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Answer given by Mr Breton
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.4.2020)

On 26 March 2019, the Commission published a Recommendation (EU) 2019/534,¹ for Member States to take concrete actions to assess cybersecurity risks of 5G networks and to strengthen risk mitigation measures. As envisaged in the Recommendation, the Commission, with the help of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and the Network and Information Systems (NIS) Cooperation Group Work Stream on 5G, presented a coordinated European risk assessment on 9 October 2019.² The report does not target a particular supplier or a particular country. The Commission's goal is to create an objective process and a common European approach to identify threats and vulnerabilities and mitigate risks. On the basis of this EU-wide risk assessment, on 29 January 2020 the NIS Cooperation Group has adopted a voluntary set of security measures ('toolbox').

Member States agreed to ensure that they have measures in place (including relevant powers for national authorities) to respond appropriately and proportionately to the risk already identified as well as possible future risks. In particular, the toolbox provides that Member States should be able to restrict, prohibit and/or impose specific requirements and conditions, in accordance with a risk-based approach, for the supply, deployment, and operation of 5G network equipment.

Each Member State remains responsible for deciding which measures to adopt to mitigate the identified risks, based on the risk assessment, as identified in the toolbox.

On 3 December 2019 the European Council adopted conclusions on “The significance of 5G to the European Economy and the need to mitigate security risks linked to 5G”. The Commission welcomes these conclusions that link cybersecurity to the economic significance of 5G. A strategic approach to technology and industrial leadership is required. In this regard, the Commission is preparing a strategic European partnership on Smart Networks and Services, including beyond 5G/towards 6G, under Horizon Europe, to meet the technological sovereignty challenge.

¹ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/534 of 26 March 2019 on Cybersecurity of 5G networks

² Report on EU coordinated risk assessment of 5G, 9 October 2019
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6049