

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITIES

(“SPRING CONFERENCE”)

07 MAY 2026

Antalya, Türkiye

Sponsors: Data Protection Commissioner of the Council of Europe

Co-Sponsors: “AZOP” – Croatian Personal Data Protection Agency

“GARANTE” – Italian Data Protection Authority

“EDPS” – European Data Protection Supervisor

“FDPIC” – Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner of Switzerland

Preamble:

In today’s digital environment of exponentially growing data-driven technologies and increasingly complex transborder flows of personal data, the imperative for enhanced cooperation among data protection authorities (DPAs) has become more evident than ever. The latest data processing activities integral to new and emerging technologies transform our lives yet raise further challenges for the protection of human rights and freedoms, and in particular, for the right to privacy and the protection of personal data.

For over 45 years, the Council of Europe [Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data \(CETS No 108\)](#), as a first-ever legally binding international treaty in the field, has been contributing to the development of privacy and data protection worldwide. Its [Amending Protocol \(CETS No 223\)](#) aims at responding to the new challenges coming from digitalisation and provides universal data protection standards in the context of digital advancements. In an era of rapid technological advancement, the need for robust and harmonised data protection standards have never been more urgent. Promoting the prompt ratification of the [Amending Protocol \(CETS No 223\)](#) remains essential to strengthening the global framework for the protection of personal data and privacy. In addition to instruments developed at national or regional levels, such as in the European Union, both legal instruments developed by the Council of Europe recognise and establish a structured basis for international cooperation and significantly operationalises these cooperation mechanisms. State Parties to these instruments are invited to designate DPAs to engage in effective cross-border cooperation, thereby ensuring

that the protection of personal data remains robust in an interconnected digital environment.

Enhanced cooperation between the EEA and non-EEA DPAs is a structural necessity to ensure consistency in the application of data protection standards enshrined in the legal instruments of the Council of Europe. The evolving landscape of digital governance calls for the strengthening of integrated and proactive cooperation within the framework of the European Conference of Data Protection Authorities (“Spring Conference”) with a view to delivering practical outputs, contributing to convergence towards high data protection standards, and addressing regulatory fragmentation across different jurisdictions. Building on an experiential and knowledge-sharing approach, such efforts will consist of strengthening Conference member authorities’ strategic approach to globalised privacy and data protection risks affecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law and enable Conference member authorities to better develop appropriate tools to react to such challenges.

As a pan-European forum bringing together DPAs from European States, including those participating in the EEA, the Spring Conference continues to address issues of common interest, emerging trends and innovative developments in the field of privacy and data protection. The European DPAs therefore wish to reaffirm their commitment to enhanced cooperation in order to further strengthen the objectives of the Conference, support the effective implementation of its Resolutions and Declarations, and promote practical responses to challenges arising from rapid digital developments, with due regard to human rights, democratic values and the rule of law.

Recognising that:

- The Conference of European Data Protection Authorities (“Spring Conference”) is the unique forum for all European DPAs to foster cooperation and tackle issues of mutual concern, emerging trends and innovative developments in the realm of privacy and data protection;
- Rapid technological developments and digital transformation have amplified risks to privacy and personal data protection, thereby requiring coordinated reflection and action by DPAs and other competent authorities;
- Enhanced cooperation and collaboration to support cross-border regulatory partnership among European DPAs and to work towards increased convergence aimed at fostering the interoperability of data protection frameworks. DPAs should be empowered to cooperate directly with their counterparts and competent authorities, to foster operational flexibility and case-specific collaboration through the establishment of a dedicated Cooperation Sub-Group;
- The establishment of this Sub-Group within the Spring Conference framework will enhance the cooperation opportunities to bridge the gap between international standards and their implementation and enforcement and address emerging challenges by discussing relevant practical solutions.

Recalling that:

- The Conference of European Data Protection Authorities adopted “[Resolution on the need for a prompt ratification of Convention 108+](#)” at the 30th Conference in Cavtat, Croatia, 2022.
- The Conference of European 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 Conference of European 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 Conference of European Data Protection Authorities adopted the “[Resolution on the Action Plan for Further Collaboration Activities](#)” at the 33rd Conference in Batumi, Georgia in 2025.

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

1. To establish a Cooperation Sub-Group for advocating the promotion of high European data protection standards, *inter alia*, those enshrined in the legal instruments of the Council of Europe, in particular, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 108), its Additional (CETS No. 181) and Amending Protocols (CETS No. 223). The primary objective of the Sub-Group is to support the Conference with functional and operational activities to increase its impact with an aim of promoting international cooperation and practical approaches to emerging challenges. Its strategic objectives will derive from Conference Resolutions and Declarations. Terms of reference will be drawn up by the members of the Sub-Group.
2. The Cooperation Sub-Group will be mandated to:
 - (a) Achieve enhanced cooperation among the European DPAs through using existing work by other data protection and privacy networks and international organisations, avoiding duplication and adding practical value, identifying common interpretations of personal data protection principles across existing data protection frameworks and best practices on emerging issues in the field.
 - (b) Facilitate joint actions, including the organisation of events, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and develop guidance to address challenges faced by European DPAs, *inter alia*, risks arising from emerging technologies, processing of personal data of children and transborder flows of personal data.
 - (c) Meet at least once annually, in person or virtually, per the Rules of Procedure of the Spring Conference, to build a clear workplan reflecting on further needs for strengthening the cooperation, address issues of common interest through practical solutions, collaborative initiatives and decide on further actions.

- (d) Build capacity for experience-sharing mechanisms and, where appropriate, engage with the relevant international organisations, academic experts and other stakeholders on specific thematic issues to develop cooperation approaches to the emerging challenges and risks in the field.
 - (e) Report to the next annual plenary of the Spring Conference and cooperate with other Sub-Groups, including the European Case Handling Workshop.
 - (f) Cooperate with other international fora or platforms on recent developments in the field, and to raise awareness towards its work, adopted Resolutions and Declarations by the Conference of European Data Protection Authorities.
3. Any Member of the Conference of European Data Protection Authorities may volunteer to participate in the Cooperation Sub-Group. Members participating in the Sub-Group meetings shall contribute actively to its work and outputs, subject to their available resources and institutional mandates.
 4. In this respect, the Members welcome the support proposed by the Council of Europe to create a functional and operational network of European DPAs, notably by making available additional means and tools and by proposing cooperation activities.

This resolution reaffirms the commitment of the Conference of European Data Protection Authorities, convened in its 34th edition in Antalya, Türkiye, to strengthen cooperation, sharing best practices and upholding common values with an objective of supporting an effective implementation of European standards of personal data protection and privacy across jurisdictions of the European DPAs.

Further to this commitment, the European DPAs resolve to:

- Disseminate the adopted Resolution among the Conference Members and Observers and publish it on the official Conference web page.
- Mandate the Steering Group of the Conference to take further actions to monitor the progress of the implementation of the adopted Resolution and extend its support to facilitate the establishment of the Cooperation Sub-Group.