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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.1.2025)

Directive (EU) 2022/2555 (NIS2)¹ applies, with some exceptions such as for telecom providers or domain name system (DNS) service providers, in principle to medium-sized or larger entities in 18 sectors, which are critical for the EU economy and society. It follows a risk-based approach requiring entities to take appropriate and proportionate cybersecurity risk management measures depending on the risks they face.

In addition to the recently adopted Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2690², which specifies the requirements for cybersecurity measures and defines the thresholds for a significant incident for various categories of digital services and providers, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) is now consulting stakeholders³ on a guidance document further explaining these requirements. Both will help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as they offer additional guidance on the implementation of NIS2 and advance harmonisation across the EU.

Moreover, the EU is funding SMEs by Horizon Europe⁴ (cluster 3) and Digital Europe Programme (DEP)⁵. DEP has been explicitly supporting the uptake of EU cyber legislations by SMEs and promoting their competitiveness since 2022. It gave EUR 70 million from 2022 to 2024, and in addition it will devote around EUR 30 million up to 2027.

Furthermore, Regulation (EU) 2024/2847⁶ (Cyber Resilience Act, CRA) includes provisions on dedicated support measures for microenterprises and SMEs. In 2024, the EU allocated EUR 30 million to develop guidance and compliance tools (including automatic compliance tools) for SMEs. This will help them to comply with the CRA, which in itself would support them in meeting the NIS2 supply chain security requirements.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj>

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2690/oj

³ https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ENISA_Guide_Feedback_Form

⁴ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-3-civil-security-society_en

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/work-programmes-digital>

⁶ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2847/oj>