

Octopus Interface conference on

Cooperation against cybercrime

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 1-2 April 2008

Conference conclusions

More than 210 cybercrime experts from some 65 countries, international organisations and the private sector met at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 1 to 2 April 2008.

The Conference:

- discussed current and expected cybercrime threats and trends such as malware, identity theft and other forms of fraud, botnets and denial of service attacks, child pornography and abuse, and the implications of social networks and of technologies such as Voice over Internet Protocol and next generation networks. The Convention on Cybercrime addresses cybercrime challenges in a comprehensive manner and is very much relevant. Cybercrime is a continuously evolving phenomenon that needs to be closely monitored so that legislative and other responses can be adjusted at national and international levels as well as the private sector
- reviewed the effectiveness of cybercrime legislation. In this connection, a clear global trend was noted in that countries all over the world are strengthening their legislation using the Convention on Cybercrime as a guideline. Countries that signed this treaty were called upon to accelerate the ratification of the Convention, and other countries were encouraged to seek accession. During the Conference, Georgia signed the Convention on Cybercrime, the Dominican Republic handed over a request for accession and it was announced that the Philippines are invited to accede. It underlined the role of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) in following the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism
- discussed measures to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, including 24/7 points of contact and improved coordination at national levels. Countries were encouraged become a party to the Convention and to use it as the framework for international cooperation. It was agreed that the Council of Europe and the G8 High-tech Crime Subgroup maintain a joint directory of contact points
- adopted guidelines for the cooperation between law enforcement and internet service providers in the investigation of cybercrime. These guidelines can now be disseminated all over the world in order to help law enforcement and ISPs structure their cooperation. It was agreed that these guidelines should be submitted to the Cybercrime Convention Committee for consideration
- underlined the need to ensure an appropriate balance between the need to enhance security of information and communication technologies and the need to strengthen the protection of privacy, personal data, freedom of expression and other fundamental rights.

Strasbourg, 2 April 2008