

SUMMARY

CYBERSECURITY-BY-DESIGN IN THE NETHERLANDS BY 2035

That is the ambition behind this Action Agenda. It is an ambition rooted in reality. All levels of society are undergoing rapid digital transformation, which now underpins our energy supply, health care, vital infrastructure, transport, manufacturing, communications and innovation. While this development delivers economic growth and social progress, it also creates new vulnerabilities to hacking by criminals and state actors. Cyber threats are therefore set to rise as society continues to digitalise. And as attacks grow in scale, so too does the damage they cause. The risks are not only financial – they strike at the heart of our private lives and democratic foundations. Cybersecurity is therefore a matter of urgency.

The Netherlands has the means to take a structural approach to cybersecurity. We can use our robust knowledge economy, world-leading in some areas, to improve our cyber resilience and respond effectively to cyber attacks. But we know that prevention is better than cure. The reality is that cybersecurity was never a priority in the design of much of the technology we have come to rely on today. That is why this Action Agenda focuses not just on improving cyber resilience, but on 'cybersecurity by design': embedding security in the design of systems, products and digital services.

This Action Agenda sets out three action lines for the next years. The first seeks to drive a sector-wide and regional transition to cybersecurity by design through the targeted stimulation of public-private partnerships aimed at secure-by-design solutions. Businesses, knowledge institutions and public authorities will collaborate on cyber resilience and a transition from patch-finding to secure design by default.

The second line focuses on developing new technologies and methodologies, tapping into the urgent need for research and development in terms of cybersecurity by design and the role of autonomous systems. Investments will enable Dutch companies to enter new markets by transforming these technologies and methodologies into globally high-demand services and products. Thirdly, the Action Agenda aims to create underlying structures and infrastructure, such as human capital and developing test labs, to support the previous second line.

Investing in technological development, and applying the technology this yields, is the backbone of this Action Agenda. The NTS Cybersecurity Technologies focuses primarily on developing, demonstrating and scaling technologies that structurally enhance cybersecurity. Targeted investments are required to establish a technological foundation for cybersecurity-by-design. The Action Agenda Cybersecurity Technologies coordinates and strengthens existing regional, national and European instruments, ensuring they provide the best possible support for technological development and accelerate uptake in sectors and chains. While better use of existing knowledge is key to achieving progress, structural technological breakthroughs will require additional effort and long-term investment.

