



## **ENISA and the EC funded projects**

1. One of the roles of the European Commission (hereafter designated as the Commission) is to fund projects involving partners from European Member states and associated countries in order to strengthen and implement the European policies, notably the Framework Programmes of R&D (FP) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). The EC funding is obtained through a selection process based on the excellence of the proposals and an open competition between consortia gathering private and public partners from industry, academia and consumer's representatives.
2. Most of the projects dealing with ICT and the development of the Information Society have a network and information security background. ENISA has to develop the culture of network and information security in Europe and to strengthen the general security level in Europe. Many proponents invite ENISA to join the consortium they try to organise in order to reply to the Commission call for proposal.
3. The purpose of this paper is to clarify the roles that ENISA may or may not play with respect to such activities, in full compliance with its regulation and positioning amongst the European bodies.
4. As a European Agency (hereafter designated as the Agency), ENISA is an autonomous administrative body, distinct from the Commission. However, it follows the same financial and staff regulations, and its activities are submitted to the same rules of transparency: its output is freely accessible to everyone. For a third party like a government, an enterprise or an association, it has the same public and European nature as the Commission.
5. The ENISA regulation specifies that the Agency advises the Commission on topics within its scope, notably on research and development activities. Therefore, the Agency cannot be partner in a consortium proposing or executing a project funded by the Commission, for instance through the Framework programme. This could create conflicts of interest.
6. Similarly, the Agency can not receive any funding from the Commission as partner in other projects nor contribute to the public funding of a projects funded by the Commission. This would duplicate the Commission's role.
7. However, once a consortium has been awarded a contract by the Commission, it may ask the Agency to provide advice and support such as participating in a Strategy or Advisory Committee, giving advice on best practice and standards to use, taking part of a workshop or conference organised by the consortium, co-organise of specific events with the consortium, etc.
8. Such advice and support has to be agreed upon by the Executive Director according to the resources available at the Agency at that particular moment, the compliance with the Agency's scope and the contribution it may bring to its annual Work Programme.
9. The Agency will give public information of the form and nature of such advice and support provided to consortia funded by the Commission, using the same procedures and means as for its annual Work Programme and reply to formal requests received from the Commission and Member states.