

Privacy Laws & Business

NEWSLETTER

data protection and privacy worldwide

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This month is the 11th anniversary of the first *Privacy Laws & Business Newsletter*. In 1987, it was difficult to foresee developments like the adoption of data protection laws in Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia or Poland (pp.9, 26) or their planned entry into the European Union. We continue our series of reports on the way in which the EU's Data Protection Directive is being implemented in the Member States. This issue features Germany, Denmark and the UK.

The last 11 years have seen the rapid growth of electronic commerce (p.14) together with new laws to defend privacy at national level and indeed at European level (p.19). Germany's new multimedia law (p.20) is not unique. Other European countries are adopting legislation on digital signatures. France's new Telecommunications Act includes regulations for digital signatures, and Italy has recently adopted a law on the use of electronic documents and contracts. Denmark and Belgium are also drafting legislation.

Concern for privacy accompanies the incredible growth of the Internet. Visit our new website (www.privacylaws.co.uk) and see the privacy statement on our home page. We follow best practice by collecting your personal data from the website only if you complete the form requesting information, ordering publications or registering for our conferences, workshops or other services. A recent survey showed that many US-based websites do not have privacy policies. However, some companies' policies, such as McGraw-Hill's (p.23), reflect a positive concern for privacy and a wish to achieve adequacy, as required by the EU Data Protection Directive.

We have now launched our new UK Data Protection Act 1998 Information and Compliance Programme (p.8). I would like to hear from anyone interested in learning more about the forthcoming UK open government law (p.22) which will impact both the public and private sectors.

Many of the above themes will be featured at our 11th Annual Conference, July 13th-15th at St. John's, Cambridge.



Stewart Dresner, Publisher

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Roxeth House, Shaftesbury Avenue, Harrow,
Middlesex, HA2 0PZ, United Kingdom.

Tel: 0181 423 1300 (UK) +(44) 181 423 1300 (Int)

Fax: 0181 423 4536 (UK) +(44) 181 423 4536 (Int)

E-mail: info@privacylaws.co.uk

Web Site: www.privacylaws.co.uk

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