

Press Release
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ARTICLE 29 DATA PROTECTION WORKING PARTY

The Article 29 Working Party held its 71st plenary session in Brussels on – 16th and 17th June, 2009.

World Anti-Doping Agency hearing

The Article 29 Working Party held a hearing with representatives of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on the WADA International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information during its 71st plenary session in Brussels. The Working Party welcomes the efforts taken by WADA to bring its Privacy Standard in line with European data protection legislation. However, the Working Party would like to stress that some important issues remain to be addressed. It encourages WADA to adapt the anti-doping rules so that it can pursue its fight against doping in sport with respect for the fundamental rights of athletes and their entourage and in compliance with EU data protection rules.

The Article 29 Working Party met the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) at its two-day plenary meeting in Brussels. This hearing was part of activities following the adoption, in April 2009, of the second opinion on related provisions of the WADA code and on other privacy issues in the context of the fight against doping in sport by WADA and (national) antidoping organisations. The debate focused on the following topics: changes made to the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information (ISPPi) in force since June 1st 2009 and other issues pointed out by the Working Party in its second opinion, particularly those concerning Whereabouts data; grounds for processing;; publication of sanction rulings and retention periods.

Following the hearing with representatives of WADA, the Working Party stresses that even though the Standard has been slightly amended since its last Opinion, the key issues it highlighted still need to be addressed

The Article 29 WP notes with great satisfaction that privacy and data protection has become a matter of public concern and that WADA has deemed essential to regulate its testing practices with a Privacy Standard being just as legally binding as the anti-doping code itself.

Naturally, the Working Party continues to be open to further discussion and encourages WADA as well as national anti-doping organisations, (inter)national sport federations and Olympic committees involved, to pay attention to the highlighted key issues and to take up their own respective responsibilities to ensure that the remaining issues are addressed and that full compliance with EU data protection rules will be guaranteed.

Background information

The Article 29 Working Party on the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data is an independent advisory body on data protection and privacy, set up under Article 29 of the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC. It is composed of representatives from the national data protection authorities of the EU Member States, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Commission. Its tasks are described in Article 30 of Directive 95/46/EC and Article 15 of Directive 2002/58/EC. The WP is competent to examine questions covering the application of the national measures adopted under the data protection directives in order to contribute to the uniform application of the directives. It carries out this task by issuing recommendations, opinions and working documents.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/workinggroup/index_en.htm