

**29th International Conference of Data Protection
and Privacy Commissioners**



***Report of the Working Group on Conference
Organisational Arrangements***

[Extract]

August 2007

Delegates to other international fora

Through its resolution on international organisations and data protection, and the Montreux declaration, the conference called upon international organisations to build data protection into their processes. Some international organisations have processes allowing relevant interests to be represented as observers. Business and civil society play an active role in international organisations through these mechanisms. The question is whether DPAs collectively should be using such opportunities to ensure that the data protection message is effectively built into international standard setting.

The working group is cautious in making proposals in this area. It was not a subject of detailed study. However, this is a matter worthy of consideration if the conference is to be a key player in international data protection into the future.

The Working Group tentatively proposes that the following might offer a model for the conference to have delegates participate as observers at appropriate international fora:

- The conference in its regular session agree on any international forum for which it wishes to obtain observer status. The 29th or 30th conference might consider, for example, the OECD, APEC and ISO.
- The conference in each case mandate a small steering group consisting of at least 3 DPAs, and no upper limit, to pursue an observer application on the conference's behalf.
- The steering group to report back to subsequent conferences in writing.
- In the event that observer status is granted, a delegate from the steering group be the conference's representative at the international forum. That delegate to work within any directions given by the conference (initially or in subsequent sessions) or the steering group. Any resolution of the conference to be taken as a standing direction for any delegate and all the steering groups.
- The delegate to keep the steering group informed and to assist the steering group in preparing its written report to the conference
- As a general matter all mandates should be reviewed on at least 5 yearly basis by the conference and more frequently by steering group, to see that the arrangements are meeting the conference's objectives
- All costs of being the conference's delegate are to be met by the delegates themselves.