

# Britain calls for cooperation on cybersecurity

February 4 2011

---



British foreign secretary William Hague leaves after his appearance at the 47th Munich Security Conference at the Bayerischer Hof hotel in the southern German city of Munich. The three-day conference on defence policy will be attended by, among others, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Britain's foreign minister used an international gathering of defence officials in Germany on Friday to call for closer global cooperation in improving cybersecurity.

"[Cyberspace](#) is changing the way we view and conduct [foreign policy](#) as well as transforming our everyday lives," William Hague told the Munich Security Conference.

"But there is a darker side to cyberspace that arises from our dependence on it."

He said the Internet helped undemocratic governments repress their citizens, gave "hostile" nations new channels to steal secrets and helped "terrorists" and [criminals](#).

"In Britain we believe that the time has come to start seeking international agreement about norms in cyberspace," he said.

"Cybersecurity is on the agendas of some 30 multilateral organisations... But much of this debate is fragmented and lacks focus."

Britain is prepared to host an international conference later this year on the subject.

"We do not underestimate the difficulties ahead. Many countries do not share our view of the positive impact of the Internet, and others are actively working against us in a hostile manner.

"However as liberal democracies we also have a compelling interest in supporting democratic ideals in cyberspace, and working to convince others of this vision."

(c) 2011 AFP

Citation: Britain calls for cooperation on cybersecurity (2011, February 4) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-02-britain-cooperation-cybersecurity.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--