



Auswärtiges Amt



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## **Study Visit to Brussels as part of the initiative for Advancing Cyber Security with ECOWAS**

**12 - 13 December 2022**

**ACE Events, Avenue d'Auderghem 22, Brussels**

### **Background and goals of the meeting**

The Study visit is part of the broader initiative to implement the ECOWAS Action Plan for Advancing Cyber Security, which aims to explore how cross-regional exchanges can strengthen cyber diplomatic capacities, cyber resilience of critical infrastructure, protection of vulnerable communities and sovereignty of data.

The visit also aims to promote discussion about inter-regional cooperation in cyberspace, including by exchanging information and best practices, and to generate a comprehensive understanding of the benefits and opportunities arising from international partnerships in the area of cybersecurity .

The outcomes of the Study Visit are intended to deepen the cooperation between the EU and ECOWAS regions, as well as to enhance cyber resilience in West Africa, including through the full implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan.

Participants in the Study Visit are senior government officials and technical experts from ECOWAS member states. They represent different national ministries and agencies, including ministries of ICT, justice, national security and foreign affairs.

# Agenda

## 12 December 2022

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration and welcome coffee
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and opening remarks
- 9:30 – 11:00 **The EU's approach to strengthening cyber resilience**
- This session will focus on key legislative developments around supply chain security and critical infrastructure protection, including changes brought by Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2), Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA), Cyber Resilience Act and 5G Toolbox.
- Speaker **Lars-Erik Forsberg**, Deputy Head of Unit, International Relations, Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Role of ENISA in the EU's cyber ecosystem**
- Speaker TBD, ENISA
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Cyber resilience in the EU's international partnerships, digitalisation and cybersecurity agenda**
- This session will focus on how cyber and connectivity issues fit within the EU's agenda in Africa, including the implementation of the Global Gateway.
- Speaker **Peter Wagner**, Director, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)
- Tomasz Husak**, Adviser on Digital Agenda and Data Technologies, International Partnerships, European Commission
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

- 15:30 – 17:00 **Role of member states in shaping the EU’s cyber policies**
- This session will be an opportunity for exchanges between the EU and ECOWAS Member States
- Speaker **Jakub Otčenášek**, Chair of the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues, Presidency of the Council of the EU, Czechia
- Mikaela Rönnerman**, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union
- Discussion with other present EU Member States
- 17:00 – 18:30 Closed meeting between ECOWAS, Germany and DG INTPA concerning the implementation of the Action Plan
- 19:00 – 21:00 **Cocktail Reception at the Comic Art Museum**
- Rue des Sables 20, Brussels

## 13 December 2022

- 9:00 – 10:30 **The EU’s approach to securing democracy in the digital age**
- This session will address the link between cybersecurity and the functioning of democracies, including the challenges and responses to the fight against disinformation and foreign interference.
- Speakers **Lutz Guellner**, Head of Strategic Communication, EEAS
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30 **The EU’s approach to cybercrime, including the EU’s position on the UN cybercrime treaty negotiations**
- This session will address regulatory and institutional approaches to addressing cybercrime, in particular the access and handling of electronic evidence and data protection aspect of international cybercrime cooperation.
- Speakers **Ralf Sauer**, Deputy Head of Unit, International data flows and protection, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Michele Socco**, Security in the digital age, DG Migration and Home affairs, European Commission

12:30 – 13:30 Working lunch

13:30 – 14:30 **Role of the European Cybercrime Centre**

Speaker **Philipp Amann**, Head of Strategy, European Cybercrime Centre

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:30 **The EU's cyber and digital diplomacy, including human rights online**

This session will present the EU's main achievements in cyber and digital diplomacy, including most recent developments in cyber defence or digital diplomacy. Particular focus will be on opportunities for strengthening cooperation in these domains at the bilateral and global levels.

Speaker **Wiktor Staniecki**, Deputy Head of Division, Security and defence policy, European External Action Service

**David Ringrose**, Head of Division, Connectivity and digital transition, European External Action Service

16:30 – 17:00 **Closing remarks**

ECOWAS Secretariat

Germany