

**Professor Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs**

**" Council and Commission statements - Protecting the integrity of the European elections, with particular regard to international threats to cybersecurity "**

European Parliament - plenary session

16 April 2019, European Parliament, Strasbourg, France

Elections are an important element of democracy. Compromised cybersecurity in elections can lead to the loss of confidence in the electoral system, in democratic processes, and leadership.

Europeans are increasingly aware and worried about all aspects of electoral security. A recent Eurobarometer survey showed that 61% were concerned about possible manipulation of the European elections via cyber operations. This percentage is lower in member states with higher use of the cyber space for elections.

To fight against cyber threats and to ensure that the cyber environment is safe we need a society-wide approach as well as international cooperation.

In this context amending European Regulation on the statute and financing of European political parties and foundations aiming at protecting the electoral process from online disinformation campaigns based on misuse of voters' personal data, introducing financial sanctions on European political parties or foundations that infringe data protection rules deliberately to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of European elections, as well as Commission's actions towards building strong cybersecurity in Europe supported by the recent actions at the level of member states can help citizens to make their political choice in fair, secure and transparent elections.