

## Cyber Security? – Cyber Defence?

(From LinkedIn)

### **Call for comment EWG 17 - working paper up-dates: definition of cyber security ([Nick WATTS](#))**

“Protecting electronically based data and control systems and hardware which are important to the defence, security and well-being of nations and their populations, against theft, destruction, falsification and malignant manipulation by individuals, non-state actors and nation states.”

[Willy HERTELEER](#) • Terminology and definitions are important in any exchange of ideas, I like this definition of "Cyber Security".

From a EURODEFENSE and MOD perspective the question now is: what in this is "Cyber Defence"? In other words when does a cyber attack become a (mainly) Ministry of Defence (MOD) issue?

The notion "War" is too often and too easily employed; creating the perception that a multitude of malignant actions are acts of war implicating (mainly) the MOD. "Cyber War" is such a notion (as is "War on Terror").

Cyber Defence. A malignant cyber manipulation becomes a (mainly) MOD issue when the perpetrator is a nation state or an individual or organization that is clearly supported by a nation state or when the manipulation aims at damaging MOD assets.

(After 9-11 the "War on Terror" became a mainly MOD issue when it became clear that the nation state Afghanistan (the Taliban regime) supported (and continued to support) the organization Al Qaeda, perpetrator of the attacks. Once the Taliban removed and Al Qaeda dismantled the "War on Terror" should stop being a mainly MOD issue.

In our Democracies it is to be avoided that the MOD becomes responsible for Security (Remember history tells us that we do not like the notion "Ministry of Security")