



# INTERNATIONAL newsletter

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## Editorial

This 15th Anniversary edition of the PL&B International newsletter coincides with publication, on February 14th, of the European Commission's review of the working of the US Safe Harbor scheme (p.6). Will the European Parliament, which was not satisfied with the level of adequacy offered by the scheme when it started, side with the Commission, which says that the scheme has made a fair start, or with Professor Joel Reidenberg, Fordham University, New York, who considers the scheme to be seriously flawed?

In Canada, a number of stories have raised relevant issues for privacy communities worldwide. These include mandatory blood testing of individuals aided by "good Samaritans"; the concern of Canada's federal Privacy Commissioner about the state of privacy in the face of new surveillance technologies (p.24); and a Supreme Court decision dealing with the acceptability of government data matching practices.

We examine some of the benefits and dangers associated with surveillance technologies, including the frailties of facial recognition technology (p.11), the potential for detecting blushing liars (p.4) and concerns over surveillance in public places (p. 4,12). An OECD report, on Privacy Enhancing Technologies shows there are still improvements to be made (p.18). Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong aim to cut down on e-privacy violations (p.20). The EU's Data Protection Working Party has called for a comprehensive debate over controversial measures taken to combat terrorist activity (p.11), and a new EU Forum looks at Internet crime (p.14). A simple oversight by Eli Lilly led to the disclosure of several hundred consumers' e-mail addresses (p.10).

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