

Brussels, 17 July 2014

**Issued by the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party**

**CJEU's Judgment on the Right to Be Forgotten: the WP29 Will Meet with Search Engines on July 24th**

On July 15th, the European data protection authorities came together in Brussels to exchange views over the consequences of the Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) judgment regarding the right to be forgotten on the internet, which was rendered on May 13th, 2014. The objective was to elaborate coordinated and coherent guidelines on the handling of individuals' complaints that may be submitted to the authorities in the case of negative responses from search engines to the request for removal from indexing.

Within the perspective of having a unified European implementation of this judgment, the data protection authorities analysed the different legal bases allowing individuals—regardless of their nationality, their residency and the harm suffered—to invoke the right to request search engines to remove them from indexing. The precise methods of exercising this right to be forgotten as well as search engines' potential refusals to execute this right were also studied in an in-depth manner. This discussion led, amongst other things, to the highlighting that in order to effectively exercise this right, it is necessary for individuals to understand thoroughly the precise reasons a search engine, subject to European Union law, can legally refuse this right. The data protection authorities also addressed the criteria allowing to take into consideration, in certain cases, the public interest in accessing the said information.

The data protection authorities have invited search engines to discuss with them, on July 24th, the practical implementation of the key principles in this CJEU case in order to finalise the WP29's guidelines foreseen for autumn 2014.

**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/article-29/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/article-29/index_en.htm)