

Delegation: Ireland

Commission: Cybersecurity

Issue: How to create a stable framework considering the intensity of the rising threats considering the rights, the competitiveness and the state sovereignty

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) was created in 2011 and has been developed since. Though it is quite recent, it employs about 19,000 people. The Irish government wants to improve their performances to ensure efficient protection of various documents, such as governmental information or business documents. Since the beginning of 2021, Ireland has begun to change its relationship with cybersecurity because of the ransomware attack on the health service executive.

This trauma made Michael D. Higgins, the president at that time, change the Irish approach to this new technology. The NCSC knew the attack would affect them but they couldn't stop it. The country wants to increase the number of professionals by 10,000 by 2030, therefore reinforcing their workforce.

After the incident some internal friction appeared since the government created the National Cyber Security Bill 2024 for protection and they decided to supervise all business confidential documents without consulting the firms. Some of them like the Irish Council of Liberties or the Digital Rights Ireland decided to raise alarms and warn the other companies about this because it is a violation of the rights of privacy and stability within the companies. The government stated this act as proportionate to prevent other cyberattacks like the one in 2021.

In November 2025, Ireland signed the Declaration of European Digital Sovereignty and stated that these new technologies shouldn't be the tools for the so-called protectionism and mass surveillance as it affects democracy and citizen privacy. The government made it clear that these new technologies should respect the fundamental rights of human beings. Even if Ireland wants to have a common cybersecurity system within Europe - like the NIS2 - but they also represent the bridge between the US and Europe that is why they want to have a healthy competitive relationship with the United States without having restrictive borders. Ireland welcomes over 900 different firms from the USA, they offer proper protection thanks to the NCSC and attracts more and more international businesses.

The Irish government also reduces the average demand of taxes and opens the door to Europe for foreign companies. On the other hand, it also gives a lot of help for the European Union participating in programmes such as the NIS2. The NIS2 is a programme that covers various countries in Europe and creates a pillar for the unity of the European Union. However, given the enormous cost of this programme it is not yet approved by the Irish government and it is in the list for Parliament to consider. Ireland has other projects through Europe such as the Cyber4AM which welcomes now employees from Germany, the objective of this project is to boost the cybersecurity of the SMEs (Small or Medium-size Enterprises) of this country.

The growing competitiveness could damage the rigorous process they have to do to ensure protection and respect the laws. Considering what was said previously, Ireland remains flexible on this matter since they already host various firms from the US which both helps the economy and builds a strong relationship between the two countries. Ireland also understands if other countries in difficulties have their own law and accommodations

because it could be expensive to have a narrow-minded policy since the US helps a lot of countries in economical difficulty.

Regarding the complexity of surveillance and protection, the new government in Ireland states that they will not use the excuse of security and protection to censor and exert mass surveillance in the country. They claim this Cyber Security Bill 2024 is currently using private information to “protect” the citizens and affirm that this programme is only necessary. The National Cyber Security Bill 2024 has the right to copy documents such as confidential or private to scan the documents in case they could contain dangerous information.

To summarize what was said previously, Ireland is a country who is not biased with this topic and has ideas for both a common cause and law in the European Union and a nuance for each country so that they can have a certain autonomy and can take decisions for their own country.