The Clean IT Project

Fighting the illegal use of internet

To whom it may concern

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Concerning	**Progress Report** Clean IT project

Clean IT

The international Clean IT project is initiated by the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain and is partly funded by the European Commission. The main goal of the Clean IT project is to initiate cooperation between public and private partners to counter the illegal use of the internet by terrorists. This will be done through a series of workshops and conferences in Europe. Public and private partners will define their problems and try to establish a non-regulatory, pragmatic and transparent form of cooperation.

EuroDIG in Belgrade

During the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (2011 EuroDIG conference, May 31st) in Belgrade, the project partners had their kick-off meeting and discussed the scope of the project. The partners agreed that the project will focus on Al Qaïda influenced content. In the plenary cybersecurity session at the EuroDIG conference, the start of this project was announced.

The Amsterdam workshop

The first workshop took place in Amsterdam on October 24-25. A mix of public and private organizations was present to discuss illegal use of the internet. The fact that there is misuse of the internet, including cybercrime, hate speech, discrimination, illegal software, child pornography and terrorism, was not disputed.The internet is used by terrorists and extremists to spread violent images and propaganda material, glorify and encourage violence, radicalize and recruit individuals, spread training manuals and other knowledge on how to commit violent acts, and the internet is even used to plan and organize deadly attacks.

Even though public and private organizations are currently working to limit the use of the internet by terrorists and extremists, many obstacles to solving the problem still exist. Some of them were identified in Amsterdam, but the participants also established common ground and looked for pragmatic approaches of the challenges ahead.

Drafting process

After the Amsterdam workshop, the project started to draft some basic rules of play, which are non-legislative, voluntary, and endorsed by the industry. A small editorial board was created, and the first draft document has been sent to the workshop participants for corrections and comments. The second draft will be the input for the next workshop. From that moment, more representatives from private sector can contribute to this drafting process and participate in the workshops.

Next workshops

The next workshops are planned in Madrid (January) and Brussels (March). After the Madrid workshop, the draft document will be published and opened for consultation to involved or interested parties. We aim to present our interim results during a conference in Berlin on June 5th, 2012.