

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

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Data protection

EU/US: US to carefully evaluate Privacy Shield opinion but is cautious about reopening of the agreement

- **Stefan Selig, US Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade**, stated that the United States will carefully **evaluate the Article 29 Working Party's opinion on the Privacy Shield**, but would **wary of reopening the agreement** as it could harm the delicate balance found during the negotiations.
- The non-binding opinion of the Article 29 Working Party which was released last week called for more reassurance over US surveillance practices and the independence of Ombudsman.

EU: Liberal Group of the European Parliament seeks to challenge the Commission on the Privacy Shield

- The European Parliament's liberal group **ALDE**, backed by the Socialists & Democrats, is said to be **planning to challenge the European Commission on the Privacy Shield**.
- **MEP Sophie In't Veld** (ALDE, the Netherlands), point person on Privacy Shield for the ALDE group, said that the Commission should appear before the European Parliament. A resolution criticising the Commission for insufficient safeguards for citizens' data is being pushed by ALDE. It is expected the resolution be added to the agenda of the **Parliament's plenary session on 9-12 May**.

EU: GDPR implementation will require 24,000 data protection officers in the private sector, IAPP estimates

- A report by the **International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)** estimated that at least **24,000 data protection officers will be needed** in the private sector as a result of the **implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.
- Adopted by the European Parliament, the GDPR will be implemented across the European Union over the next two years.

Turkey: Data protection legislation comes into force following massive personal information leak

- A specific **law governing the use of personal data** has recently come into force in Turkey after more than a decade of work. The legislation sets definition for personal and sensitive data, lays out firms' responsibilities in managing information, regulates international transfer of data, and **establishes a dedicated data protection authority**. The rules were designed to be aligned with EU rules.
- The legislation comes shortly after it emerged that personal information of about some 50 million Turkish citizens were made available on the Internet in what is the **biggest data breach** in the country's history.

Online platforms

EU: Commission will not take a horizontal approach to online platforms but will target specific issues

- **Andrus Ansip**, Vice-President of the European Commission, stated that the Commission **will not take a horizontal approach** to online platforms, but will **target specific issues**, such as a perceived lack of

transparency from search engines. The preliminary results of a public consultation on the matter showed that consumers and companies want platforms to be more open about their search and review results.

- The Commission is expected to publish a **communication on the role of online platforms in H1 2016.**

UK: House of Lords report says there is no need for a specific online platform regulation

- On 20 April, the UK House of Lords Internal Market Sub-Committee published its report on **Online platforms and the Digital Single Market** which underlined that there is **no need for a specific regulatory regime aimed at platforms.**
- Highlighting that platforms drive innovation, jobs and growth, the report called on the EU to implement steps that would **support further development of the EU platform scene.**
- The report expressed concerns with regards to the lack of **consumer knowledge** about how their personal data is being used, and **suggested for the European Commission to develop a privacy seal** for platforms to follow.

Digital Single Market

EU: European Commission presents the First Digital Single Market package

- On 19 April, the European Commission presented what is being referred to as the **First Digital Single Market package**. The package maps out the Commission's vision of how EU companies and research facilities could reap benefits from digital technologies and how to position the EU as a global leader in the development and uptake of these technologies.
- The package is composed of four communications on: **Digitising European Industry**, **European Cloud Initiative**, **EU e-Government Action Plan 2016-2020**, and **Priorities of ICT Standardisation**.
- The Communication on **Digitising European Industry** contains an investment package amounting to €50 billion via public-private partnerships and leveraging EU funds. The Communication on **ICT Standardisation** identifies five priority areas - 5G, cloud computing, internet of Things, data technologies and cybersecurity - which will receive support to spur their development and implementation.
- In a speech to the European Parliament's Industry Committee, **Udo Helmbrecht**, Executive Director of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), highlighted the **utmost importance of cybersecurity in the EU's strategy on digitisation of industry**, and **argued in favour of encryption.**

Note:

The initiatives contained in the First Digital Single Market package are not of a legislative nature, and many of them are dependent on the involvement of public and private actors.

Cloud computing

EU: Commission presents the European Cloud Initiative

- The **European Cloud Initiative** aims to ensure that scientific community, businesses and public services reap benefits of big data revolution. This Commission's blueprint for cloud-based services and data infrastructure is designed to address loopholes which prevent Europe, the largest producer of scientific data in the world, to **fully exploit the potential of big data.**
- The creation of a **European Open Science Cloud** which will offer 1.7 million researchers in Europe and science and technology professionals a virtual environment to store, share and re-use their data is part of the initiative. Over time, the user base of this Open Science Cloud will be expanded to include public sector and industry.

General

Germany: Associations oppose a proposed vectoring monopoly

- A group of 25 business associations raised concerns about a new **regulation on broadband Internet** which is being discussed in Germany. The issue at stake concerns the decision of the country's telecoms regulator *Bundesnetzagentur* which notified the European Commission about its proposal to allow **Deutsche Telekom to exclusively use the so-called vectoring technology** on copper networks.
- According to the signatories of a letter which was sent to several Commissioners, including Vice-President Ansip, granting one company an exclusive right to deploy this technology would **harm competition** in the telecom sector as other companies would be cut off of their access to wiring that connects directly to the most lucrative parts of broadband networks.
- The Commission's decision on the matter is expected in two weeks.