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Companies often ask about the impact of data protection laws as the 1992 deadline for a unified European market approaches. Indeed, Privacy Laws & Business organized a session on this issue for the United States' Direct Marketing Association at its International Strategic Forum in June. Although the Council of Europe has taken the lead in harmonizing international approaches to privacy issues throughout the 1980's, will the balance of influence in the decade ahead shift towards the European Community? Certainly, the International Data Protection Commissioners at their Berlin conference in August envisaged an important role for the EEC and recommended the establishment of an independent data protection authority to advise the Community institutions. See the full texts of the Berlin resolutions to give you an insight into the Commissioners' thinking.

Do not expect fast progress. In May, it looked as if the EEC Commission would be ready to announce its policy in October. But just as this issue was going to press, we heard that the Director General of the relevant department has decided that the Commission's policy statement should combine data protection and data security issues. Clearly, more time will be needed.

Also in this issue, you will find our annual directory of national and international Data Protection Commissioners, expanded, completely revised, and with fax numbers for the first time.

**Stewart Dresner, Publisher**

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