The GSMA welcomes the EU proposal establishing a European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and a network of National Coordination Centres. Given the importance of strengthening the global competitiveness of Europe’s cybersecurity capacities, the proposal is an important mechanism for distributing funding across the cybersecurity value chain.

The creation of a European-based community dedicated to stimulating cybersecurity industrial capacity-building is key to achieve a truly robust EU cybersecurity resiliency. In order to reach this objective, it is of the utmost importance that only entities established within the Union can become accredited members of the Cybersecurity Competence Community. Therefore, the GSMA strongly supports the European Commission’s proposal.

The GSMA appreciates the inclusion of industry in the governance of the European Cybersecurity Network via the Industrial and Scientific Advisory Board and recognises that this body will perform solely advisory functions. However, we express concerns on the capability of a 16-member body to genuinely represent the views of the industry as a whole. Such representation can only be guaranteed if the advisory board reflects the entire cybersecurity value chain, of which the telecommunication industry is a core component. Telecom operators are not only key players in the mobile industry but also serve a crucial role in the research and development of cybersecurity tools, infrastructures and standards.

Finally, the GSMA realises that funding for the proposed European Cybersecurity Network and Competence Centre depends upon the outcome of negotiations concerning the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. As no mechanism can function without the requisite resources, we call on policy makers to ensure that the allocations proposed by the Commission from the Digital Europe programme and the “Inclusive and Secure Society” cluster of the Horizon Europe Programme, are made available for this important initiative.

In this era of increasing digitalisation, mobility and interconnectivity across all aspects of society, it is crucial that policy makers prioritise digital and cyber issues in the EU agenda so that the future security of Europe and its citizens stands on a strong foundation.