

**Response of the national authorities of the Republic of Moldova to the alert submitted to the Council of Europe Platform for the Promotion of the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists (*Moldovan News Websites Targeted in DDoS Attacks*)**

Regarding the DDoS attacks on Moldovan news websites, namely Newsmaker.md, Ziarul de Gardă and Nokta.md, the Information Technology and Cyber Security Service (hereafter – ITSEC), as the Governmental Cybersecurity Incident Response Center, informs that none of the proprietors of the impacted resources have contacted ITSEC to request assistance or consultation on the matter.

This identified deficiency in national cybersecurity has been rectified over recent years through the enactment of Law 48 of 2023 pertaining to cybersecurity, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2025. In addition, the National Cyber Security Agency will undergo consolidation.

Until this designated timeframe, the minimum cybersecurity requisites outlined in Government Decision 2021 of 2017, as well as the reporting protocols to ITSEC as per Government Decision 482/2020, exclusively pertain to state informational resources and affiliated entities established or under the jurisdiction of the Government.

Given the nature and extent of the cyber events, it remains uncertain whether the victims of the DDoS attacks adhere to the minimum cybersecurity requirements, the estimated impact of the cyber onslaught, or the implementation of corrective or post-incident remedial measures.