
Privacy Laws & Business

NEWSLETTER

data protection and privacy worldwide


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The year has been dominated by the final adoption in July of the European Union's Data Protection Directive. The final version was officially published in November (95/46/EC of 24 October, 1995, Official Journal L 281/31 volume 38, 23 November, 1995) but became available only this month. The reason for the Directive being dated 24 October is that that was the date it was signed by the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Council. The significance of the official date of adoption being October rather than July is that the final date for transposition into national law has consequently been delayed three months until October 1998.

During the year, *Privacy Laws & Business* has analysed the issues and the implications: in this newsletter; in our March/April workshops with the European Commission's Nick Platten; and at our 8th Annual Conference in July, at the start of the consultation process on implementing the directive in national law. Our end of year workshops explained the final version of the Directive. Subsequently, we prepared a memo to the UK's Home Office and the Data Protection Registrar on the consensus of participants' views on implementation in national law.

The directive has undoubtedly had an effect on Europe's trading partners. Hong Kong passed its Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance in August (p. 2); Canada's Federal Privacy Commissioner called for extending the Privacy Act to the private sector and the Canadian Direct Marketing Association agreed (p. 7); Australia's Prime Minister on 6 December gave a commitment, in his *Innovate Australia* statement, to extend privacy protection to the private sector following wide ranging consultation; and Russia's Telecommunications and Informatics administration officials are closely looking at the Directive as part of its study of the need to protect personal data. Central and Eastern European Countries planning to join the European Union are following Hungary and taking steps to adopt or implement national data protection laws.


Stewart Dresner, Publisher

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