
| Cyprus                 | Paraguay        | Italy                         |
| Czech Republic         | Poland          | Liechtenstein                 |
| Denmark                | Portugal        | Malta                         |
| Finland                | Romania         | Slovakia                      |
| France                 | San Marino      | Switzerland                   |
| Germany                | Senegal         | South Africa                  |
| Greece                 | Serbia          | Türkiye                       |
| Latvia                 | Slovenia        |                               |
| Lithuania              | Spain           | Status as at 28 January 2023  |
| Luxembourg             | Sweden          |                               |
| Moldova                | Ukraine         | ► 33 Parties + 12 Signatories |
| Monaco                 |                 | - 55 Parties + 12 Signatories |



|                                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol to the                             | e Convent     | tion on Cybercrime: conter   |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Preamble                       |  | Chapter III - | - Conditions and safeguards  |
| Chapter I:                     | Common provisions  | Article 13    | Conditions and safeguards  |
| Article 1                      | Purpose  | Article 14    | Protection of personal data  |
| Article 2                      | Scope of application   |               |  |
| Article 3                      | Definitions  | Chapter IV:   | Final provisions   |
| Article 4 Language             | Language   | Article 15    | Effects of this Protocol   |
|                                |  | Article 16    | Signature and entry into force   |
| Chapter II:                    | Measures for enhanced cooperation                                      | Article 17    | Federal clause   |
| Article 5                      | General principles applicable to Chapter II                            | Article 18    | Territorial application  |
| Article 6                      | Request for domain name registration information                       | Article 19    | Reservations and declarations<br>Status and withdrawal of reservations |
| Article 7                      | Disclosure of subscriber information                                   | Article 20    |  |
| Article 8                      | Giving effect to orders from another party for expedited production of | Article 21    | Amendments   |
| subscriber information and tra | subscriber information and traffic data                                | Article 22    | Settlement of disputes   |
| Article 9                      | Expedited disclosure of stored computer data in an emergency           | Article 23    | Consultations of the Parties a   |
| Article 10                     | Emergency mutual assistance  | assessmer     | nt of implementation   |
| Article 11                     | Video conferencing   | Article 24    | Denunciation   |
| Article 12                     | Joint investigation teams and joint investigations                     | Article 25    | Notification   |



2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime: next

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence (CETS 224)

Signatories (status 29 January 2023):

18. Luxembourg

19. Montenegro

22. Netherlands

23. North Macedonia

20. Moldova

21. Morocco

24. Portugal

25. Romania

27. Slovenia

29. Sri Lanka

30. Sweden

31. Ukraine

26. Serbia

28. Spain

- 1. Andorra
- 2. Austria
- 3. Belgium
- Bulgaria
   Chile
- 6. Colombia
- 7. Costa Rica
- 8. Croatia
- 9. Estonia
- 10. Finland
- 11. France
- 12. Germany
- 13. Greece
- 14. Iceland
- 15. Italy 32. United Kingdom
- 16. Japan 33. USA
- 17. Lithuania

#### Next:

- ► Signature by other Parties
- ► Ratification (5 needed for entry into force)
- Capacity building



# Addressing XR through the framework of the Convention on Cybercrime

| Articles      | Budapest Convention on<br>Cybercrime   | Article Convention on Outproving                           |         |   |
|---------------|--|--|---------|---|
| Art. 2-<br>13 | Offences against and by means of computers   | ArticleConvention on CybercrimeArt. 14-21Procedural powers | Article | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Protocol to on electronic evidence              |
| Articles      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Protocol on Xenophobia and<br>Racism   |  | Art. 7  | (Direct) Disclosure of subscriber information                   |
| Art. 2        | Definitions  |  | Art. 8  | Giving effect to orders for expedited production of subscriber  |
| Art. 3        | Dissemination of racist and  | ➡ XR ←   |         | information and traffic data                                    |
|               | xenophobic material through<br>computer systems  |  | Art. 9  | Expedited disclosure of stored<br>computer data in an emergency |
| Art. 4        | Racist and xenophobic motivated threat   |  | Art. 10 | Emergency mutual assistance                                     |
| Art. 5        | Racist and xenophobic motivated  |  | Art. 11 | Video conferencing  |
|               | insult   | Article Convention on Cybercrime                           | Art. 12 | Joint investigation teams and joint                             |
| Art. 6        | Denial, gross minimisation, approval<br>or justification of genocide or crimes<br>against humanity | Art. 23-35 International cooperation                       |         | investigations  |