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**Issued by the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party**

**Data Protection Authorities in the European Union and APEC Member Economies Cooperated to Develop a Practical Tool for Multi-National Organisations Operating in Europe and the Asia-Pacific**

**On 27 February 2014, the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), which is composed of all EU data protection authorities, adopted a favourable opinion on a practical tool mapping the requirements of Binding Corporate Rules (BCR) and Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR). The document was also endorsed by Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Member Economies on 27-28 February 2014.**

In the European Union, BCR have been developed in order to govern international data transfers. Once a BCR is approved by data protection authorities in the EU, compliance therewith ensures adequate safeguards for personal data transferred within the corporate group from the European Union to third countries.

In 2012, APEC Member Economies completed the introduction of the CBPR system for the protection of personal data throughout the Asia-Pacific. Like the BCR system, the CBPR system is designed to ensure that a company's privacy policies meet established standards for the protection of personal information. Such policies must be validated by APEC-recognized Accountability Agents.

Both the EU BCR system and the APEC CBPR system are based on a similar approach, which is the use of internal binding rules for cross-border transfers of personal data, subject to prior approval by EU Data Protection Authorities or by APEC-recognized Accountability Agents.

In this context, APEC Member Economies and the WP29, including representatives from the CNIL (France), the European Commission, the European Data Protection Supervisor, the German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, and the Information Commissioner's Office (UK), met several times from January 2013 to February 2014 to jointly develop this analysis of the data protection and privacy requirements of BCR and CBPR (hereinafter the "referential"). It is aimed at helping multi-national organisations that operate both in Europe and the Asia-Pacific and identifies in a single document the elements both required in the BCR and CBPR systems.

This useful tool lists the elements that are required in both systems, as well as the respective additional elements that are specific to each system. In any case, such additional elements must be taken into account by multi-national organisations applying for a BCR approval with data protection authorities in the EU on the one hand, and for a CBPR certification by an APEC CBPR recognized Accountability Agent on the other hand.

The WP29 welcomes the result of this joint work with APEC Member Economies, which is the first one with the APEC, and is a great example of cooperation. Indeed, this practical tool sets out global solutions for multi-national organisations wishing to develop data protection and privacy policies compliant with both BCR and CBPR systems, and thereby obtain both certifications.