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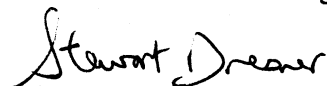
December 1993

The European Community (EC), which in November changed its name to the European Union, (EU), has launched two data protection surveys this year. I am delighted that *Privacy Laws & Business* was chosen in July to conduct the first project, Privacy Practice, on behalf of Directorate-General 13. The project surveys users of personal data in the public and private sectors and investigates their practical experience with the working of the national data protection laws. The countries being surveyed are Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. As readers of this newsletter know, the EU Commission has proposed a Directive which will have a major impact on the development of national laws throughout the Union. The draft directive has been widely criticised for imposing an impractical legal regime and being costly, burdensome and bureaucratic. The proposal is based on current laws and so the EU Commission is eager to learn how data users comply, in practice, with existing obligations. Contact us for a questionnaire or more information on the national workshops (p.28).

The second study on Transborder Flows of Personal Data was awarded by Directorate-General 15 in October to a group based in France. This study will concentrate on financial services, air travel and employment. The research team will make a census of processing operations and networks including an analysis of decision-making and internal control; describe and evaluate possible risks to the rights of data subjects; and deal with ways of ensuring adequate protection for data subjects when personal data is transferred to countries outside the European Union.

Our next issue will feature our data protection roundup of over 30 countries and reports on how data protection legislation is enforced in Germany by one of the Lander authorities, France's new direct marketing code and the UK Data Protection Tribunal's decision on fair obtaining of data.

I am now planning the programme for the *Privacy Laws & Business 7th Annual Conference* to be held 11th-13th July 1994 when we return to St. John's College, Cambridge. Please contact me with your suggestions.



Stewart Dresner, Publisher

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