



Nomination for Executive Director of the European Network and
Information Security Agency (ENISA)¹

Dr. Udo Helmbrecht

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Motivation

The European Community is a success story built on cooperation and the knowledge that the Community is stronger than the nation states in isolation, as reflected by the EU motto, 'Unity in Diversity'. Especially against the background of global competition, this is a prerequisite for growth and prosperity. In the future I would like to work for this idea of the European Community at European level.

In view of the ever more complex world of global intercommunication and the associated attacks on information infrastructures, the safe configuration of information and communications technology is a pivotal challenge for modern industrialised countries. Europe needs a Network and Information Security Agency that advises the Commission, Parliament and Council on its own initiative, works trustingly and actively together with the Member States and promotes cooperation between governments, industry and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the good of the citizens of the European Union.

Network and Information Security [NIS] are the backbone of the modern information society. An ever-increasing part of public and private life is now played out in cyberspace. Particular attention therefore also has to be paid to socially relevant questions such as the protection of personal data and the protection of minors on the Internet.

I would like to bring my many years of experience as head of the national IT security organisation of a Member States to ENISA. The Agency's Europe-wide reach is a new challenge in my career. I see the extension of ENISA's mandate until 2012 as an opportunity to expand and establish the Agency in the medium term as a recognised advisory and competence centre at the heart of Europe for the security of network structures and the protection of information.

My goal is to work towards a permanent mandate for ENISA, and thus contribute towards a safe information society in Europe.

Vision

My vision for the future of ENISA is that the Agency be known in the EU and beyond, that it be accepted as a technically competent institution and be permanently recognised as a communications platform and focal point for Network and Information Security among all stakeholders. The Agency's advisory work for European institutions and the Member States has a lasting influence on decisions, regulations and laws. Businesses and organisations in the Member States value the Agency's services. A culture of network and information security has arisen that promotes the European Single Market and offers citizens confidence and security in the use of information and communications technology. With the Agency's mission 'to secure Europe's information society', ENISA has become a pace-setter for network and information security.

I would now like to outline my ideas for the further development of ENISA over the coming years.

Challenges facing ENISA and the new Executive Director

A series of protagonists play a prominent role in the information society. ENISA must work closely with these in a **network**.

On a political level, these are the European institutions and Member States. For governments, the top priority must be to safeguard critical network infrastructures. Only then can industry and private users conclude their business processes with confidence in the virtual world. Other key protagonists are the citizens, along with federations and non-governmental organisations. Providers are particularly important in allowing the Internet to operate properly. In many cases, private users are the critical factor in the network, as their computer security is often not up to date, and consequently these computers can become part of remote-controlled so-called bot-networks. On the one hand, awareness must be raised here through campaigns, and on the other manufacturers must be reminded of their duty to manufacture safe,

easy-to-use IT products. We also need incentives for manufacturers to incorporate IT security into their products from the outset, IT security must become a competitive advantage. Standards and IT certificates must be promoted.

ENISA must establish and maintain a network with all protagonists. It will be the task of the new Executive Director to perceive and understand the needs of the Member States and from these needs to promote cooperation.

ENISA must concentrate its action on the strategic interests of the EU. A vital basis for this is a portfolio of independent, technically recognised and target group-oriented services, as well as high levels of internal quality.

The Agency's **strategy** should be aligned strictly to the needs of the European institutions and the EU Member States. Content-related collaboration with those involved in the information society must be developed on an ongoing basis. The Agency must build up high-quality, internationally accepted know-how and so analyse current technological, economic and social developments as well as threats and offer appropriate solutions. Once the way ahead has been agreed, the results must leave their mark on the key issues.

Within the scope of its responsibilities, ENISA must provide active **policy advice** for the law-making bodies of the EU in the political decision-making processes and their implementation in the Member States. This idea has already entered the current plans to revise the legal framework of electronic communication. In addition, the role of ENISA should also be strengthened in the future. I am thinking here, for example, of the commitment regarding the resilience of European network infrastructures, which must be stepped up further. Similarly, active involvement in strategy discussions in the EU is necessary, given the current focus on the restructuring of network and information security (NIS) in Europe. Support and assistance in central European IT projects should be intensified.

In the medium term, ENISA can also support those offices responsible for European institutions' IT operations in matters of security, thus assuming operational responsibility.

Finally, the Agency's internal structures and processes should be optimised into a lean **administrative organisation**. Staff should come across to the outside world as a powerful team that recognises a focus on customers and service as a strength. An autonomous profile boosts employees' identification with the Agency and visibility within the European Union.

How can these goals be achieved?

- Develop a high-quality dialogue with the Member States, EU institutions and all other protagonists of the information society.
- Include the future technical challenges of the information and communications technology in the Agency's programme of work.
- ENISA may not duplicate any of the Member States' activities, or be in competition with them. Rather, ENISA must provide advice and support where there is added value in the European network, either for the individual Member country or for the Union as a whole.
- ENISA's decision-making processes must be transparent.
- The limited resources must be used efficiently to achieve effective results.
- The results must be visible in the Member States.

Summary

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the key points once again:

- Mission: to secure Europe's information society.
- ENISA must become Europe's pace-maker for Network and Information Security.
- ENISA must become a brand for information security in Europe.
- I will work towards a permanent mandate for ENISA.