AmCham EU
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Working Group: ICTS Security and Competitiveness

ISSUE

Cyberattacks have spiked during the COVID-19 crisis and the threat surface has increased significantly. New communication paths and work environments create new security risks. Ensuring cybersecurity is the responsibility of government and industry alike, which can be advanced most effectively by developing partnerships and seeking harmonisation. Likewise, government and industry both have a role to play in ensuring the competitiveness of the ICT sector, critical to economy-wide productivity. The activity of the working group should acknowledge that the amplitude of the cybersecurity implications necessarily calls for global solutions, for which a strong transatlantic partnership is an essential enabler.

PRIORITIES

The areas in which the working group can and should strive to achieve immediate results are:

Certifications
The Trade and Technology Council should act as enabler and supporter for increased EU-US cooperation on cybersecurity certification, focusing on harmonisation based on democratic values, transparency and inclusivity. Joint efforts are critical, notably as both sides are digitally interdependent in many ways and cybersecurity is a cornerstone for a safe and secure digital transformation. Rules which force businesses to fragment their technology operations along national borders result in less consistency and more complexity and negatively impact security and resilience.

Cybersecurity and finance
Greater collaboration between the parties, specifically on systemic risks to the financial system, would encourage mutual understanding and risk identification.

Global risk identification
The EU and the US should identify common approaches to detecting, mitigating and managing cyber risk at the transatlantic and global levels. Consensus-based, international standards and industry-led best practices should be drawn upon, including on cybersecurity, cyberespionage and supply chain security.

Public-private partnerships
Public-private partnerships should be leveraged to develop complementary and coordinated policies and to ensure that networks and systems are resilient against evolving cyberattacks.

Shared geopolitical objectives
The working group should serve as a forum for reinforcing strategic and geopolitical objectives in the digital domain. Such commitment should be driven by shared values and common goals uniting both sides of the Atlantic.