An important win for cybersecurity: European Parliament votes in favour of Article 45 compromise

Today the European Parliament plenary voted in favour of the eIDAS text put forward by the ITRE committee and rapporteur Romana Jerkovic. This text includes a clause in Article 45 that is critical to cybersecurity, protecting the independence and integrity of browser root store programs. Such a clause will help ensure that QWACs and certificate authorities will need to meet rigorous security standards prior to being supported and accepted in root stores, providing a key avenue to mitigate cybersecurity risks.

Why celebrate? The original proposal by the European Commission aimed to establish a dangerous ceiling to web security by allowing certificate authorities to override browser web security policies. This would have opened the door for state-sponsored surveillance, setting a dangerous global precedent, while also weakening cybersecurity standards. It would also have risked exposing browser users to fraudulent activities conducted by malicious actors (e.g. credit card fraud, password phishing etc.) who take advantage of the false sense of security unvetted Certificate Authorities provide.

The next step for the eIDAS review is trilogues, the interinstitutional negotiations between the Parliament, Council, and Commission. There is a risk that the Parliament's proposed changes could still be reversed in these negotiations. These discussions take place behind closed doors, which means that those who want to ensure that cybersecurity becomes a central pillar in eIDAS will need to shout a little louder to be heard.

Marshall Erwin, Mozilla's Chief Security Officer says: "We're relieved to see that cybersecurity best practices prevailed in today's vote, over political or financial considerations. But we're also aware that the fight isn't over. Let's make sure to not QWAC it up in trilogues."

Learn more at securityriskahead.eu

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About #SecurityRiskAhead
#SecurityRiskAhead is a campaign backed by Mozilla. Its main aim is to provide up to date information about the eIDAS regulation and its potential impacts. For more information visit www.securityriskahead.eu

About Mozilla
Mozilla is the public benefit technology company and maker of the open-source Firefox web browser, Mozilla VPN, and the Pocket "read-it-later" application. These products are used by hundreds of millions of individuals around the world. Mozilla Corporation is a private company fully owned by its sole shareholder, the non-profit Mozilla Foundation. The Mozilla Foundation furthers our mission to protect an open and accessible internet, by investing in advocacy, research, and movement-building. It is guided by the set of principles in the Mozilla Manifesto that recognise, among other things, that the internet must remain open and accessible; and that security and privacy are fundamental.