

33rd International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations

Annual report

2010/11

Third report of the Steering Group

October 2011

The 30th Conference established the **Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations**. The Steering Group has the task of arranging observer representation before relevant international meetings in order to influence data protection policy formulation and to keep the Conference better informed.

The Steering group's first report outlined in detail the establishment and operation of the Steering Group. It set out key processes and resources such as the 'expectations of delegates' document approved by the Steering Group.

During the year, the Steering Group continued to maintain its focus upon four principal international organisations;

- **APEC** – guest status was obtained during the year for a meeting of the Electronic Commerce Steering Group Data Privacy Subgroup (ECSG DPS);
- **Council of Europe** – we have observer status before the Consultative Committee on Convention No.108 (T-PD);
- **International Organisation for Standardisation** – there has been an exchange of liaison officers between ISO and the Conference;
- **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** – we have observer status before the Working Group on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP).

The Steering Group has not pursued any new opportunities for observer representation although it holds an existing mandate from the Conference to seek observer representation, if appropriate, before the IGF, London Action Plan, International Law Commission, ICANN, ITU and UNESCO. The main difficulty in pursuing further applications for observer status is our limited capacity to routinely send delegates to the relevant meetings. Existing obligations already stretch the capacities of the members of the Steering Group.

For the time being, the Steering Group does not propose to seek further observer status unless a suitable person, from amongst the staff of member authorities, has first been identified as available to perform the duties of a delegate. If any DPA has an interest in providing a delegate to any of the international bodies mentioned, they ought to contact a member of the Steering Group know and the processes for seeking observer status can be initiated.

The Steering Group acknowledges the hard work of the existing Conference delegates. During the year, valuable and diligent work was undertaken by Steve Johnston, ISO Liaison Officer, and Olivier Matter, delegate to T-PD and WPISP. Olivier retired from the role at the end of the year. The Steering Group also acknowledges with gratitude the employers of the delegates, the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and the CNIL, for making those staff available for the delegate role.

In addition, the Steering Group was, at reasonably short notice, able to arrange guest status for a conference delegate before a meeting of the APEC ECSG DPS. Florence Raynal, from the CNIL, represented the Conference at the meeting in San Francisco in September and her contribution is also acknowledged.

The 32nd Conference re-elected the DPAs from Australia, Canada, European DPS, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and Spain to the Steering Group for a further two year term. No members have expressed a wish to retire from the Steering Group

Marie Shroff
New Zealand Privacy Commissioner

On behalf of Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations