

Stepping up cyber security

There was policy as well as grand vision in Juncker's State of the Union address, writes Euromat president **Jason Frost**

THE first plenary session of the European Parliament in September saw commission president Jean-Claude Juncker make his annual State of the Union address.

There was plenty in there for Brussels watchers as he talked about institutional reform, including a merged council and commission president and support for transnational MEPs. There was also plenty to cheer Euro federalists with talk of more qualified majority voting on internal market and foreign policy issues, as well as a new super commissioner for the economy and finance.

However, perhaps lost in all the grand plans, was a new policy initiative that may impact our industry further down the track.

As Juncker sat down in Strasbourg, the commission quietly released a long awaited proposal to prohibit geo-localisation rules that prevent companies from processing certain categories of data outside national borders. Data related to gambling can often be subject to these restrictions and their lifting raises the prospect of being able to reduce costs associated with storing and using that data.

However, while cost may be reduced in one area it will doubtless increase in another: cyber security.

The commission also announced proposals to boost cyber resilience with



a new agency and measures designed to harmonise the certification of cyber security solutions. The General Data Protection Regulation establishes the principle that companies should be much more accountable for the data that they hold and failure to protect it will be met with fines.

The expectations in this area are growing; as the holders of player data, our businesses also need to think about how they meet them.