

ARTICLE 29 Data Protection Working Party



Brussels, 26 May 2010

Vice-President
Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental
Rights and Citizenship
European Commission
B – 1049 Brussels

Dear Vice-President,

On behalf of the data protection authorities in the EU, united in the Article 29 Working Party (hereafter: WP29), I am sending you a copy of the letters WP29 sent today to 3 major search engine operators, Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft.

With the content of these letters I hope to contribute in a meaningful way to the development and enforcement of adequate, transatlantic, data protection principles.

Key concern for the WP29 is the possibility of enforcement of European data protection principles in a borderless world. Our correspondence with the search engines illustrates the need to pay specific attention to key principles including purpose limitation, independent auditing and retention periods.

We continue to respectfully offer our assistance in finding constructive solutions.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Kohnstamm
Chairman

This Working Party was set up under Article 29 of Directive 95/46/EC. It is an independent European advisory body on data protection and privacy. Its tasks are described in Article 30 of Directive 95/46/EC and Article 15 of Directive 2002/58/EC.

The secretariat is provided by Directorate D (Fundamental Rights and Citizenship) of the European Commission, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, Office No LX-46 01/190.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/index_en.htm