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# PRIVACY LAWS & BUSINESS

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The European Commission's data protection draft directive has had a considerable impact both in Europe and beyond. The immediate prospect of such rigorous legislation has helped stimulate voluntary initiatives from groups as diverse as Europe's mailing preference services (p.8), Canada's bankers (p.12), and also strengthened the arguments in favour of the Data Protection Bill 1991 in the United States Congress (p.4).

Above all, how would a national ban on the export of personal data from an EC member state (p.5) be managed if the directive were now in force? A 1993 International Data Transfer Scenario will be a highlight of our 4th Annual Conference, and we look forward to meeting you in Cambridge on July 2-4th. In addition to sessions on the UK and the European Community, we will also be covering the USA, Canada, Australia, and Hong Kong; turning public information to private profit; and data protection training.

We go through a most rigorous checking process with our sources and the reports here, covering the November 1990 to February 1991 period, are the results of our efforts to maintain an unrivalled accurate and authoritative international information service.

Your next issue will feature our annual roundup of developments in over 30 countries, summary tables of Europe's laws and bills, data protection developments in Spain, data matching policy in Australia, more details on the USA's Data Protection Bill, proposed amendments to Denmark's law, the UK Tribunal's decision in the CCN case.....plus a new look newsletter.

*Stewart Dresner*

Stewart Dresner, Publisher

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