



## MRSOC WORKSHOP DG Portnoy opening notes

Hello everybody  
and thank you for the opportunity  
to speak with you here,  
to all this distinguished forum.

It was important  
because I believe this forum  
can promote good things in cybersecurity for the world  
with the special initiative we are promoting together  
building the first Regional Maritime Cybersecurity SOC  
This center invites countries and stakeholders worldwide  
to join forces.

I always remember that -

When in the **dark** -  
it is **hard** to see the light.

When in **pain** -  
it is **hard to think** - that one day - it will feel better.

When at **war** -  
It is **hard to imagine** - growth.



I also **know**,

That "it is **always** the darkest before the dawn".

On Saturday, we started seeing some light again

When Karina, Naama, Liri and Daniella

returned home after 477 days in captivity.

4 women soldiers kidnapped by the Hamas Terror organization,  
tortured and abused. They are finally home now,  
and this, brings some light to our hearts.

We must not forget – there are still 90 more hostages held in  
Gaza and we must bring them home and make sure they will  
come out from the darkness to the light.

Also, this cooperation of ours here, this launching event,  
is also a beam of light  
in the future of fighting cyber-terrorism together.

We are all here today, all thanks to the Commissioner.



I was privileged to host the Commissioner less than two years ago in Tel-Aviv and introduce to him some new ideas we were developing in the INCD.

I have to admit, he was the visionary one who puts a working plane on the table to establish a Maritime Cybersecurity Center of Excellence and Maritime Regional SOC

We have been cooking this Regional SOC idea for a while now.

So now, 2025 will be the year to make it happen in real life.

Israel and the INCD have learned a lot since the war started on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023.

We saw our enemies attacking on multiple fronts, we saw them getting better and faster in using vulnerabilities, but on our side - we have improved our defense all the time.

The most important thing I learned since October 7<sup>th</sup> is the importance of working together.



Our enemies are uniting and exchanging tools,  
So we have to build a network of our own  
to fight their network.

It is no longer sufficient just trying to work together  
and exchanging information-  
we need to form, and work as Coalitions-  
sit together, plan together and act together.

We understood that it should be more  
than the regular cooperation  
we call it "Working together 2.0" - integration of efforts.

Our Maritime Regional SOC aims to create  
a common language and culture  
of cooperation and integrating efforts

This workshop for me - is a symbol of 3 levels of partnership:

**The first** one is the strategic partnership  
between **Israel and Cyprus.**



This is a good opportunity to thank Cyprus,  
for its support of Israel since the war started.  
The strategic partnership between our countries  
shows leadership and shared values.

**The Second** level is the strategic partnership  
between **the INCD and the Commissioner and the DSA.**

I cannot speak about this too much in this forum  
because it is classified,  
but we have an extra-ordinary cooperation in many fields.

Establishing together the Maritime Regional SOC  
is just one of them - we are happy to be part of.

This is all thanks to the Commissioner, to Diamandis  
and to their teams,  
for the leadership they showed and there, even more  
important, friendship.

**And the third** level is the strategic partnership  
between **the INCD, the DSA and the Maritime world.**



Israel, like Cyprus, is an island country.

Cyprus surrounded by Sea - and Israel Geopolitically surrounded by enemies.

The maritime world for both of us is a key factor to our ability to function.

This is why we need to protect the ability to operate without interruption in the open seas and ports of the Mediterranean, with all their supply chain, in the water, on land and through the cyber sphere.

Just like in the Maritime world there is a language, a culture and a code...

Just like the Mediterranean we all live in has its customs and rules...

So must we develop a common language, culture and rules for our common cyber sphere.

In my perspective - this a key factor for winning this battle



and this is why this center  
is a milestone in the process.

We are all here to see how we can do it  
better faster, and together.

I want again to thank the Commissioner,  
the head of DSA and their teams  
for the hospitality and friendship,  
and for the extra-ordinary partnership.

And I want to wish us all a good and fruitful day.

Thank you.