

Interview with



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Dr. OUZOUNIS and Dr. MOULINOS, are editors of the recently launched ENISA report on "Resilient e-Communications Networks" – Analysis of Member States' Policies and Regulations.

What is the background for this report by ENISA and what is included in the report?

The report is a follow-up and an analysis of the stock-taking exercise that took place about a year ago. It identifies and highlights good practices and includes high level recommendations to policy and decision makers on how Member States could improve their policies and activities.

The intention of the report is neither benchmarking Member States activities nor making comparisons among their policy and regulatory environment.

Why this report now?

This report, which is the first on this matter in Europe, is a part of ENISA's resilience program. The Resilience Program has been strongly suggested by Member States and the European Commission. We are happy that so many Member States took part in the stock taking and accordingly in the report. The topic is complex, vast and difficult to analyse. After the liberalisation of the telecommunications market and the attacks that have emerged, it became apparent for the policy makers that resilience in communications networks needs to be improved at national, pan European and even international level.

Could you mention some of the most interesting findings?

There are both high level and topic specific recommendations in the report. If these recommendations had been implemented in the Member States we might have achieved better resilience in Europe.

One important issue which came out from the analysis is that there are different maturity levels in terms of resiliency among the Member States'. Some countries are experienced and very systematic while others are not. A small group of countries are performing well and there is another group of countries who isn't very well prepared in terms of resilient communications networks. Some countries are working with the providers while others have a strict regulatory approach. These are some of the differences highlighted in the report and one of the ways in which to improve the resilience in other countries is that the more experienced countries share their knowledge through information sharing.

Another interesting thing is that there is no clear pan-European strategy in this area. On the contrary, Member States develop their own policies, tasks, mandates and initiatives. On a pan-European level the topic is emerging. There is a public dialogue that has just started, and in the coming years it is likely that the topic will become more important.

Could you give some examples on good practices?

Most of the countries are of the meaning that the best approach is to collaborate with the providers instead of looking at regulatory measures. For this reason they propose for example development of good practises, collaboration and information sharing exchanges, more public/private partnerships on important topics.

The report also includes several good practice cases. For instance Sweden is very good in several areas including resilience exercises. Another example is information sharing in the United Kingdom, where major providers meet regularly with representatives from public bodies to talk about important topics around resilience and security of communications networks.

What can you say about the recommendations/conclusions around what the Member States can do to improve their policies and activities?

ENISA's recommendations that are included in the report have been very well received by the Member States' representatives. Member States are now looking at how they can best implement them.

What are ENISA's next steps in terms of analysing resilient e-Communications Networks?

As a result of the stock taking and the analysis, this year ENISA develops three good practices guides on important topics. The topics are information sharing, exercises and incident reporting mechanisms.

ENISA aims, through these good practice guides, to help Member States enhance their policies, capabilities and knowledge in these fields. ENISA will continue

working with stakeholders to assist them in properly deploying these guides in their countries.

ENISA will continue its efforts in assisting the European Commission to develop a solid approach in Critical Information Infrastructure Protection. ENISA's role is explicitly mentioned in the recent Communication of the European Commission on this matter.

In the context of this work, ENISA will undertake a number of important tasks, related to i.e. the establishment of a Pan European Forum on Good Practices Exchanges, the establishment of a strategic Public Private Partnership for Resilience, the development of national CERT capabilities and the planning and execution of the first pan European Exercise.

The full report is available at:

http://enisa.europa.eu/doc/pdf/deliverables/enisa_resilience_policies.pdf

The press release is available at:

http://enisa.europa.eu/pages/02_01_press_2009_04_22_resilience_policies.html

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