

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITIES

(“SPRING CONFERENCE”)

8 MAY 2025

Batumi, Georgia

Sponsor: Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia (PDPS)

Co-Sponsors: Cyprus Commissioner for Personal Data Protection; Bulgarian Commission for Personal Data Protection; National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Hungary; Data State Inspectorate of Republic of Latvia; Croatian Data Protection Authority

Preamble:

In today's world, with the increasing prominence of cross-border data flows and the widespread impact of digital technologies, the role of Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) in safeguarding the fundamental rights to data protection and privacy has never been more crucial. As digital transformation accelerates and data-driven economies expand, this trend will intensify, bringing even greater challenges in regulating data flows, preventing misuse of personal data, and ensuring compliance with evolving legal frameworks.

Recognizing the necessity of effective cooperation among DPAs to uphold the fundamental rights of data subjects and ensure the consistent enforcement of data protection regulations, acknowledging the challenges posed by cross-border data flows and emerging technologies, the European Conference of DPAs reaffirm their commitment to working together. By embracing the principles of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual support, European DPAs will be better equipped to address the challenges of the digital age and uphold the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.

Recognizing that:

- The European Conference of DPAs is the sole forum for all European data protection authorities, to foster collaboration and to exchange best practices in order to address issues of common interest, pressing trends and emerging challenges that affect the rights to data protection and privacy.
- Enhanced cooperation among European DPAs may contribute to building trust and confidence in cross-border data transfers, and creating a supportive environment for sustainable innovation and economic growth.
- The ongoing challenges posed by the borderless nature of data processing in the digital age highlight the importance of practical exchanges and discussions on effective policies and on the implementation and enforcement of data protection related legislations.

- The nature of the issues emerging in the field emphasizes the need of promotion of common standards and principles on data protection and privacy as well as creating common approaches and best practices amongst the European DPAs.

Recalling that:

- The European Conference of Data Protection Authorities adopted the “Resolution on the Revision of the Rules and Procedures of the Conference” at the 31st Conference in Budapest, Hungary in 2023.
- The European Conference of Data Protection Authorities adopted the “Resolution on Enhanced Cooperation and Establishment of Working Groups for Data Protection Authorities” at the 32nd Conference in Riga, Latvia in 2024.

The European Conference of Data Protection Authorities, hereby, resolves to:

Adopt the action plan to strengthen collaboration among European DPAs, through the following activities, which are intended to be undertaken on a voluntary basis by the Conference Members and Observers:

Activity 1.

Advocate for the promotion of high European standards, including those established by the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 108 / CETS No. 223) and best practices on data protection and privacy, promoting the common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law by creating specific discussion platforms, such as Conference sub-groups, that will be mandated to:

1. Further revise strategic objectives for achieving enhanced cooperation amongst the European DPAs.
2. Identify common principles across privacy laws and best practices at global level. Discuss the work done in other international fora such as the Global Privacy Assembly to identify actions, which could be also relevant for the Spring Conference.
3. Facilitate cross-border regulatory cooperation to enhance convergence between different data protection regimes.
4. Propose joint actions, including knowledge-sharing initiatives, amongst European DPAs to develop common approaches and guidance to address emerging challenges with further consideration to the work undertaken by other networks in order to avoid any duplications.
5. Establish and maintain regular communication channels for updates and information sharing among European DPAs, other sectoral regulators and stakeholders.
6. In respect of these, they reflect on and, if appropriate prepare a need-assessment and based on that a Memorandum of Understanding in reply to the support proposed by the Council of Europe (Resolution of 16 May 2024, Riga) to create a functional and

operational network of European DPAs, notably by making available additional means and tools and by proposing cooperation activities.
<p>Activity 2.</p> <p>Commit to fostering a culture of collaboration, information sharing and practical exchanges among Members and Observers of the Conference, such as at the occasion of the European Case Handling Workshop (ECHW) or at meetings of other sub-groups. Commit to providing mutual assistance among European DPAs to ensure the consistent application and enforcement of data protection laws across borders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build capacity of the structured case-sharing mechanisms by establishing relevant sub-groups under the Conference to ensure DPAs can efficiently collaborate on cross-border complaints and investigations. 2. Implement joint initiatives for case handlers and legal teams to support sharing best practice and expertise (including the reporting system by the host authority regarding the outcomes of the ECHW and other Conference sub-groups).
<p>Activity 3.</p> <p>Recognize the importance of capacity building initiatives and the pooling of existing resources and expertise among European DPAs to enhance their ability to supervise and enforce data protection effectively:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the permanent official Conference web page as a centralized knowledge-sharing platform where European DPAs can access information on joint and national initiatives of the Conference Members and Observers. 2. Partnering with academia, other sectoral regulators, and industry experts to develop cooperative approaches to emerging risks in the field.
<p>Activity 4.</p> <p>Support the establishment in practice of effective channels and ongoing work in international fora for the exchange of information and collaboration with international partners to address cross-border data protection and privacy challenges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperation with other international networks to allow Conference Members and Observers to address emerging trends and novel developments relating to the rights to data protection and privacy, as applicable to the European context and to reflect the significance of the Conference and its sub-groups. 2. Encourage authorities, who fulfill the Accreditation criteria for Members and Observers, as described in section 11.1.1 and 11.1.2 of the Rules and Procedures accordingly, to apply for accreditation, in order to fortify relationships among regulators across Europe, enhancing their capacity to take part in the elaboration of resolutions. 3. Enhance international awareness towards the work of the Conference sub-groups, including ECHW, through joint workshops with the other networks.

This resolution reaffirms the commitment of European Data Protection Authorities, convened during the European Conference of Data Protection Authorities (“Spring Conference”) 2025, to strengthen cooperation, sharing best practices and developing practical guidance to support the effective implementation of data protection laws across jurisdictions.

Further to this commitment, the European DPAs resolve to:

- Disseminate the adopted resolution amongst the Conference Members and Observers and publish it via the official Conference web page;
- Mandate the Steering Group to take appropriate actions and monitor the progress of the implementation of the adopted resolution.