

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Monday 6 May 2019 | Rome, Italy

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

TITLE: “Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS 2020”

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Europe Regional Initiative: EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

Year(s) of implementation: 2020

Background

The previous three editions of the Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS were held in Sofia in 2008, 2012 and 2016. More than 100 delegates from Bulgarian and foreign governmental institutions and NGOs took part in each of the previous regional events and discussed issues related to cybersecurity and information infrastructure management at national, regional and international level as well as the partnership between the state and the private sector.

The last Forum was held in November 2016 in Sofia and it was jointly organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria. The event was designed within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Building Confidence and Security in the Use of Telecommunications/ICTs, adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014, Dubai.

The Forum has made a significant success in discussing and exchanging useful experience on issues related to national cybersecurity strategies. It provided a platform for strengthening the regional cooperation, information sharing, and discussions on cybersecurity with particular focus on National Cybersecurity Strategies and National CSIRT/CIRT/CERT in terms of development approaches, good practices, challenges and opportunities. National policy and decision makers, legislators, regulators, service providers, academia, civil society and other relevant Cybersecurity professionals, from 43 European countries participated in the sessions, promoting constructive dialogue between international and regional organizations, governments, ICT security players and consumers.



In addition, within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the topic was among the priority issues on the agenda and Bulgaria hosted an international conference "Cybersecurity Challenges" in March 2018.

Proposal

The Republic of Bulgaria would like to propose to host the fourth edition of the Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS in 2020 in Sofia. In recent years, the challenges and opportunities we face regarding cybersecurity has become a priority issue, which requires providing a platform for strengthening the regional cooperation as well as exchanging of information and discussions. Emphasizing our government's commitment to create and implement policies for constant improvement of the cybersecurity and based on the excellent results from the previous editions of the Regional Cybersecurity Forum Bulgaria would like to host the fourth edition of the event in 2020. A formal letter on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Rossen Jeliakov to the ITU Secretary General, Mr. Zhao with a proposal to host the Forum was sent in January 2019.

The event will be jointly hosted by the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications and the State e-Government Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria and it will be in accordance with the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies, adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 in Buenos Aires.

We strongly believe that the Regional Cybersecurity Forums provide new perspectives and enhance the generation of new ideas in this area of ever-growing importance. The multi-stakeholder approach in the organization of the forums contributes to better policy-making and policy implementation and thus gives special value to the event.

The Republic of Bulgaria states its readiness to contribute actively to the organisation and hosting of the fourth edition of the Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS in 2020 in Sofia.

