

European Data Protection Laws

Country	Legislation	Passed [note 1]	In force [note 2]	Physical Persons	Legal Persons	Automated Data	Manual Records	Export [all]	Licence [some]	DPA [note 3] may restrict exports
Austria	Data Protection Act	18 Oct 78	01 Jan 82	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Denmark	Private Registers Act	08 Jun 78	01 Jan 79	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Finland	Data Protection Act	04 Feb 87	01 Jan 88	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
France	Data Processing, Data Files & Individual Liberties Act	06 Jan 78	01 Jan 80	Yes	Yes [note 4]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Germany	Data Protection Act	27 Jan 77	01 Jan 79	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Guernsey	Data Protection Act	30 Jul 86	11 Nov 87	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Iceland	Systematic Recording of Personal Data Act	05 Jun 81	01 Jan 82	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Ireland	Data Protection Act	13 Jul 88	19 Apr 89	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Isle of Man	Data Protection Act	16 Jul 86	17 Oct 90	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Israel	Protection of Privacy Act	23 Feb 81	11 Sep 81	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Jersey	Data Protection Act	30 Apr 87	11 Nov 87	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Luxembourg	The Use of Name-Linked Data in Computer Processing Act	31 Mar 79	01 Oct 79	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Netherlands	Data Protection Act	28 Dec 88	01 Jul 89	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Norway	Personal Data Registers Act	09 Jun 78	01 Jan 80	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sweden	Data Act	13 May 73	01 Jul 74	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
UK	Data Protection Act	12 Jul 84	11 Nov 87	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

NOTES

1. The "Passed" column indicates the date when the data protection legislation was passed in its original form.
2. The "In force" column indicates the date when the legislation, as originally enacted, entered or will enter fully into force.
3. "DPA" means Data Protection Authority
4. France's data protection law's right of access was extended to legal persons on July 3rd 1984 by an administrative decision of CNIL, the data protection authority.

General notes

- All European data protection laws cover the public and private sectors, and give data subjects a right of access to records on themselves, together with a right of correction or a right to file a note of disagreement. In addition, they all contain provisions for imposing penalties on those who breach the law.
- Several of these laws have been amended. This table is based on information available as at 1st January 1989 and is believed correct as at that date.

European Data Protection Bills

Country	Title of Bill	Date Intro to legis.	Est. date in force	Physical Persons	Legal Persons	Automated Data	Manual Records	Export [all]	Licence [some]	DPA may restrict exports
Belgium	Bill on the Protection of Private Life Regarding the Automated Processing of Personal Data	17 Jul 85	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Greece	Data Protection Bill	Nov 87	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Italy	[A Bill was introduced in 1984 but withdrawn in 1985]	A new Bill is expected in 1989.								
Portugal	Data Protection Bill	15 Mar 84	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Spain	Bill Regulating the Use of Computers for the Protection of Personal Data	10 Dec 85	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	Federal Bill on the Protection of Personal Data	23 Mar 88	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

General notes

- ▣ "DPA" means data protection authority.
- ▣ "N/A" means not available.
- ▣ All European data protection bills cover the public and private sectors, and give data subjects a right of access to records on themselves, together with a right of correction or a right to file a note of disagreement. In addition, they all contain provisions for imposing penalties on those who breach the law.
- ▣ Several of these bills have been redrafted at various times. This table is based on information available as at 1st January 1989 and is believed correct as at that date.

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