
Brussels, 4th March 2010

ARTICLE 29 DATA PROTECTION WORKING PARTY

The Article 29 Working Party held its 74th plenary session in Brussels on February 15 and 16, 2010.

- Work Programme for 2010-2011

The Article 29 Working Party adopted its new Work Programme for 2010-2011. The Working Party's goal for the 2010-2011 period is not only to ensure a coherent and correct application of the current legal framework but also to prepare for the future. This means that the Working Group intends to address challenges linked to new technological developments and globalisation, as well as to institutional changes due to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. In particular, the Working Party plans to clarify and strengthen the roles of all actors in the field of data protection; data subjects, data controllers and Data Protection Authorities. The Working Party also aims to ensure that the principle of privacy by design is embedded in all areas, which may entail addressing new actors as well.

The Work programme is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/docs/wpdocs/2010/wp170_en.pdf

- Interpretation of Key Provisions : Data Controller/Data Processor

The Article 29 Working Party adopted an opinion on "Data Controller/Data Processor", underlining its significance in contributing to a clear and uniform interpretation of key provisions of the Directive. This is vitally important for citizens, since it helps in clarifying who is responsible for compliance with data protection rules, how concerned individuals can exercise their rights, which national law applies, and how Data protection Authorities should act in order to be effective.

The opinion is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/docs/wpdocs/2010/wp169_en.pdf

- Elections of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

The Article 29 Working Party has elected a new Chairman, Mr. Jacob Kohnstamm of the Dutch Data Protection Authority and two deputies, Mr. Michal Serzycki of the Polish Data Protection Authority, and Mr. Artemi Rallo Lombarte of the Spanish Data Protection Authority. The Article 29 Working Party congratulates them on election to their new positions.

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