



WP130

**Resolution by the Article 29 Working Party on the 1st European
Data Protection Day**

Version of 24 January 2007

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 C (Civil Justice, Rights and Citizenship) of the European Commission, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, Office No LX-46 01/43.

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

The European Data Protection Commissioners highly welcome the initiative of the Council of Europe to hold a European Data Protection Day, the first of which will take place on **28 January 2007**. By having a European Data Protection Day, the Article 29 Working Party acting jointly with the Council of Europe intends to further increase European citizens' awareness of data protection and their right to privacy.

Therefore every public and non-public organisation in Europe dealing with data protection is called upon to participate actively in this day in order to raise such awareness. In future, this day will be scheduled every year in the week around the 28 January as this date marks the beginning of the signing of Convention 108 of the Council of Europe. By signing this Convention the European States reiterated their commitment to provide for the respect of rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular of privacy, when it comes to the automated processing of personal data.

In a time of omnipresent data processing this initiative offers an excellent occasion to show and understand how necessary privacy protection is in a democratic society. The European Data Protection Commissioners are, therefore, very supportive of this initiative and would like to explicitly encourage everyone dealing with data protection to highlight the importance of privacy by providing data subjects with more specific information about this fundamental right. Any suggestions which could be carried out on this day such as an open day, lectures, consultation hours, competitions to win a prize, information campaigns targeting individual groups (e.g. young people, travellers, patients) in cooperation with the media are welcome.

The European Data Protection Commissioners will continue in the future to cooperate with the Council of Europe to make this data protection day a success and to show that fundamental rights in particular the fundamental right to privacy is best defended by an independent data protection authority.

For the Working Party
The Chairman
Peter Schaar