



PRESS RELEASE

Bonn, Den Haag, Madrid, Paris

13th March 2013

CEDPO position on DPOs recognised by EU Commission, Council and MEPs

Position papers contributed by the Confederation of European Data Protection Organisations (CEDPO) to the discussion of a General Data Protection Regulation have been recognised by all three legislative bodies in charge.

Already in November 2012, Thomas Zerdick of the European Commission has welcomed the redlined text based on CEDPO's first position paper on the occasion of the DAFTA conference in Cologne*. On March 8th 2013 Vice-President Viviane Reding (Justice Commissioner) explicitly referred to CEDPO when advocating in favour of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and flexibility before the Irish Council Presidency (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-209_en.htm):

"DPOs are a vital tool in protecting personal data and helping modern firms comply with data protection rules. Alan asks us whether their appointment should be compulsory or optional for companies. Views will differ. My proposal is balanced. DPOs should be mandatory except for SMEs whose core business is not data processing. In addition, the DPO can be full or part-time, employee or external advisor. There is no obligation to create a new position. The Confederation of European Data Protection Organisations has explicitly welcomed this flexibility. I think this proposal ticks all the boxes. It takes risk into account. It is flexible. It helps SMEs", Reding stated on the occasion of her intervention in the Justice Council.

CEDPO also received positive feedback from competent members of the European Parliament and especially welcomes the approach in the Albrecht Draft Report of shifting from notification requirements to Data Protection Authorities to practical accountability with DPOs in charge*.

CEDPO will continue to 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.

* all documents are available under www.cedpo.eu → press and position papers



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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