

I-ENERGYLINK REPRESENTATIVES ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE CYBERSTAND ANNUAL EVENT ON IMPACTING CRA: DEFINING STANDARDS FOR THE FUTURE

19th June 2025, Carina Ioana NITA

I-ENERGYLINK representatives had an active participation in the CYBERSTAND.eu Project Annual Event titled "*Impacting CRA: Defining Standards for the Future.*" The Event, taking place at a highly relevant moment for European Cybersecurity, brought together key stakeholders from industry, policy, standardisation bodies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and research communities to address the next phase of the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) implementation. With Europe advancing from Horizontal Standards towards vertical, sector-specific standards, this gathering aims to align efforts and define clear pathways for future CRA-related standardisation.

Over 140 delegates of which about 50 attended physically the CYBERSTAND Annual Event organized on 19th of June 2025, at the Autoworld Parc du Cinquantaire in Brussels, and Online. The Agenda highlighted key topics such as: Vision for a Cyber-Resilient Single Market; CRA Status, Implementation, and Next Steps; Essential Requirements of the CRA; Pathways to Compliance; Navigating CRA Compliance: Support Initiatives and Resources; Product Specific Standards; The CRA and Challenges for SMEs; and Risk Management and Assessment.

Dr. Mihai PAUN – Founder of I-ENERGYLINK presented CYBERFORT Project Objectives, Consortium and the four complementary Pilot Use Cases under implementation and contributed to the panel discussion highlighting key topics during the Session on "*Navigating CRA Compliance: Support Initiatives and Resources.*" He outlined the CYBERFORT – "*Strengthening Cyber Defenses of SMEs for Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) Compliance*" EU-funded Project and provided his views in order to help organisations and especially SMEs to meet the CRA requirements. He addressed tools and support from I-ENERGYLINK in CYBERFORT to help SMEs and open-source developers to comply with the CRA. "*The key focus is on making CRA requirements easier to understand and apply through practical and accessible resources. As these requirements come into force, it becomes crucial to establish clear, practical, and harmonised standards that can guide in achieving compliance while maintaining competitiveness and innovation*" concluded Mihai PAUN.



The Cyber Resilience Act, as the first EU-wide legislation introducing mandatory cybersecurity requirements for hardware and software products, establishes strict obligations for manufacturers and providers to ensure the security of their products throughout their entire lifecycle.

The CYBERSTAND Annual Event provides an excellent platform to foster this collaboration. Among the various sessions, participants were updated on the current CRA status, implementation roadmap, and upcoming challenges in standard alignment. Experts presented practical demonstrations on how to apply the essential requirements of the CRA with real-world examples, offering clarity on complex regulatory language. Dedicated sessions addressed multiple pathways to compliance, while emphasising the role of harmonised standards in simplifying compliance efforts.

Breakout discussions explored sector-specific standardisation priorities, addressed the unique compliance challenges faced by SMEs, and assessed risk management methodologies that can support resilient Cybersecurity Ecosystems. These interactive exchanges were designed to produce concrete Policy Recommendations and Standardisation proposals that will inform future European Cybersecurity Frameworks.

CYBERFORT's participation in this flagship Event demonstrates its ongoing commitment to supporting SMEs in navigating the complexities of the CRA, while contributing to the broader European Cybersecurity Standardisation Landscape. By sharing its expertise and collaborating with peers, CYBERFORT aims to ensure that the specific needs of SMEs are fully represented in the evolving CRA framework.

The Event also offered a unique opportunity for CYBERFORT representatives to engage directly with policymakers, contribute to shaping the ongoing CRA discussions, and further strengthen its position within the European Cybersecurity Community.

The CYBERFORT Project funded by the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC), under the Digital Europe Programme, with the Topic: DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA, started its implementation on 1st December 2024. The Project gathers a robust and complementary International Consortium from Cyprus and Romania - 8 Consortium Partners Organizations. The European Consortium Partners is coordinated by I-ENERGYLINK (RO) working together with BOLTON TECHNOLOGIES (CY), CLONE SYSTEMS (CY), COLUMBIA SHIPMANAGEMENT (CY), DEALIO LIMITED (CY), ROMANIAN NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY DIRECTORATE (RO), ELIAS NEOCLEOUS (CY) and EXIMPROD ENGINEERING (RO).

I-ENERGYLINK is an **Innovation and Development** focused **Organization**, active in the **Energy Sector Development and Digitalisation** at European and International level. **I-ENERGYLINK's** mission is accelerating clean energy by supporting innovative solutions that most effectively increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consolidate the regulatory framework and improve overall power systems reliability.

