



## **How can we protect confidentiality in the digital world?**

**Closing remarks from Mr Yves Mirabaud  
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*Check against delivery*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by thanking our speakers for the quality of their presentations, as well as all our participants for their valuable contributions to our discussion on the topic of effective cybersecurity. The Federal Council sent an encouraging signal this past January with the creation of a national Centre of Expertise for Cyber Security. It is important that the Centre be up and running as quickly as possible and equipped to intervene across all Federal Government departments. MELANI's capabilities need to be enhanced in order to enable it to stop cyberattacks, on the model of Israel's CERT, presented to us today.

Last November, a major Swiss insurance company ranked cyberattacks among the top five risks facing business owners, and estimated the costs at around \$ 8 trillion over the next five years. Additionally, at last year's press conference, FINMA declared that cyberattacks are now "the main operational risk for the financial system". The agency's director called for interdisciplinary research on cyber risks to be stepped up, "both within the public sector and in partnership with other players in the industry." In the event of a crisis, our opinion is that the Swiss National Bank should be responsible for coordinating all the different actors involved.

In addition to the hundreds of attacks targeting e-banking systems in Switzerland every day – most of which are, thankfully, unsuccessful – there are also more sophisticated threats, which are carefully prepared over a period of months. We all remember the attack on the central bank of Bangladesh, carried out by infecting its SWIFT network access software, which resulted in the theft of 81 million dollars using four fake transfer orders; dozens of other fraudulent transfers were blocked due to a misspelling in the name of the recipient.

This case illustrates why attention to detail is so important, and why bank employees need to be made aware of the many types of attack we have heard about today. That implies that we need to ensure the right training is available. Fortunately, Swiss universities are currently reinforcing their course offering in this particular area. Nevertheless, the shortage of Swiss cybersecurity specialists is a cause for concern; measures are needed to enable foreign students in the relevant fields to work in Switzerland after graduation, while also facilitating immigration for experts trained abroad.

Swiss legislators also have a role to play: the Federal Parliament is currently reviewing a draft law on electronic identification, or e-ID. Many abuses could be prevented if it were possible to digitally verify a user's identity when necessary, similarly to asking them for



physical proof of identity such as a passport or ID card. Do any of us believes it is safe to identify oneself through a Facebook or Google account, given the millions of records stolen from both companies on a regular basis?

Another promising area is blockchain technology, or distributed ledgers more broadly. Storing and verifying data in multiple locations makes it much more difficult to tamper with. The Federal Council is holding consultations with a view to adapting Swiss law to this new technology on an ad hoc basis. We welcome this approach, as it will provide the necessary legal protections without slowing innovation.

Switzerland clearly holds all the right cards to ensure the assets entrusted to us by our clients benefit from robust protection, while adapting to emerging technologies. We are confident that by heightening awareness of the risks and working together to prevent them, the Swiss financial centre can remain a haven of security, including in the digital world. That was the aim of this fourth Private Banking Day; your presence in large numbers here today indicates that it has been amply met.

Thank you all for your attention. I would now like to invite you to join us for a cocktail buffet served upstairs on the terrace.