



**Mariya GABRIEL**  
Commissioner for  
Digital Economy and Society

Brussels, 22/05/2019  
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*Dear Ms Julia Reda,  
Dear Ms Marietje Schaake,  
Dear Mr Max Andersson,*

*On behalf of Vice-President Andrus Ansip and myself, I would like to thank you for your letter of 3 May regarding the establishment of the FOSSA preparatory action into a permanent action.*

*We acknowledge that the EU-FOSSA 2 Preparatory Action has been a success. It received enthusiastic feedback from external stakeholders including the FOSS communities, the press and the general public who have called for continued action regarding open source solutions.*

*The bug bounty programmes improved the security of key open source software used at the European Union institutions, at the same time making that software safer for all users worldwide. This aspect of the project created a positive momentum within open source communities. Indeed, it contributed to a very positive image of the EU.*

*Similarly, the first two hackathons, ran in April and May 2019, brought specific FOSS communities together to find and fix security-related vulnerabilities and enjoyed positive feedback from the participating communities as well as staff of the EU institutions.*

*It is clear that these initiatives have proven useful to help European Union institutions, public administrations and communities participate in the evolution of safe open source software within Europe. Based on the preparatory action, the European Commission Services will evaluate the feasibility of different follow-up paths to make sure this action will continue bringing value in the future:*

*MEP Julia Reda  
MEP Marietje Schaake  
MEP Max Andersson*

- *Methods and activities proven within EU-FOSSA 2 Preparatory Action may be useful reference points for the proposed European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. In this respect, I welcome the clear support of the European Parliament on the draft Regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres.*
- *Similar activities could also be supported under other digital parts of the future Horizon Europe Programme.*
- *When updating its Open Source Strategy, the Commission will draw on the experience of EU-FOSSA 2 when it comes to the security of free and open source software.*
- *Finally, it is worth noting that the Preparatory Action and its activities are still ongoing. All results will be documented in a “Lessons Learned” report in the fourth quarter of 2019 and that report will also give additional indications for follow-up action.*

*Such developments would help reinforce security of open source software by creating a win-win for users, developers, companies and public institutions.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mariya Gabriel', with a horizontal line underneath.

*Mariya Gabriel*