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Vienna Insurance Group receives EU funding for comprehensive cyber security programme

Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) has initiated a comprehensive programme to increase protection against growing cyber threats. The Group companies will be serviced by three competence centres in Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic. The initiative is financially supported by the European Union through the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre.

The risk of being affected by a cyber-attack as a company is still on the rise. New types of attacks based on artificial intelligence in particular, such as deepfakes, are increasing rapidly. In the World Economic Forum's current "Global Risk Report 2024", the risk of misinformation and disinformation through artificial intelligence is seen as the greatest risk for the next two years, with cyber insecurity taking fourth place among the top ten risks.

Protecting customer data and securing IT systems is a top priority for Vienna Insurance Group, which is why particularly comprehensive security systems have been installed to meet the latest requirements. *"The methods and attempts of external attacks are constantly changing. We have therefore established a Group-wide Cyber Defence Centre programme to protect our business and our Group customers from the risk of cyber-attacks and to further increase VIG's security level. We are very pleased that the EU recognises our activities and supports the programme"*, explains Gerhard Lahner, Chief Operating Officer on the Managing Board of VIG.

Behind the Cyber Defence Center programme (CDC) is a team of information security experts who protect the company by detecting, analysing and averting cyber threats using semi-automated processes and advanced technology. The Group's IT systems are continuously monitored for signs of a cyber security incident. The CDC works around the clock to ensure a rapid response to any threats that arise.

VIG has established three competence centres for the Group in Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic, which now provide services to the Group companies. This will strengthen Group-wide capacity to recognise and prevent security incidents and increase resilience by implementing new security solutions. At the same time, the centres of excellence promote the cross-border exchange of knowledge and best practices within the Group.

The CDC programme is supplemented by information events, awareness-raising campaigns for employees and partners and dissemination measures in the area of digital media. The aim is to achieve a high level of cyber security awareness among VIG's most important stakeholders.

Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) is the leading insurance group in the entire Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. More than 50 insurance companies and pension funds in 30 countries form a Group with a long-standing tradition, strong brands and close customer relations. Around 29,000 employees in the VIG take care of the day-to-day needs of around 32 million customers. VIG shares have been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 1994, on the Prague Stock Exchange since 2008 and on the Budapest Stock Exchange since 2022. The VIG Group has an A+ rating with stable outlook by the internationally recognised rating agency Standard & Poor's. VIG cooperates closely with the Erste Group, the largest retail bank in Central and Eastern Europe.

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