



**CEPIS**  
Council of European Professional  
Informatics Societies

## PRESS RELEASE

### CEPIS calls for the 'right to encrypt' in response to a draft resolution on Encryption-Security in the Council of Ministers

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 1 December, 2020

CEPIS' [Legal and Security Issues Special Interest Network](#) (LSI SIN) calls for the rejection of a planned resolution in the Council of Ministers, which would grant authorities special access to encrypted communication between EU citizens. The special access, or 'master key', will weaken end-to-end encryption, and endangers digitisation in Europe, the LSI network warns:

*"The initiative endangers not only the informational self-determination of EU citizens but also the protection of company and business secrets. Undermining the efforts towards legally binding corporate communication by weakening encryption, is ultimately hindering the necessary digitalisation of the European economy (...)."*

For this reason, the LSI Network and CEPIS call on the German Federal Government as the current Council Chair, the European Commission, and the European Parliament to vehemently oppose this proposal to weaken end-to-end encryption and instead advocate a European "right to encryption". A "master key", as demanded by the Council of Ministers draft, undermines trust in such encryption and endangers the growth of the European ICT industry and the goal of European technological sovereignty.

The European Commission and Parliament are also called upon to stand up for European data protection. With the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the EU has managed in recent years to create a competitive advantage for the European digital economy and laid the foundations for its technological sovereignty.

Additionally, it is possible to fight terrorism and other forms of serious crime consistently, but backdoors in communication services cannot be the solution for this. Anyone who weakens encryption weakens ICT security. Namely, criminals can switch to services that cannot be reached with EU laws. A solution could also be to include more qualified employees in authorities who can investigate in the digital space.

The full paper may be found [here](#) through the CEPIS website.

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#### ABOUT CEPIS

The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS) is a non-profit organisation seeking to improve and promote a high standard among ICT professionals, in recognition of the impact that ICT has on employment, business, and society. CEPIS currently represents 33 member societies in 32 countries across greater Europe. Through its members, which are the professional ICT bodies at national level, CEPIS represents 450,000 ICT professionals.

Established in 1989, CEPIS has since grown to become the independent authority on - and network for - ICT Professionalism in Europe.

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