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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.1.2025)

The Commission takes the security and, in particular, the confidentiality of the communications systems it uses very seriously and has issued recommendations to its staff regarding security in the use of video-conferencing tools, including Webex. In addition, the Commission relies on a variety of video-conferencing tools and has provided clear instructions on which systems may be used for meetings involving sensitive information.

The Commission is attentive to the development of viable, complementary sovereign solutions and closely monitors open-source adoption by EU public services. For nearly two decades, the publicly accessible Open-Source Observatory¹ has been tracking news, reports and case studies, demonstrating the growing adoption of open-source across the EU. This includes recent national governments' efforts to develop and implement open-source alternatives to proprietary office collaboration suites. The Interoperable Europe Portal², which hosts the Observatory, encourages the sharing and re-use of common solutions, including open-source by federation of software catalogues. Internally, the Commission is also an adopter of open-source software. For example, most of the Commission websites³ are built on Drupal, and Linux is the main platform in the data centres.

¹ <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor>

² <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/interoperable-europe>

³ https://commission.europa.eu/index_en