

PRIVACY LAWS & BUSINESS

Editor: Merrill Dresner

No.5

February 1988

In 1988, there will be several major developments on the international data protection scene. Data protection laws are likely to be passed by the Netherlands and Ireland, while Switzerland and Japan are due to publish their bills, both of which have taken years to prepare. Will the bills to emerge from these two countries, with strong business lobbies, be different in scope from those which are already in place in Europe?

In several countries, both those with laws and those drafting bills, there is discussion on the role of sectoral guidelines, so keenly debated at the Council of Europe's Athens conference (see p.7). Will the model be the UK, where industries draw up their own guidelines with some help from the Registrar? Or will national data protection authorities exercise stronger enforcement through sectoral regulations, as in Sweden's latest direct marketing regulations (see page 16).

On the international scene, 1988 should be the year when the Council of Europe's Data Protection Consultative Committee moves into a more active policy advisory role - and when the EEC rejoins the action after seven years on the sidelines (see p.2).

In response to several companies' requests we have included in this issue a roundup of data protection in 25 countries, and tables showing the main features of the European laws and bills. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for similar surveys. We would also like to hear from you with your experience of working with data protection laws.

If you have difficulty reaching us on the telephone number below, please take a note of our new message service - Peter Adams: Telephone 01 958 3155 in the UK or (44.1) 958 3155 from outside the UK.

Merrill Dresner

Merrill Dresner, Editor

In this issue:

- * Data protection news from around the world.....page 2
- * Prepare now for data protection laws in the 1990's..page 7
- * Responding to access requests.....page 11
- * Sweden's new rules on direct marketing.....page 16
- * Telephone logging: German workers fight for rights..page 18
- * Scottish Law Commission on computer law.....page 19
- * Data protection roundup on 25 countries.....page 23
- * European data protection laws at a glance.....page 27
- * European data protection bills at a glance.....page 28

Editor: Merrill Dresner, 3, Central Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 5BT, UK.

Telephone: (+44.1) 866 8641 Telex: 9312100310 TDG.

Reproduction and transmission in any form without prior permission prohibited.

Privacy Laws & Business cannot accept liability for advice given.

COPYRIGHT © 1988 PRIVACY LAWS & BUSINESS. ISSN 0953-6795