ENISA's Information Sharing Good Practice Guide

Dr. Udo HELMBRECHT

Executive Director

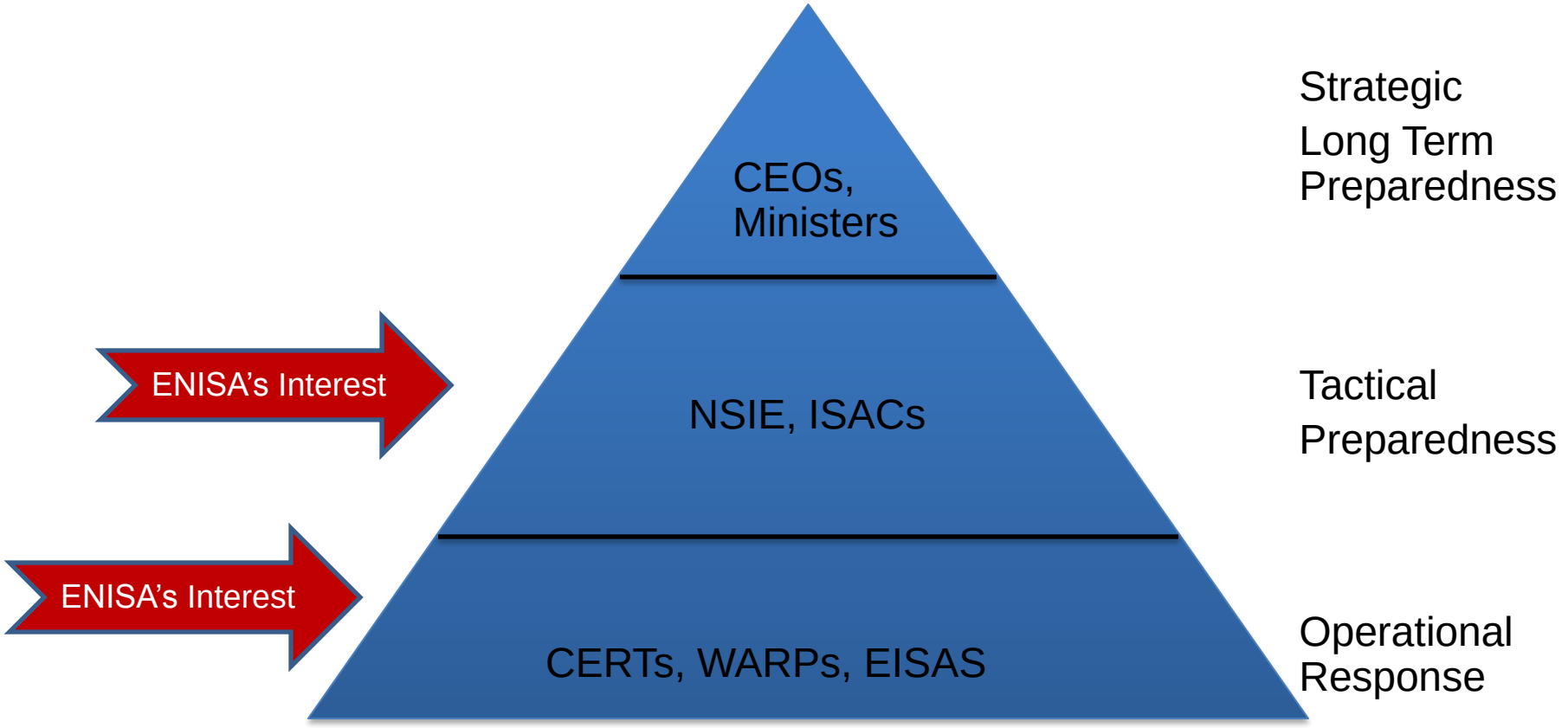
ENISA

http://www.enisa.europa.eu

Why Information Sharing

- fragmented understanding of potential vulnerabilities, threats & attacks
- immature information sharing among stakeholders
- urgent need for a permanent co-operation mechanism between private and public stakeholders
- unexplored concept in Europe and in general in the world
- strong interest by Member States to better understand how to develop and deploy such a concept
- strong deployment at national level will soon lead to a pan European information sharing exchange

The Pyramid of Information Sharing



What is Information Sharing

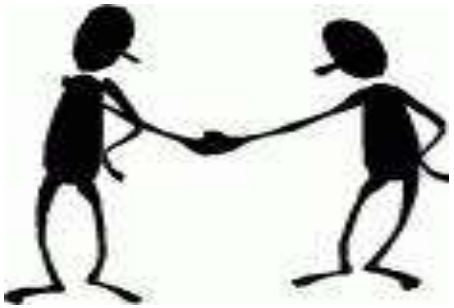
- a strategic partnership of 20-30 public & private stakeholders
- participants are high level security experts
- meet regularly (face-face) to share sensitive information
- government's role is key in creation and operation
- address strategic issues (e.g. major/critical disruptions)
- no participation fees
- 2 chairs, one from industry and one from public
- provides incentives for members to participate; respects their commercial sensitivities
- emphasis on information exchange, not information transfer; no listeners, no observers

Typical Tasks of Information Sharing

- assess the impact of incidents (e.g. security breaches, network failures, service interruptions)
- identify, analyse, and adopt in co-ordinated manner appropriate, sector wide preparedness measures to mitigate these threats and risks
- set up internal and joint procedures to continuously review the implementation of adopted measures
- provide unique, strategic insights to policy and decision makers

What is Shared

- experience and information on threats, risks, impact, vulnerabilities, incidents, counter measures,
- advisory support and warnings in implementing joint, sector wide, protective good practice measures
- experience and information on
  - contingency planning,
  - crisis management,
  - analysis & mitigation of threats, risks, incidents, dependencies,
- information on emerging trends and changing environments
- Information on exercises, on methodologies and scenarios for conducting them



How it is shared

- face to face meetings
- using simple protocols (e.g. Traffic Light Protocol)
- disseminate information through protected extranets

  usually managed by the government
  - announcements, meeting summaries, action items and even analysis reports
- as trust within the group grows, members develop informal links via telephone and/or email
- trust is very strong, regular conference calls to provide immediate assistance to members when urgent security concerns arise

Interfaces with other Bodies

- Relationship with Law Enforcement
  - Mixed approaches
- Relationship with Telecommunications Regulator
  - Usually not; industry members would not share information of interest to telecommunications regulator
- *Relationships with other Resilience-related bodies*
  - Usually not directly but via the government's representative or a major/dominant national provider
- Relationships with other national information sharing schemes
  - there is ad-hoc co-operation among them
- Relationship with pan European Information sharing schemes
  - no pan European information sharing; EC tries to establish one; hopefully all national platforms will co-operate

Typical Problems/Barriers/Mistakes

- national legal framework on PPPs - culture to co-operation with private sector
- improper size, profile of participants, expertise of experts,
- poorly defined mission and scope
- not incentifying enough private sector to participation
- unbalanced sharing of information (e.g. mostly from private to public stakeholders or the opposite)
- fear of building a Cartel due to privileged access to information
- not having proper non disclosure agreements
- improper treatment of confidential information

Conclusions

- Information Sharing is necessary to better understand a constantly changing environment
- Only a few Information Sharing Exchanges in Europe
- Takes time and a lot of effort to establish and run an Information Sharing partnership
- Europe should take advantage from its diversity and develop national as well as a pan European Information Sharing partnership
- ENISA helps MS to develop knowledge and expertise in information sharing; later ENISA could help MS to deploy such schemes, if interest exists
- ENISA's good practice guide: http://www.enisa.europa.eu/act/res/policies/good-practices-1/information-sharing-exchange