

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

25 June – 1 July 2016

<http://www.Internetsociety.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/europe>

Privacy Shield

EU: National data protection experts express broad support to final text

- The Article 31 Committee met with the European Commission on 29 June to discuss the changes made to the **final text**. There was an overall approval by members as the **formal approval** is expected during the next committee's meeting – pushed back from 4 July to **8 July**. The Privacy Shield should be **set for EU adoption on 11 July**; Justice Commissioner Věra Jourová and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker are scheduled to **present it in public on 12 July**.
- The initial draft of the Privacy Shield has undergone **the following changes**: Firstly, The U.S. drew attention to their own surveillance policy. Secondly, European data transferred overseas under the privacy shield will undergo stricter protocols. Thirdly, companies will have to delete obsolete data. Finally, there is a need to clarify the role of the ombudsperson.

Hate Speech Online

US: Tech companies blocking extremist videos

- As part of wider efforts to target hate speech online given recent terrorist attacks, companies such as Facebook, Google and YouTube have started to **remove videos from their platforms inciting terror**.

Worldwide: analysis reveals online abuse of politicians in the US, UK, and Australia

- The British newspaper The Guardian reveals the degree of **online abuse to which politicians, particularly women**, are subjected to. The **analysis** reveals former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Hillary Clinton received approximately twice as much abuse as their male predecessor Kevin Rudd or male rival Bernie Sanders.

Data Protection

UK: Investigatory Powers Bill passes to second reading

- The Investigatory Powers Bill was **debated in the House of Lords on 27 June**.
- The draft bill will now pass to the committee stage and is likely to be further amended

Belgium: Facebook wins privacy case against Belgian data protection authority

- **Facebook won a key legal case against the Belgian privacy regulator.** The Belgian privacy watchdog sought to prevent the social network from keeping track of the online activities of non-Facebook users in Belgium who had visited Facebook pages.
- The Court of Appeal ruled Facebook's use of cookies did not fall under Belgian competence since Facebook's European headquarters is in Ireland.

US: Landing and media forms may request social media accounts

- The US Customs and Border Protection body could include an **optional section asking about social media accounts**. The information is said to contribute to the existing investigative process and to provide the Department of Homeland Security with greater information for analysts to use given the case.
- The proposal is under consultation and open to comments until 22 August.

UK: Brexit will not affect UK cooperation with other data protection authorities

- The UK Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham, noted the country's decision to leave the EU **will not affect global cooperation on data**.
- Mr Graham was reacting to concerns that the outcome of the UK referendum would impact negatively upon global efforts to cooperate over the issue of data protection.

Digital Single Market

EU: Council conclusions agree the Digital Single Markets is one of the benefits of the EU

- In the Council conclusions adopted on 28 June, EU leaders agreed on the importance of **working together towards reaping the full benefits of the Digital Single Market**. In order for it to continue moving forwards joint efforts will be needed on topics such as cross-border portability, the removal of barriers to e-commerce, the review of the wholesale roaming market, reforms of the copyright and audio-visual frameworks, and changes to copyright, amongst others.

EU: The Digital Single Market will remain untouched despite Brexit

- Roberto Viola, Director General of DG CONNECT of the European Commission, offered assurances that **the Digital Single Market will not suffer following the outcome of the UK referendum**.
- Responding to concerns that the UK's departure could potentially undermine the European Commission's programme, Mr Viola noted that even if the UK were to eventually leave the EU, the EU would still remain the largest global marketplace.

Telecoms

EU: 2017 draft EU budget unveiled

- On 30 June, the Commission presented the 2017 draft EU budget of €134.9 billion which will concentrate on two key areas for Europe: economic recovery and security and humanitarian challenges.
- Increased funds will be allocated to growth, jobs, and competitiveness in the EU **with €2.5 billion earmarked under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**.

e-Identification

EU: eIDAS Regulation on electronic transactions to apply from 1 July

- From 1 July electronic transactions across the EU borders will be secured as the **eIDAS Regulation** on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market, enters into force.

Cybersecurity

EU: “Guidance on cyber resilience for financial market infrastructures”

- The Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures and the Board of the International Organization of Securities Commissions, have published a **report** highlighting the **growing number of cyber-attacks against financial institutions**.
- The report encourages banks and other actors to have emergency plans in place and raise awareness amongst employees and partners of the importance of cybersecurity.

Cloud Computing

EU: Cloud players discuss Code of Conduct with the European Commission

- Following a four-year collaborative process involving cloud service providers and the European Commission, the **Data Protection Code of Conduct for Cloud Service Providers in Europe** was published on 27 June.
- Signatories to the Code of Conduct declared that their privacy and security policies were robust, and go beyond legal compliance.
- The Code has already been agreed by industry representatives and by representatives of DGs JUST and CONNECT of the European Commission and also reflects the opinion of Article 29 Working Party. I
- The Code is expected to be endorsed by a Plenary Group - a broad cross-sectoral group of cloud computing stakeholders.

Slovak Presidency

EU: Slovakia takes over the EU Presidency

- The Slovak Presidency formally started on 1 July. Concerning the digital agenda, Slovakia intends to adopt conclusions on a wider e-government action plan for the EU. They want to **make good progress on the telecoms review**, expecting the first outcomes by autumn.
- They also intend to **draft a general approach to the consumer protection cooperation regulation** in the Competitiveness Council
- The Commission will likely present its **package on common standards for tech and telecoms** to the Competitiveness Council on 29 September.
- On 28 November, industry and internal market ministers will discuss the **copyright package**, and the **proposal for regulating geo-blocking** will have a first reading.
- On 2 December, Ministers responsible for telecoms study the Commission's proposal on **wholesale roaming charges, cross-border parcel delivery rates and a regulatory fitness check on electronic communications rules**.