

Press release 5SECD, 26 May 2016

The fifth meeting of the Sino-European Cyber Dialogue (SECD) was convened on 10-11 May 2016 in Oslo, Norway. The meeting was hosted by the [Norwegian Institute of International Affairs](#), [China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations](#) (CICIR) and [The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies](#). SECD is supported by the Chinese government, a number of European governments as well as the [European External Action Service](#).

Overall, thirty-one participants and a number of observers attended the meeting. Eleven European countries were represented, as well as one EU institution, with particular emphasis on foreign ministry cyber policy coordinators and civil society experts. As in previous discussions, delegates concentrated on issues relevant to international cybersecurity (the political military dimension), including aspects of data security as well as Internet governance.

There was engaged discussion on matters covered by the report of the 4th UN Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, such as the application of international law, norms of responsible State behavior, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and cyber capacity building (CCB), and was complemented by discussions on the preferred mechanisms and forums, as well as matters pertaining to data protection, deterrence, and combating cybercrime. Moreover, both parties addressed the importance of critical infrastructure protection and national risk management. The delegates stressed the importance of a reliable functioning of cyberspace, and recognized the value that open dialogues and other practical CBMs have on enhancing mutual understanding, cooperation and de-escalation, and in ensuring the overall stability of cyberspace.

On Internet governance-related issues, the IANA transition and the ICANN reforms were discussed and regarded as a positive development towards a more globalized ICANN that is accountable to all stakeholders. Both sides agreed future challenges will remain, such as wider stakeholders participation from developing countries. Both sides agreed that more attention needed to be paid to the role of the developing world in accessing the Internet and participating in its governance. Capacity development programs towards this end were discussed and widely considered to be to the benefit of all actors.

Moving beyond the ICANN reforms, the delegates discussed if Internet governance was entering a new phase of development. There was agreement that while Internet security and cyber security should remain separate, better mutual understanding was needed.

Looking forward, delegates discussed the merits of exploring de-escalatory measures in times of crisis, and the benefits of more concrete discussions on how to best apply international law to cyberspace.

In conclusion, both sides expressed hope that SECD could continue to help build transparency and trust between both sides and agreed that it could be worthwhile to examine further modes of cooperation between Europe and China on international cybersecurity and related issues.