

EU Data Protection reform: DIGITALEUROPE urges caution ahead of final trilogue

BRUSSELS (December 14th 2015) — DIGITALEUROPE urges caution ahead of the expected final trilogue on the draft General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) set for 15 December.

In an [‘Open Statement’](#) issued today, DIGITALEUROPE set out its final recommendations to trilogue negotiators stressing that the adherence to the self-imposed end of 2015 deadline¹ for reaching an agreement must not come at any cost.

“While we understand the pressure facing negotiators to reach an agreement during Tuesday’s trilogue discussions, it must not come at any price,” said John Higgins, Director General of DIGITALEUROPE. *“The importance of a balanced Regulation to the future success of Europe’s ambitious digital future cannot be overstated,”* added Mr Higgins.

Despite only one trilogue remaining, questions still linger on numerous topics ranging from the clear allocation of roles and responsibilities between data controllers and data processors, conditions and age for consent, a balanced view on purpose limitation, and a flexible sanctions regime.

“If these issues are not addressed in the final text, we fear that the much sought after balance between citizens’ privacy and enhancing economic competitiveness will be lost,” warned Mr Higgins. *“During a period of economic recovery, European citizens and businesses cannot afford a Regulation which unnecessarily stifles job creation, competitiveness and data driven investment,”* stated Mr Higgins.

The original objective of harmonisation across the EU has also been put into question as provisions allowing for additional Member State flexibility have found their way into the latest texts.

“Any trade-offs leading to further flexibility for the public sector at the expense of harmonisation and innovation is unacceptable,” stressed Mr Higgins.

Once an agreement is reached in trilogue Member States are expected to adopt a ‘Common Position’ on the text. The European Parliament will then have three months to support, reject or amend the Council’s ‘Common Position’.

--

For more information please contact:

Paul Meller, DIGITALEUROPE’s Communications Director
+32 497 322 966 or paul.meller@digitaleurope.org

¹ EUCO 169/13, pg. 5

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 60 corporate members and 37 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

DIGITALEUROPE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Members

Alcatel-Lucent, AMD, Apple, BlackBerry, Bose, Brother, CA Technologies, Canon, Cassidian, Cisco, Dell, Epson, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Google, Hitachi, Hewlett Packard, Huawei, IBM, Ingram Micro, Intel, iQor, JVC Kenwood Group, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lenovo, Lexmark, LG Electronics, Loewe, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Motorola Mobility, Motorola Solutions, NEC, Nokia, Nvidia Ltd., Océ, Oki, Oracle, Panasonic Europe, Philips, Pioneer, Qualcomm, Ricoh Europe PLC, Samsung, SAP, SAS, Schneider Electric IT Corporation, Sharp Electronics, Siemens, Sony, Swatch Group, Technicolor, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, TP Vision, Western Digital, Xerox, Zebra Technologies, ZTE Corporation.

National Trade Associations

Austria: IOO	Germany: BITKOM, ZVEI	Slovakia: ITAS
Belarus: INFOPARK	Greece: SEPE	Slovenia: GZS
Belgium: AGORIA	Hungary: IVSZ	Spain: AMETIC
Bulgaria: BAIT	Ireland: ICT IRELAND	Sweden: Foreningen Teknikföretagen i Sverige, IT&Telekomföretagen
Cyprus: CITEA	Italy: ANITEC	Switzerland: SWICO
Denmark: DI ITEK, IT-BRANCHEN	Lithuania: INFOBALT	Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID
Estonia: ITL	Netherlands: Nederland ICT, FIAR	Ukraine: IT UKRAINE
Finland: FFTI	Poland: KIGEIT, PIIT, Zipsee	United Kingdom: techUK
France: AFDEL, AFNUM, Force Numérique	Portugal: AGEFE	
	Romania: ANIS, APDETIC	