SYMPOSIUM

Ambassade d'Estonie
Paris

Institut
EGA

Democracy in the age of cyber threats

Building preparedness

4 November 2026
3:00-5:00 PM
17 rue de la Baume, 75008 Paris

A cocktail reception will follow

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Presentation

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In a security environment increasingly shaped by hybrid threats, European societies are facing growing exposure to cyber operations targeting critical infrastructure, digital systems and public trust. The rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing the nature of these threats, expanding the attack surface available to state and non-state actors and enabling malicious operations to be conducted, automated and scaled with unprecedented speed and reach.

Cyber threats are increasingly part of a broader ecosystem combining intrusions into digital infrastructure, data collection and exploitation, automated networks, artificial intelligence and information manipulation. This convergence poses a growing challenge to European societies, one that requires State actors, institutions and private actors to work together in order to safeguard European interests.

In this context, Estonia's experience is particularly relevant. Having faced various forms of cyber threats and foreign interference for many years, Estonia has developed a comprehensive approach to resilience, built around digital security, the protection of critical infrastructure, public awareness and cooperation between public and private actors. Organised in partnership with the Embassy of Estonia in France, this conference will bring together French and Estonian institutional representatives, experts and practitioners to examine the evolving cyber threat landscape and the responses that can be developed at both national and European levels.

Europe stands at a crossroad. The aim of this conference is to bring the French and Estonian experiences into dialogue and to identify the capabilities and forms of cooperation needed to move from a reactive approach towards greater anticipation, preparedness and operational countermeasures against cyber threats and their convergence with information manipulation.

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3:00 - 3:10 PM

Opening Remarks

M. Viljar Lubi, Ambassador of Estonia to France

Today, Estonia ranks fifth in the National Cyber Security Index (NCSI). Drawing on Estonia's experience since the major cyberattacks of 2007, the Ambassador's opening remarks will examine the country's approach to cybersecurity, digital resilience and foreign interference.

3:10 - 3:30 PM

Keynote: *Understanding cybercompetition in a fractured global order*

Fabrice Bru, president of CESIN (Club des Experts de la Sécurité de l'Information et du Numérique**)**

3:30 - 4:50 PM

Factoring democracy and strategic imperatives: Europe at a crossroad

Moderator : Amine Baba Aissa, Cyberwarfare journalist at Numerama

- **Dr Tiia Sõmer**, postdoctoral researcher - TalTech Estonian Maritime Academy
- **Jean Heilbronn**, Sud-director of Cybersecurity, Directorate for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Christian Ipoli Felho,** Chief information security officer (GEODIS) and founder and executive director (C4Cyber)

As cyber operations, information manipulation and emerging technologies increasingly converge, the resilience of democratic societies is being tested in new and interconnected ways. Bringing together perspectives from Estonia and France, this roundtable will explore how European countries, institutions and private actors can respond to this evolving threat landscape while balancing their respective intests with the collective security imperatives.

The roundtable will place particular emphasis on the various dimensions of the challenge, including economic impact and the imperative of responding to this evolving threat landscape while safeguarding democratic institutions and public trust. Ultimately, it will ask what strategic posture Europe must adopt at this crossroad, questioning its ability to identify the capabilities and forms of cooperation needed to move from a reactive approach towards greater anticipation, preparedness and operational countermeasures.

4:50- 5:00 PM

Closing remarks: *Getting ready for what is coming after*

- **Clotilde Bômont**, Senior Policy analyst in charge of the Cyber and Digital technologies, EUISS
- **Yohan Briant**, directeur général de l'Institut d'études de géopolitique appliquée (Iega)