

Press Release
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Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, Chairwoman of the WP29, was in the US for two days last week to meet representatives from the Ombudsperson and the FTC. She also met business members from the ITI and the Brooking Institution and representatives of the civil society. Some of those meetings were shared with Věra Jourová and her team. She reported the visit to the WP29 plenary yesterday.

The FTC and the Ombudsperson reiterated their general support to the Privacy Shield and their willingness to help the European Commission and the WP29 in their annual review. However, some of the key functions in the Privacy Shield architecture still need to be definitely appointed following the US election (Ombudsperson, FTC commissioners and PCLOB members). In addition, the organization of the annual review must be discussed in depth and in detail with the US authorities especially regarding access to documents.

In that regard, Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin recalls that the objective of this annual review exercise is to verify through concrete evidences if US commitments under the Privacy Shield are fulfilled. It is essential that US authorities provide substance and demonstrate to EU stakeholders that the system is in place and works effectively so that this instrument ensures real and effective protection to EU data according to EU standards.

The civil society expressed its concerns on the current context at national level especially on the renewal of Section 702 and on the overturn of FCC broadband privacy rules. The US Business industry supports the Privacy Shield as a solution bringing legal certainty to their transfers of data from the EU.

In this context, the WP29 engaged at this plenary the discussions with the Commission as regard the organization of the joint review