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I took a day trip to Luxembourg in mid-May on behalf of Privacy Laws & Business readers because one of the main items on the agenda of the EEC's Legal Observatory was whether the EEC should adopt a more interventionist position on data protection. This came as something of a surprise after the EEC Commission had been saying for years that it would stand aside and merely recommend that member states sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention.

More on this and other aspects of national and international data export policies in the August issue...together with a look at the new data protection legislation in the low tax autonomous entities within the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man and Guernsey...plus the latest news from Germany and France looking at data protection and management-labour relations.

Does the trend toward self-regulation in the recent Finnish law and revised Netherlands bill mean that a company based in the United States can now relax because a few years ago its chief executive formally agreed to follow the OECD Guidelines? Can Canadian companies now follow suit and then forget about it? Not at all. In both Finland and the Netherlands, tough sanctions remain for those who deliberately neglect their responsibilities. In the latter case, the data protection bill contains penalties of six months in prison or a fine of 25,000 guilders (£7,500).

Make sure your company keeps informed and well prepared. You may order copies of laws and bills by filling in the attached form.

Stewart Dresner

Stewart Dresner, Publisher

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In this issue:

- Data protection news from around the world.....page 2
- Greece's data protection bill ready for October debate...page 6
- Checklist for the international data protection manager..page 7
- Comparing the Council of Europe and OECD rules.....page 9
- Austria simplifies its data export rules.....page 10
- Microcomputing encourages new style privacy laws.....page 13
- Finland first with a second generation privacy law.....page 14
- The Netherlands to adopt a privacy act by year-end.....page 18

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