Cyber-security: Hype or real threat?

The 7th Vienna Forum on European Energy Law – One Step Beyond

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The European Energy Sector

• Undergoing radical change
• Transition to low carbon economy
• Decentralisation & renewable energy sources
• Digitalisation
• Smart Grids

➤ Increased risk of cyber-attacks!
Is the energy sector special in cybersecurity implementation?

**Horizontal cybersecurity legislation**

|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|

**Cybersecurity in energy legislation**

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Real time requirements
Cascading effect
Technology mix

**Actions**

- Network Code (EG2 preparatory work)
- Risk Preparedness

**Stakeholder consultations - 2018**

Outcome

- Information sharing
- Guidance on NIS implementation
- Guidance beyond NIS

Actions

- Events, Workshops, EE - ISAC
- Work stream 8 – NIS Cooperation Group
- Commission Recommendation C(2019)2400 final
Commission Recommendation C(2019) 2400 final on cybersecurity in the energy sector

Identifies actions required to address the particularities of the energy sector

**Real-time requirements**

...simply cannot be addressed by standard cyber security solutions like authentication or encryption.

**Cascading effects**

...can trigger black-outs in other sectors and countries.

**Technology mix**

...creates risks from legacy components designed when cyber security was not an issue, and from new Internet-of-Things devices not made with cyber security in mind.

Calls Member States to ensure that the relevant stakeholders take the necessary measures and encourage them to build up **knowledge and skills** related to cybersecurity in energy.
Political Guidelines of the President-Elect

• **Digitalisation** of the energy sector is connecting the European Commission’s objectives of "A Europe fit for the digital age" to the **European Green Deal**, bringing new business opportunities, and strengthening technological leadership.

• Despite all of these advantages, digitalisation also brings **new challenges** for the energy sector, especially on cybersecurity.

• **Digitalisation and cybersecurity are two sides of the same coin.**
Thank you for your attention!

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