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Issued by the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party

The European data protection authorities, assembled in the Article 29 Working Party (WP29) at its Plenary meeting of 3 and 4 June, had a first exchange of views about the consequences of the 'Costeja' ruling of 13 May 2014 of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

The European data protection authorities assembled in the WP29 have decided to analyse the consequences of the CJEU ruling and to identify guidelines in order to develop a common approach of EU data protection authorities on the implementation of the ruling. These guidelines will help data protection authorities building a coordinated response to complaints of data subjects if search engines do not erase their content whose removal has been requested.

The European data protection authorities will consult the relevant stakeholders in due course.

In the meantime, the authorities invite search engines to put in place user-friendly and pedagogical tools for the exercise by their users of their right to request the deletion of the search results links containing information relating to them. More generally, search engines should ensure compliance with the opinion of the WP29 on data protection issues related to search engines ([WP148](#)).

As regards Google, the authorities welcome the form swiftly developed by this company as a first step toward compliance with EU law following the CJEU ruling, even if at this stage it is too early to comment on whether the form is entirely satisfactory.

This initial reaction to the Google response to the CJEU's ruling is to be seen in the wider context of on-going exchanges between the European data protection authorities and Google about compliance with EU data protection law.

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