Question for written answer E-005890/17
to the Commission
Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE)
(22 September 2017)

Subject: National cybersecurity strategies

Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of 6 July 2016 on measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union is the first piece of cross-cutting EU legislation to address cybersecurity challenges, and a real game changer for cybersecurity resilience and cooperation in Europe. However, the effectiveness of the EU’s response to such challenges is hindered by the fact that the NIS Directive has not been fully transposed in all Member States. It is therefore of the utmost importance, in this regard, that Member States are suitably prepared, and this should be guaranteed by the introduction of national cybersecurity strategies.

Have all the Member States adopted a national cybersecurity strategy?

If so, will the Commission evaluate their suitability?

Answer given by Ms Gabriel on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2017)

As stated in the recently issued Communication on ‘Making the most of Network and Information Systems’ (1), the Commission believes that Member States should seize the opportunity of the transposition of the directive (EU) 2016/1148 on the security of network and information systems (2) (NIS Directive) to adopt wholistic national cyber-security strategies (NCSS), which could encompass all relevant dimensions of the society and economy. More specifically, in the annex to the communication, the Commission invited Member States to cover additional sectors (e.g. public administration) and digital services than the ones referred to respectively at Annex II and III of the NIS Directive. Moreover, with a view of providing practical guidance to the Member States engaged in the development of NCSS, the Commission set out a number of principles and concrete steps which could be followed when conceiving and drafting NCSS.

The Commission is aware that Member States are currently developing or upgrading national strategies. The Commission highlights that, pursuant to Article 25 of the NIS Directive, Member States are required to have in place as of 10 May 2018 laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the directive. The Commission considers that it should include national strategies.

According to Article 23 of the directive, the Commission’s evaluation activities include the submission, by 9 May 2019, of a report to the European Parliament and to Council, assessing the consistency of the approach taken by Member States in the identification of the operators of essential services and, by 9 May 2021, of a report assessing the overall functioning of the directive.

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(2) Directive (EU) 2016/1148 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union.