

Comments on Future Work of the Intergovernmental Expert Group (IEG) on Cybercrime

Austria aligns with the EU comments on the future work of the Expert Group. In our national capacity, we wish to make some additional remarks.

Austria firmly supports the position that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) should renew the mandate of the Expert Group beyond 2021 as a platform for experts and practitioners in the field of cybercrime to exchange information and best practices.

Whether the IEG is extended in its current form or a new forum for facilitating this expert exchange is established, future meetings should take place in Vienna, as the hub for international cooperation in all criminal matters and combatting cybercrime in particular. The UN seat is host to the necessary expertise and can be considered a repository of knowledge on the subject.

The CCPCJ should continue to have leadership over the expert-driven forum. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna is the right entity to take this work forward, both in terms of its mandate and its expert knowledge.

Furthermore, we are ready to actively engage in the new process of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. However, Austria does not hold the view that the negotiation of a new convention on cybercrime is comparable to the exchange among experts in the field, which has been made possible through the IEG. A Vienna-based platform is needed that is separate from the political discussions on cybercrime policies and that allows practitioners to connect and share practical experiences from around the world.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion on these matters at the seventh meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 6 to 8 April 2021.