

This session, moderated by **Mr. Fabian Bahr**, started with an impulse speech by **Dr. Kai Martius**.

Further, **Mr. Jeton Shaqiri**, Minister for Information Society and Administration of North Macedonia, in his opening remarks told that the priorities of the new government in North Macedonia are economic development and raising the living standards of citizens. Currently, the country is transposing EU directives related to cyber security into national legislation. Mr. Shaqiri stressed the need for close cooperation between government and the private sector, to provide reliable electronic services, for citizens and the administration itself.

Mr. Dušan Polović, from ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro, stressed the importance of interaction and trusted services for the region. In this context, Montenegro is part of several projects to improve cyber security and data exchange, and has taken measures to transpose EU legislation and implement it. An important step in this direction was the approval last year of law on the definition and protection of critical infrastructure in the country.

Mrs. Mirlinda Karçanaj, from National Agency on Information Society, Albania, emphasized the task of the NAIS in cyber security of all public services which are found and accessed online. She presented the initiatives undertaken by NAIS starting from 2013, to protect government services and at the same time the users of these services, from possible cyber-attacks.

Mr. Mihailo Jovanović, from Prime Minister Office, Serbia, underlined the importance of digitalization, especially in this period where the whole world is facing the pandemic situation. He stressed the importance of the government in ensuring the inviolability of all critical infrastructure, big data, cloud services, etc., emphasizing the need for cooperation between all actors. Regional cooperation is a factor that can make a difference, both for the region as a whole and for individual countries. Economic and political cooperation will also serve to share knowledge in digitalization and ICT.

Ms. Ivana Šarić, from General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, showed that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a complicated situation in terms of electronic government systems. There is no legislation in the field of electronic communications and cyber security, and currently the government cooperates with private entrepreneurs to provide these services. Ms. Šarić stressed that regional cooperation is very important for Bosnia and Herzegovina, both in terms of data exchange and interaction.