

Brussels, 22 October 2013

ARTICLE 29 DATA PROTECTION WORKING PARTY

On 21 October 2013 the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) committee of the European Parliament voted on the general data protection Regulation and the separate Directive for the law enforcement sector, providing fresh impetus into the discussions on the data protection reform.

Jacob Kohnstamm, Chairman of the Article 29 Working Party, is very pleased to see that the LIBE committee has made great progress on this dossier and that it has been able to gather the necessary political support by drafting compromise amendments. Even though the Working Party will study the outcome of the vote more closely in the coming weeks, the Chair highly appreciates that the LIBE committee has been able to vote on both the Regulation and the Directive, thereby sticking to the package approach.

Jacob Kohnstamm is hopeful that this big step forward in the process of revising the data protection legal framework in the European Union will lead to the adoption of a new legal package, providing strong data protection in the EU, before the end of the current legislature. He therefore urges the Council to adopt its position on both instruments as soon as possible, in order for the dialogue to commence.

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 Article 29 Working Party is competent to examine any question covering the application of 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/data-protection/index_en.htm