

PRIVACY LAWS AND BUSINESS

Editor: Merrill Dresner

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During the summer, Ireland has moved with great speed and enacted its data protection law. It contains an unusual provision which gives its legislature an opportunity to make a statutory instrument from an industry code of practice which has been approved by the Data Protection Commissioner. Congratulations to Donal Linehan, who has been appointed as Ireland's first Data Protection Commissioner. We are delighted that Mr. Linehan will speak at our conference on October 19th in London and explain how the new law will work and how it will affect the way companies operate in the Irish Republic.

Also at the conference we will hear from Mr. P. Hustinx, the Netherlands government's advisor, on its data protection bill, which is due to be enacted in October; and on the latest news from the Council of Europe. The third speaker will be Dr. P. Muller who is responsible for data protection policy in Switzerland, where the legislature will begin its study of the bill this autumn. We are very fortunate that Dr. Malcolm Norris, the Isle of Man's Registrar plus Mr. Peter Harrison, who is responsible for planning Hong Kong's data protection policy, will also be attending the conference and have agreed to answer your questions. Book your place now!

In this record 32 page issue, we bring you updates on two of the popular features from our August 1987 issue, a table of 25 countries which have signed the OECD Guidelines and signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention; plus a greatly expanded and completely revised directory of names, addresses and telephone numbers of data protection authorities.

In our next issue, we will report from Oslo on the annual meeting of Data Protection Commissioners. Meanwhile, we look forward to meeting you at our conference on 19th October at the Mayfair Hotel in London.

Merrill Dresner

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Editor: Merrill Dresner, 3, Central Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 5BT, UK.
Telephone: 01-866-8641 (UK)/(+44.1) 866 8641 (International) Telex: 9312100310 TDG.
Messages: Telephone: 01-958-3155 (UK)/(+44.1) 958-3155 (International).
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