HMDC Presents...

Country Profile: Estonia

Committee: Legal Committee: Cyberwarfare Case Studies

AT A GLANCE

Capital	Tallinn (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Population	About 1.4 million people in 2025 (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Region	Europe and Central Asia (World Bank)
Case study	Cyberattacks of April and May 2007

WHY ESTONIA MATTERS IN THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

Estonia faced one of the first major cyberattacks on a whole country, and it now hosts a NATO cyber defence centre. Its President has publicly explained how Estonia thinks international law applies online.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- In April and May 2007, cyberattacks hit the websites of Estonia's Prime Minister, Parliament and almost all government ministries, plus two major banks and three big news organizations. (Cyber Law Toolkit, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Estonia hosts the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, founded by Estonia and six other nations on May 14, 2008. (NATO CCDCOE, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- On May 29, 2019, President Kersti Kaljulaid said existing international law applies in cyberspace. (UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal, May 29, 2019)
- The Council of Europe lists Estonia as a party to the Budapest Convention on cybercrime. (Council of Europe, Last Accessed: October 2026)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

Since 2008, Estonia has hosted a NATO cyber defence centre in Tallinn, and in 2019 its President said existing international law applies in cyberspace.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Publishing positions: every country publishes how it thinks international law applies online.

2. Joining shared rules: more countries join cybercrime treaties so attacks can be investigated together.

3. Training together: countries share cyber defence training, like the exercises held in Tallinn.

CAREFUL NOTE

The Cyber Law Toolkit says Estonia's official search for those responsible did not succeed, so we name no attacker.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. Has our government published a national position on international law in cyberspace?

2. Has our country been attacked, or named as an attacker, in a real case?

3. Which cyber treaties has our country joined?

WHERE WE LOOK

Cyber Policy Portal: https://database.cyberpolicyportal.org/en/

Cyber Law Toolkit: https://cyberlaw.ccdcoe.org/wiki/Main_Page

Budapest Convention parties: https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/parties-observers

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.