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## The first European Cyber Security Month starts today across Europe; “Be Aware, Be Secure”

**For the first time, a European Cyber Security Month takes place as a pilot project across Europe. In this first pilot, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Portugal, and the UK are participating with various activities and events throughout October, to raise awareness of cyber security.**

The objectives of the European Cyber Security Month (ECSM) are to promote cyber security awareness among citizens, to modify their perception of cyber threats, and to provide updated security information through education, good practices and competitions. A diverse range of activities will be held throughout Europe. They include: TV and daily radio advertisements; social media campaigns and quizzes with prizes; news articles; conferences; student fairs; and an NGO round table to discuss protection of children online.

The Executive Director of ENISA, Professor Udo Helmbrecht comments:

*“This first European Cyber Security Month is a Europe-wide campaign to become smarter online. Having one, single month focusing on cyber security makes it easier to get the message across. This campaign increases citizen’s confidence in the security of the Internet, helping to reduce the number of cyber incidents and breaches. In the end, this is vital for the success of the digital economy in Europe.”*

Vice President and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, Nellie Kroes comments; “*We all have a stake in keeping the Internet safe. Whether you are a parent, a business owner, or just someone who loves their smartphone – the same principles apply. Be aware, use common sense. I am pleased that so many are supporting European Cyber Security Month – a great way to present these issues to the general public in a fun and engaging way.*”

### **ECSM Material**

ENISA has developed a range of free material (e.g. a video clip, an animated logo, a logo in 23 languages) to support the countries participating in ECSM. This material is an important way of reaching people and getting them to change, or reinforce, their behaviour. The material also includes: tips and advice on how to stay safe in a variety of online settings, such as on social networking site, gaming sites, and on mobile devices. For more material.

### **Background:**

The European Commission’s Digital Agenda for Europe, action point 32

The EU –US Working Group on Cyber security and Cybercrime (See EU press release)

The ENISA 2011 ECSM feasibility study evaluated 130 cyber security events in Europe and identified their success factors.

**For interviews:** Graeme Cooper, Head of Public Affairs, Mobile phone: +306951782268, [press@enisa.europa.eu](mailto:press@enisa.europa.eu), or, Isabella Santa, Expert, [awareness@enisa.europa.eu](mailto:awareness@enisa.europa.eu)

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