

Permanent Monitoring Panel on Information Security
Report from the Co-Chairs
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In the 2008/2009 period, the PMP concentrated its work on a few key events and documents. It also successfully broadened its international networking, essential in an area so dependent on global reflection and action.

In the final weeks of 2009, the group worked on putting together a high-level gathering on the topic "Harnessing Cyber Conflict: The Quest for Cyber Peace". The subject of cyber security had been selected by the WFS as the theme of the Scientific Session traditionally following the Award Ceremony of the Erice Peace Prize, this time in its 2007 edition. The event was organized jointly by the WFS and the Papal Academy of Sciences and took place Dec.17, 2008 at the Vatican. The panel of speakers included, apart from members of the PMP, the Secretary General of the ITU, the head of the new Cyber Defence Programme of NATO and other prestigious experts. The presentations are available in a special segment of the PMP's website at www.unibw.de/infosecur which can also be accessed from the WFS home page.

In its themes and substance, the Rome meeting was a follow-up to the Plenary meeting at the International Seminars in August last year on "The Crisis in Internet Security" (now available in the records of the 40th session), and was, in turn followed by the session entitled "Cyber Conflict v. Cyber Stability: Finding a Path to Cyber Peace" which we put together for this year's Seminar. The three events, especially if viewed together, demonstrate the recent dramatic rise in cyber threats: the tremendous growth in actual attacks, the new magnitude of societal vulnerabilities, the growing sophistication and financial power of organized cyber crime, and the threats not only to the stability of digital systems and networks, but to the stability of our societies as a whole. There has occurred a quantum jump in risk, and a shift of concern from mere economic exposure to cybercrime, to the more comprehensive notion of cyber conflict, including cyberwar. The focus of the work of the PMP has accordingly shifted to dealing with cyber conflict and the requirements of cyber stability. There has also emerged the concept of cyberpeace – a term which we ourselves felicitously coined for the Rome meeting. Cyberpeace, meant to be a

positive concept as an important ingredient of a universal order of cyberspace, will need to be fleshed out further in our work.

During the year, the PMP has produced two major documents. Both designed to generate greater public awareness and dedicated action by important cyber stakeholders. Our document "Top Cyber Security Problems That Need Resolution" was circulated at the Rome session and then presented at an ITU meeting in Geneva in May of 2009; it is available on the PMP website. The ITU has incorporated the paper in its work on the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). We intend to update the document periodically, and to broaden its distribution world-wide.

The other document is the Erice Declaration on Principles for Cyber Stability and Cyber Peace adopted by this session and to be given wide international distribution. The Secretary General of ITU, an associate member of our group, has offered to send the document on his own behalf to all ITU member countries and to the UN Secretary General. It is our hope that the document will set in motion national and international action as required and that WFS members will also distribute it to their national political leaders, urging their attention to the Declaration.

Both documents, the one on Top Cyber Security Problems, and the Declaration, are annexed to this Report.

Following the Rome meeting, the Secretary General of ITU – who significantly took part in, and spoke, at the three major meetings mentioned above, has invited the PMP to co-author an ITU book entitled "The Quest for Cyberpeace" – borrowing the formula from our Rome event. We have accepted the invitation and will provide large portions of the manuscript with a view to publication of the book in 2010. We will also continue to develop, in concert with other organizations, the ITU's planned Toolkit for the Promotion of a Global Culture of Cybersecurity.

As regards further international networking and participation in international events, two members of the PMP have again been prominent participants in the so-called ITU Cluster of meetings on ICT and information security in Geneva in May. One member of the PMP participated in a Conference of the Council of Europe on Cyberterrorism and another has participated in various ITU regional events on its Global Cybersecurity Agenda. Several members have published articles in recognized journals, identifying their role in the WFS and the PMP.

Broadening our PMP membership and knowledge base, we have invited the three outside speakers at this year's cyber security session to become associate members of the PMP which they have accepted.

A successful cybersecurity policy depends vitally on raising awareness of the threats among all stakeholders, including civil society in its broadest sense. We are thus undertaking not only a further upgrading of our website, but also plan to create a cybersecurity portal that can link us up with academia and the younger generation.