Transport cybersecurity: Raising the bar by working together

The European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) organised today in Lisbon the first Conference on Transport Cybersecurity, with the support of the European Commission (DG MOVE), the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the EU Agency for Railways (ERA). A hundred seventy public and private partners from all over Europe and representing all transport modes took part in the event. Together, they discussed the EU legal framework for cybersecurity, its relevance for the transport sector, and explored options for further cooperation.

During the discussions, the following points were raised:

- Cyber-attacks targeting transport could have potentially serious consequences, result in the loss of lives, and harm the economy. Our transport system should be able to deter attacks and show resilience if they occur. Cyber-security shall also guarantee safety;
- It is essential to look at cybersecurity in a holistic manner by addressing not only internet-connected systems, but also the “human element”. Cooperation is required between the technical and operational levels;
- The Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS Directive) lays a solid foundation to enhance cybersecurity and resilience in the transport sector. Where appropriate, specific rules may be needed in certain transport modes;
- Non-regulatory actions are and should be pursued to address cyber threats already today: information exchange, capabilities building, awareness raising and development of cyber skills. The transport sector should work together to lay down the foundations for a “cybersecurity culture”;
- As transport is global and interconnected, a close cooperation with international partners and relevant international organisations should continue and be encouraged.

Today’s discussions demonstrate the importance to intensify the cooperation between DG MOVE, DG CONNECT, ENISA, EASA, EMSA and ERA to raise the bar for cybersecurity in transport. The following actions will be considered:

- Closely follow the NIS Directive implementation giving due consideration to the needs and specificities of each transport mode;
- Stimulate the exchange of information and best practices, notably by including or continue to include cybersecurity as a regular agenda item for discussion in the meetings of the Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Maritime Security (MARSEC) Committees, Stakeholder Advisory Groups on Maritime Security (SAGMAS) and Aviation Security (SAGAS) as well as Land Transport Security Expert Group (LANDSEC).
- Sectorial initiatives (e.g. Information sharing and Analysis Centres) will also be encouraged as identified in the recently approved Cybersecurity Act;
- Foster the cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences among the transport modes by organising meetings or workshops dedicated to cybersecurity, and bringing together experts from different modes;
- Develop cyber-skills in the transport sector. DG MOVE will support the development of a cybersecurity “toolkit” providing relevant and appropriate knowledge of good cybersecurity practices for transport staff;
- Continue cyber dialogues with third countries and cooperate with international organisations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization.