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**LIMITE**

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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council

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Subject: EU Cyber Census - Progress Report on the Implementation of the EU Policy on Cyber Defence

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1. On 21 March 2022, the Council approved “A Strategic Compass for Security and Defence - For a European Union that protects its citizens, values and interests and contributes to international peace and security” (doc. 7371/22). The Compass aimed inter alia to develop the EU’s Cyber Defence Policy to protect, detect, defend, and deter against cyberattacks.
2. On 10 November 2022, the Commission and the High Representative presented a “Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on EU Policy on Cyber Defence” (doc. 15721/22).
3. On 22 May 2023, the Council approved conclusions on the EU Policy on Cyber Defence (doc. 9618/23). In these conclusions, the High Representative, the Commission, and Member States were invited to “report and discuss yearly on the progress of implementing the elements of the Joint Communication and its implementation plan starting by the second quarter of 2024”.

4. On 19 July 2023, the Council endorsed the Implementation Plan for the EU Policy on Cyber Defence (doc. 11637/23).
5. On 5 March 2024, the PSC took note of the Questionnaire for the Cyber Census on the implementation of the EU Policy on Cyber Defence (doc. 7169/24 R-UE/EU-R). This Questionnaire was subsequently submitted to Member States to help them report on their progress on implementation.
6. On 24 June and 8 July 2024, the EEAS and the Commission presented draft versions of the EU Cyber Census, the progress report on the implementation of the EU Policy on Cyber Defence, in meetings of the Politico-Military Group, reinforced by the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues, and took note of delegations' comments.
7. On 30 August 2024, the Commission and the High Representative submitted to the Council a finalised version of the EU Cyber Census, in the form of a joint staff working document (doc. 12928/24 R-UE/EU-R).
8. On 5 September 2024, the PSC endorsed the EU Cyber Census, with a view to forwarding it to the Council for approval, via the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER).
9. COREPER is therefore invited to approve the "Joint Staff Working Document - EU Cyber Census - Progress Report on the Implementation of the EU Policy on Cyber Defence", as set out in doc. 12928/24 (R-UE/EU-R), and to submit it to the Council for approval.

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