

Committee work plan – Develop common approaches and tools for data protection and privacy

Note from Canada – Brent Homan

Dear Excomm Members ,

As agreed during our last Committee meeting, the CNIL and OPC-Canada have engaged in discussions with a view to proposing the pursuit of the following three “practical tools” in respect of “Task 6” of the current strategic plan:

i. Firstly, we would recommend development of an online repository, ideally on the Conference website, whereby Conference members could share their positions/approaches in respect of important privacy and data protection issues (e.g., RTBF, Big Data, IOT, etc.). Such a repository could provide: (i) a template form, where authorities could easily respond to a standard set of basic questions; and (ii) the ability for an authority to append relevant documents (e.g., guidance or findings) that may provide further detail.

Such a tool would form part of the creation of a ‘one-stop-shop’ whereby an authority that is considering an emerging issue (e.g., in the course of an ongoing investigation), could obtain, and benefit from the perspectives of other authorities on that issue, to inform their own deliberations, such that the individual members of the Conference need not repeatedly “reinvent the wheel”.

ii. Second, we suggest development of a platform whereby Conference members could share details regarding their respective jurisdictions, powers, investigative processes, evidentiary requirements, etc. Such a platform, although generally containing information that is otherwise publicly available, would represent an easily accessible resource where authorities could obtain the information they need to evaluate the potential for enforcement cooperation with prospective partners, or just generally apprise themselves, in abbreviated form, of the legislative, jurisdiction and operational (i.e., size of authority, authority head, etc.) nature of authorities.

iii. Finally, recognizing the critical mass of practical enforcement cooperation tools/initiatives that have already been implemented by the Conference (i.e., the Arrangement, the Handbook, Annual Enforcement Cooperation Meeting) and those that will continue to be developed (like those outlined above), we would propose the development of a dedicated Enforcement Cooperation section on the Conference website, to give such tools appropriate prominence and render them easily accessible by all members.

We look forward to discussing this proposal at the next Executive Committee meeting. Our aim would be to obtain consensus with respect to a proposed plan that can be put forth in Morocco. In the interim, please do not hesitate to forward any questions or comments you may have, to [REDACTED] at the OPC-Canada and [REDACTED] at the CNIL, so that we can be in the best position to address them on July 20th.

Kind regards,

Brent

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