



PRESS RELEASE

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Data Protection Officers - European guardians of privacy!

On January 25th, the European Commission has adopted a draft regulation in order to set the future framework for the protection of privacy in the EU.

The text imposes on organisations that use personal data the implementation of accountable measures to comply with data protection rules: one of them is the designation of a Data Protection Officer (DPO) in enterprises with 250 employees or more, in public bodies and in organisations where the main activities consist of processing operations which require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects.

The Confederation of European Data Protection Organisations (CEDPO) welcomes the recognition of Data Protection Officers as key players to ensure the protection of personal data in the proposed regulation. *"EU-wide, more and more companies will realize the advantages of having their own privacy guardians"*, comments Christoph Klug of the German GDD. *"DPOs will help to make data protection more effective, to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, and to create trust"*, Klug continues. Sachiko Scheuing of the Dutch NGFG explains, *"The positive impact of DPOs is already proven by a study of the Dutch Ministry of Justice. We are pleased to hear that this fact is recognized at European level."*

Looking at the sanctions that can be imposed according to the draft regulation, which can be up to 2% of the annual worldwide turnover, organisations may feel relieved to find in the DPO a reliable partner and expert in the field of data protection.

The Commission proposal provides for a great flexibility concerning the appointment of DPOs. *"Organisations can appoint an internal or external DPO, depending on their individual demands. It is even possible for a group of companies*



to appoint a single European DPO. The flexibility provided in the draft can accommodate the needs to fit organisations of all sizes”, declares Cecilia Alvarez of the Spanish APEP.

“Now that the long awaited draft has been officially released, CEDPO members join their forces to provide EU institutions with constructive inputs to shape the DPO of the future”, says Pascale Gelly of the AFCDP from France. “In particular, CEDPO will share their pan-European experiences on topics such as the necessary qualifications which DPOs should hold, the scope of the DPOs tasks and how to ensure their independence. **CEDPO is pleased to publish today a comparative study on the function of the DPO in 12 EU Member States**”, Gelly continues.

Further specifications regarding the appointment, tasks, certification, status, power and resources of the DPO in Europe are still needed. CEDPO is prepared to contribute to the future role of the DPO during the legislative process.

About CEDPO

CEDPO was founded in September 2011 by European Data Protection Organisations, namely, AFCDP (Association Française des Correspondants à la Protection des Données à Caractère Personnel) of France, APEP (Asociación Profesional Española de Privacidad) of Spain, GDD (Gesellschaft für Datenschutz und Datensicherheit) of Germany, and NGFG (Nederlands Genootschap van Functionarissen voor de Gegevensbescherming) of the Netherlands.

CEDPO aims to promote the role of the Data Protection Officer, to provide advice on balanced, practicable, and effective data protection and to contribute to a better harmonisation of data protection law and practices in the EU/EEA.



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