

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: jeudi 23 février 2023 13:09
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: for your information - suspension of Tik Tok

Dear colleagues,

It may have come to your attention that the Commission's Corporate Management Board has decided to suspend the use of the TikTok mobile application on all corporate devices and personal devices enrolled in the Commission mobile device service (known as BYOD – Bring Your Own Device). A message issued to all staff this morning, requiring staff with TikTok on such devices to uninstall it by 15th March. The information for staff is outlined below.

TikTok has already been in touch with us seeking to give us a security briefing, but we have indicated that we do not see the need for one at this point in time.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

Increased Cybersecurity in the Commission

23/02/2023

In the context of the evolving external cybersecurity landscape, the **Corporate Management Board has decided to suspend the use of the TikTok mobile application on all corporate devices and personal devices enrolled in the Commission mobile device service (known as BYOD – Bring Your Own Device)**. The decision is necessary due to data protection concerns related to the app. It aims to protect the Commission against data collection by third parties, which constitutes a potential cybersecurity threat. Security developments of social media platforms will be kept under constant review and there may be further decisions on other platforms over time.

All colleagues with the app installed on corporate devices or BYOD are required to uninstall it at their earliest convenience. As of 15 March 2023, such devices with the app installed will be considered non-compliant with the corporate environment. Therefore, the corporate apps such as EC Email and Skype for Business on mobile will not be available on them.

The Commission has strict internal cybersecurity policies for the use of mobile devices for work-related communications. The current measure complements long-standing advice to staff to apply best practices when using social media platforms and keep a high level of cyber awareness in their daily work. The risks of concern relate to collection of personal data of staff and the way such data may be exploited for cyber-attacks against the corporate environment. Raising the awareness of potential risks will be the objective of the Commission's Security and Safety Days from 1-10 March.

Staff is free to use any app on their personal devices not enrolled in the EC mobile service, but we recommend that you consider the risks for your personal data and the possible leak of sensitive information.

Veronica Gaffey

Director General for Informatics



European Commission
DG DIGIT

