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Spring Conference of Data Protection Authorities

The 2017 edition of the Spring Conference of Data Protection Authorities (the Conference) was held in Limassol, Cyprus, on the 27th and the 28th April 2017 and hosted by the Cypriot Data Protection Authority (DPA). The Conference has been held since 1991 and is the only forum for European DPAs– larger than the Working Party 29 (WP29) - to meet annually and discuss data protection issues of mutual concern.

The Conference, which is open only to accredited DPAs, lasts two days and is composed of presentation sessions where resolutions are adopted and gathers a great number of privacy commissioners from all around Europe. The main purposes of the Conference is to generate exchanges, share knowledge and promote awareness and strengthen the cooperation of the European DPAs.

The 2017 Conference

At this year's Conference, entitled "*New Horizons*", more than 70 representatives from European DPAs gathered to discuss on, among others, raising awareness, transparency in the Cloud, Law Enforcement Authorities' access to data and genomic research. The participation of 22 speakers from countries all around Europe led to a great cultural richness in the debates around data protection and the future challenges that will arise.

The representation of the WP29 at this year's Conference was noteworthy as Data Protection Commissioners from 23 of its members were present and 6 of them led important panel discussions. At the first panel, the Chair of the WP29, Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, provided participants with an update on the preparations for the upcoming application of the data protection reform package and an insight to the upcoming challenges.

The two resolutions adopted: modernization of Convention 108 and changes for the future

Besides these fruitful discussions, DPAs adopted two resolutions and agreed to set up a working group which shall reflect on the future strategic direction of the Conference.

The first resolution was adopted in view of the works and negotiations undertaken for the modernization of the Convention 108. With this resolution, DPAs call upon the governments of Council of Europe Member States and the European Union to reach a political agreement at the 127th Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers to be held in Nicosia on 19 May 2017, enabling a rapid finalization of the modernization, whilst ensuring a high level of data protection for the modernization of Convention 108.

The second resolution established the rules and procedures of the Conference. This resolution aims at organizing in a more stable and efficient way the accreditation and voting rules of the Conference and at ensuring a coherence of its organization. In addition, the Conference's name was changed to "*Conference of European Data Protection Authorities*" in order to better reflect its mission and geographical scope.

The next Conference will be held in Tirana, Albania in 2018 and hosted by the Albanian DPA.

For more information on the agenda and speakers of the 2017 Conference please follow the link below:

http://www.springconference2017.gov.cy/dataprotection/eurospringconference/ecdpa.nsf/page11_en/page11_en?OpenDocument