

EU

EU Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS): More Needs to Be Done to Allow Individuals to Take Back Their Online Identity

Giovanni Buttarelli, the EDPS, has published an [opinion](#) on Personal Information Management Systems, sharing his vision of secure online storage of data that allows individuals to determine who exactly who they share their personal data with. This ties in closely with the new rights afforded to individuals under the GDPR, namely transparency, rights of access and data portability.

UK

Nuisance Callers Face Increased Fines

The UK government has issued a [press release](#), unveiling new plans to levy increased fines (up to £1 million) on nuisance callers. The ICO has been given new powers to fine directors of companies, rather than just the businesses themselves, in circumstances where they fall foul of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulation.

Elizabeth Denham, the Information Commissioner, stated:

“Making directors responsible will stop them ducking away from fines by putting their company into liquidation. It will stop them leaving by the back door as the regulator comes through the front door.”

Elizabeth Denham Welcomes UK Government Confirmation That It Will Implement the GDPR

The Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham has [expressed her view](#) that the decision to opt into the GDPR, as expressed by the Secretary of State, will be “good news for the UK”. A point of particular interest for UK businesses will be the new ICO revised timeline and guidance, which is due in the next six months and will be posted on the ICO website.

Germany

Voßhoff Welcomes Federal Administrative Court Ruling on Freedom of Information

The German Federal Data Protection Officer, Andrea Voßhoff, has [welcomed the ruling of the Federal Administrative Court](#) on several lawsuits based on the Freedom of Information Act. In one case, the court admonished the hitherto practice of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and limited the costs for extensive requests of information. It confirmed the sum of €500 as the upper limit of charges. In another case, the court affirmed that telephone lists of state authorities, such as job centres, may not be disclosed without the consent of the official staff. Voßhoff lauded the fact that the court has brought into balance the privacy of official staff and the information interest of citizens.

France

EU-US Privacy Shield

Following the legal challenge of the EU-US Privacy Shield in September by Digital Rights Ireland, the French privacy advocates at La Quadrature du Net, the French Data Network industry association, have also [filed a case](#) against the European Commission with the European Court of Justice.

New Rules on Biometric Access Control in the Workplace

On 27 September 2016, the French National Data Protection Authority (CNIL) [announced](#) the adoption of two Single Authorizations on biometric systems implemented by businesses to control the access to the premises, software applications and/or devices in the workplace:

- Single Authorization AU-052, which covers biometric systems allowing the data subject to keep control of his biometric information, either stored on a device held by the data subject or within a database in a form unusable without the involvement of the latter.
- Single Authorization AU-053, which covers biometric systems that do not allow the data subject to keep control of his biometric information.

The new Single Authorizations AU-052 and AU-053 repeal the existing Single Authorizations AU-007, AU-008, AU-019 and AU-027.

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