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Brussels, 6 February 2011

### **Article 29 Data Protection Working Party**

*The Article 29 Working Party held its 84<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on 1 and 2 February 2012 in Brussels*

#### **- Change of Google's privacy policy**

Given the wide range and popularity of services Google offers, the recently announced changes to its privacy policy may affect many citizens in the European Union. The Article 29 Working Party in a letter has called on Google for a pause in the implementation of the announced changes and asked the French DPA, the CNIL, to check the possible consequences for the protection of personal data of EU citizens.

#### **- World Anti-Doping Agency**

In view of the upcoming revision of the WADA code, the Article 29 Working Party has reiterated its concerns regarding the rights to privacy and data protection of European sportsmen and women in the context of the fight against doping. The Working Party therefore sent a letter to the European Commission urging the Commission to ensure the European rules on privacy and data protection will be upheld and respected in the new version of the code.

#### **- Elections**

Jacob Kohnstamm, Chairman of the Dutch Data Protection Authority, has been re-elected as Chairman of the Article 29 Working Party. Igor Nemeč, President of the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Czech Republic, and Christopher Graham, the Information Commissioner of the United Kingdom, have been re-elected respectively elected as Vice-Chairmen. Both terms of Chair and Vice-Chair are for two years.

#### **- Meetings with representatives from Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

The Working Party met with David Vladeck, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection and Stacy Feuer, Assistant-Director for International Consumer Protection of the Office of International Affairs of the FTC. Mr Vladeck informed about the developments in the United States with regard to privacy and data protection and recent FTC enforcement actions in this field. The Working Party and Mr Vladeck discussed issues of common concern and have committed to continue their close cooperation in order to ensure as much convergence as possible between the approaches on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Working Party also met with Michael Donohue, Senior Policy Analyst on Information Security and Privacy of the OECD. Mr Donohue informed on the ongoing review of the OECD privacy guidelines, already in place since 1980.

#### **Background information**

The Article 29 Working Party on the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data is an independent advisory body on data protection and privacy, set up under Article 29 of the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC. It is composed of representatives from the national data protection authorities of the EU Member States, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Commission. Its tasks are

described in Article 30 of Directive 95/46/EC and Article 15 of Directive 2002/58/EC. The Article 29 Working Party is competent to examine any question covering the application of the data protection directives in order to contribute to the uniform application of the directives. It carries out this task by issuing recommendations, opinions and working documents.

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/index_en.htm)