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# PRIVACY LAWS & BUSINESS

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1989 has already made a strong start in the privacy area with the Netherlands Data Protection Act, passed on December 27th and entering into force on July 1st, and Australia's Privacy Act operational from January 1st. It is a feature of these and the Irish law that as none of them have universal registration systems, they enter into force relatively quickly.

Privacy Laws & Business focuses not only on the legislation itself but also on the practical implications for business. We offer you an analysis of Ireland's Data Protection Act by the Commissioner and his answers to 20 questions put to him by companies. Similarly, we look at Norway's Data Security proposals and at the first of a 2 part assessment of data security issues from the corporate standpoint. We welcome this contribution from one of our subscribers, Norman Jackson, Computer Security Manager of Digital Equipment. We would like to hear the experience of other subscribers.

Peter Hustinx, Chairman of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Data Protection, explains its influential work in this area. We have also revised and updated our Data Protection Roundup on 28 countries and European Data Protection Laws and Bills at a Glance.

In the next issue.... the Council of Europe's Recommendation on Employment Data..plus an Australian judicial decision on privacy.

We are now choosing sessions and seeking sponsors for our annual International Data Protection Conference in September. There has been much interest in direct marketing and data security. Let us have your views.

**Merrill Dresner, Editor**

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