

# Openforum europe

open, competitive choice for IT users

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European Commission

Re: Board of Directors of the Cybersecurity PPP

[OpenForum Europe](#) (OFE) is a not-for-profit, independent European based think tank which focuses on openness within the IT sector. As member of the Multi Stakeholder Platform for ICT Standardisation (MSP), we have actively contributed to the discussions on cybersecurity and have closely followed all the policy-developments around NIS, providing input to the WGs work when necessary. Recently we have submitted a response and a letter for the public consultation on cybersecurity Public-Private Partnership (cPPP).

In that letter, OFE welcomed the high level objectives of the public-private partnership of ensuring a dynamic and efficient market that would allow end users to efficiently protect themselves, would ensure enough market flexibility to allow rapid response to new technologies and would stimulate competition and cooperation through mechanisms such as common reference architectures and open standards, with a view to encourage interoperability without stifling innovation.

However, it was recently brought to our attention that around the ongoing discussion on the creation of a European cPPP and the setting up of a dedicated support association, only EU headquartered companies would be eligible to join the Board of Directors of this Association, which will be established and will act as the key decision-making voice in Europe.

As the Commission is looking for improvements to reach the objectives enumerated above, OFE considers that these limiting criteria of any kind would constitute a barrier to the development of

businesses' opportunities and citizens' rights equally, slowing down the required openness in a modernised digital economy. In this global, fast-changing ICT market such as cybersecurity, successful, effective solutions are addressed by encouraging global collaboration, cooperation and competition, not by isolation or exclusion of certain players. This is particularly true in cyber, where threats know no boundaries and a global collaborative effort and information sharing is absolutely essential. Within ICT standardisation, the MSP set up by the Commission can be seen as an example of encouraging global cooperation and collaboration with excellent results and progress. Key to its success has been the direct involvement of the global community from the very start.

If Europe is aiming to lead the global digital economy and develop a secure environment where the users are put at the centre, we would suggest it is essential to foster an open and inclusive culture. No matter where the solutions come from.

*[OpenForum Europe](#) (OFE) is a not-for-profit, independent European based organisation which focuses on openness within the IT sector. We draw our support not only from some of the most influential global industry players, including Google, IBM, Oracle and Red Hat, but most importantly from across the European SME and consumer organisations and the open community. OFE also hosts a think tank, focussed around our global network of [OpenForum Academy Fellows](#), each contributing significant innovative thought leadership on core topics. Views expressed by OFE do not necessarily reflect those held by all its supporters.*