



Convention on Cybercrime ([ETS no. 185](#))

Summary

Open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe and by non-member States which have participated in its elaboration, in Budapest, on 23 November 2001.

Entry into force : Ratification by five States, including at least three member States of the Council of Europe.

Summary of the treaty

The Convention is the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security. It also contains a series of powers and procedures such as the search of computer networks and interception.

Its main objective, set out in the preamble, is to pursue a common criminal policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime, especially by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international co-operation.

The Convention is the product of four years of work by Council of Europe experts, but also by the United States, Canada, Japan and other countries which are not members of the Organisation. It will be supplemented by an Additional Protocol making any publication of racist and xenophobic propaganda via computer networks a criminal offence.