



International Conference of Data
Protection & Privacy Commissioners

Executive Committee

Data Protection Day a reminder of new privacy challenges

Statement by Chair, Executive Committee, International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

28 January 2016

The year ahead promises its own share of unpredictable challenges, opportunities, setbacks and solutions for privacy and data protection authorities in areas as diverse as trade treaties, technology and terrorism, says International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC) Executive Committee Chair, John Edwards.

In a statement marking Data Protection Day (28 January), Mr Edwards says data protection authorities must continue to meet the emerging and evolving challenges to privacy and data protection and to do so, they will need an effective mix of research, advice, encouragement, education, cooperation and enforcement.

“It looks like 2016 will be another busy year with ambitious plans by the ICDPPC and its member authorities, as well as the many other regional and international networks active in data protection that our members participate in.

Mr Edwards says the ICDPPC is looking forward to holding its 38th annual meeting in October in Morocco. It marks a milestone as the first ICDPPC conference to be held in North Africa.

“The last few years have seen a surge in the number of African nations adopting data protection laws. The international conference welcomes the increased diversity that this trend brings, and looks forward to sharing with, and learning from, African authorities during the conference.”

Mr Edwards says a strategic priority for the ICDPPC is to strengthen connections among members and other groups working in privacy and data protection. The ICDPPC wants to acknowledge a number of important initiatives undertaken by groups external to it that promote the importance of privacy in 2016. These include:

- operationalisation of the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN) alerts system
- finalising the European Union’s General Data Protection Directive
- completing the first year of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy

- completing work to modernise the Council of Europe and APEC privacy instruments
- the OECD’s Ministerial on the Digital Economy
- European Union-US Safe Harbour 2.0.

“The ICDPPC Executive Committee wishes everyone working in data protection an interesting year,” Mr Edwards said.

Background

The International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC) first met in 1979. It has been the premier global forum for data protection authorities for over three decades. The ICDPPC seeks to provide leadership at international level in data protection and privacy. It does this by connecting the efforts of about 110 privacy and data protection authorities from across the globe. More information can be found at www.icdppc.org.

The ICDPPC Executive Committee includes members from Canada, France, Morocco, Netherlands and New Zealand. The New Zealand Privacy Commissioner, John Edwards, was elected Chair in 2014.

For more information, contact the ICDPPC Secretariat at ICDPPCExCo@privacy.org.nz.

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