PRESS RELEASE.

Regarding the concern created by the worldwide dissemination of the WannaCry ransomware, Spanish Network of Excellence on Cybersecurity Research (RENIC), made up of 14 universities and 4 technological research centers in the field of cybersecurity, state the following:

a) The situation created by this massive attack was predictable, and was being warned from different actors, in the face of the critical dependence that our Societies have on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which makes them extremely vulnerable to aggression to these technologies.

b) While it is true that absolute security is a utopia, it is no less true that well-managed security measures, together with training of our professionals and awareness campaigns can drastically mitigate threats to governments, businesses, and individuals. If these threats materialize, they involve not only material and non-material damage to the entities concerned, but also an increasing distrust towards these technologies, which are essential for the development and evolution of our societies.

c) Increasing research budgets in this field of research is inescapable. Cybersecurity should be included in a differentiated way in National and European Research and Innovation Programmes.

d) Finally, it is also unquestionable that cybersecurity must be considered in the curricula of our universities and technological centers, since there are no effective security measures without competent professionals in this field.

RENIC is conceived as an open, participatory and non-exclusive network, to offer services to the entire cybersecurity research ecosystem at a national level. The Network has been promoted by the National Institute of Cybersecurity (INCIBE), an entity depending of the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda, through the Secretariat of State for the Information Society and the Digital Agenda. This initiative is part of the Trust in the Digital Arena, which endorses the joint mandate of the Digital Agenda for Spain, the European Cybersecurity Strategy and the National Security Strategy to:

- Advance the joint objectives of building a climate of confidence that contributes to the development of the economy and the digital society.
- To have an open, secure and protected cyberspace.
- Ensuring the safe use of networks and information systems.
- And to respond to international commitments on cybersecurity.

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