

Privacy Laws & Business

NEWSLETTER

data protection and privacy worldwide

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This month, the EU Telecommunications Privacy Directive has been adopted and affects all organisations because it covers tele-marketing (p.2). This first EU sectoral Data Protection Directive is scheduled to be implemented into national law together with the general Directive by October 1998. Will other sectors follow?

The EU Directive impacts not only the 15 Member States and the countries of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) but also the applicants for membership in central and Eastern Europe (p.9) which are expected to have working data protection laws before they can join the European Union. The EU Directive is also being closely monitored in the Asia-Pacific region (pp.10,11).

Marc Rotenberg, Director of the USA-based Electronic Privacy Information Center, argues that the "European Commission would have ample justification...if it decided to restrict certain data flows to the USA because of the absence of appropriate privacy safeguards" (p.15). He partly bases his views on evidence gathered by Professors Joel Reidenberg and Paul Schwartz (p.18).

With the ever-increasing pace of change, we are considering offering an on-line version of this newsletter to a closed user group of subscribers. We could make reports immediately available on-line to be followed by this traditional newsletter format. For example, this would keep our directory of Data Protection Authorities constantly updated, rather than publishing it annually with occasional updates (p.16). Please let me know your views by any means, including e-mail.

This issue is the first prepared with substantial contributions from Laura Linkomies, our new Associate Editor, whom we warmly welcome. Before she joined us in August, she was based at the Office of the Data Protection Registrar in the UK and provided the secretariat to the European Data Protection Commissioners. She brings experience, organisational talent, journalism skills, five languages and a wide range of contacts to strengthen our provision of services to you. Please contact her with your news, views and updates (p.16). You will have an opportunity to meet her, and the rest of our team at *Privacy Laws & Business's* 11th Annual International Conference, July 13th-15th, at St. John's College, Cambridge. More details in January.



Stewart Dresner, Publisher

in this issue

EU adopts privacy directive on telecommunications	2
New UK rules for telephone directory information	4
UK Registrar seeks comments on EU data security provisions	5
Criminal provisions should be reviewed in the new UK DP Act	6
Private eye guilty of deceiving BT .	8
Data protection laws develop in Central and Eastern Europe	9
Malaysia next Asian country with privacy law	10
New Zealand reviews Privacy Act .	11
Canada sees light for private sector legislation	12
Data protection in the USA	13
News from around the world	16
Ireland focuses on health data	17
New UK DP Act information and compliance programme	17
Book reviews	18
1998 conference calendar	20
<i>Privacy Laws & Business Newsletter</i> subscription form	20

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