

Resolution

on the future of privacy



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Bearing in mind the discussions in the European Union on the proposals for a revised legal framework for data protection as well as ongoing work in the Council of Europe and the OECD;

Bearing in mind the ongoing process in the United States to refine its privacy protections, and especially having regard to the plans to introduce a privacy bill of rights;

Bearing in mind the recent APEC initiative to strengthen the cooperation between privacy enforcement authorities and to implement a system for streamlined and accountable data transfers across the APEC region through the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules;

Bearing in mind the growth of several multilateral cooperation and enforcement networks and their initiatives to foster enforcement cooperation among international privacy enforcement authorities;

Welcoming the fact that many countries have created new data protection and privacy enforcement authorities over the past years;

Having regard to the increasing globalisation and the rapid technological developments;

The 34th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners has decided that its members should:

1. intensify cooperation with each other in order to respond to cross-border data protection and privacy risks in a coordinated manner, by joining multilateral cooperation and enforcement networks;
2. share information and expertise as much as possible to ensure that the authorities' scarce resources can be used to the maximum possible;
3. use this window of opportunity to achieve greater interoperability between the various legal systems and privacy regimes.

Explanatory note

More and more companies now operate in more than one country and also governments are increasingly cooperating with each other to face common threats and concerns. In addition, technology has made it easier to communicate and exchange data across borders. As a result, large amounts of personal data cross borders every day.

Different technologies that have been developed in the past decade(s) also present their own data protection and privacy risks. The Internet in particular has presented challenges to the protection of people's privacy and the protection of their data, especially combined with the increasing use of mobile devices.

These developments have convinced legislators all over the world to review the rules and laws governing privacy and data protection. It furthermore asks data protection and privacy enforcement authorities to cooperate more and try to coordinate as much as possible their actions when they face issues of common concern. Considering the difficult economic situation, exchanging information and expertise to make the best use of our scarce resources is of utmost important.

In all parts of the world the data protection and privacy rules are currently under review a great opportunity is offered to try to bring the different systems closer to each other. We have to grasp this opportunity in order to provide all people around the world better protection of their privacy and personal data.