

EU

European Commission Publishes Guidance for Citizens on the EU-US Privacy Shield

The European Commission has published a guide for citizens explaining how individuals' data protection rights are guaranteed under the EU-US Privacy Shield. The guide also contains information on which remedies are available for individuals in the event their data is misused and their data protection rights violated. Since last week US companies have been able to sign up to the Privacy Shield with the US Department of Commerce, who will ensure that their privacy policies comply with the required data protection standards. For more information on Privacy Shield see our previous alert, available [here](#).

[The Guidance](#)

Germany

Rheinland-Pfalz Data Protection Authority Issues Activity Report for 2014/2015

The Rheinland-Pfalz data protection authority has issued its activity report for 2014 and 2015. The report deals with a wide range of issues, including the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation, the privacy rights of employees, "smart living" and privacy in police law. The authority welcomed the recent ruling of the German Federal Labor Court which strengthened employee data protection, critically assessed the Rheinland-Pfalz pilot project introducing bodycams in the police force, and also reported that the ability to watch TV anonymously must remain in the era of smart TVs.

[The Report \(in German\)](#)

Hessen Data Protection Authority Publishes 2015 Activity Report

Hessen Data Protection Authority has published its activity report of the 2015. The report covers various topics including video recordings, digital budget books, and privacy in credit and collection agencies. The report states that in 2015 a total of 16 fines were issued in the amount of € 14,200, including fines for illicit dashboard camera recordings. Statistics on the most frequent public requests for advice showed privacy issues relating to credit and collection agencies coming top with housing, electronic communication, advertisement, employees' data protection and healthcare also popular concerns amongst the public.

[The Report \(in German\)](#)

UK

The Information Commissioner's Office Issues Advice on EU-US Privacy Shield

Interim Deputy Commissioner, Steve Wood, has offered advice for businesses in the wake of the implementation of the EU-US Privacy Shield. According to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) businesses cannot afford to do nothing. Any company still reliant on the outdated Safe Harbor framework to transfer data to the US must review their policies immediately or face the possibility of enforcement action, in line with the ICO enforcement policies. The ICO highlights that Standard Contractual Clauses and Binding Corporate Rules are still viable options for legally transferring personal data to the US, but warns companies to bear in mind the uncertainty still surrounding transatlantic transfers with legal challenges relating to Standard Contractual Clauses pending. The ICO expect to issue official guidance on international data transfers later in the year.

[Press release](#)

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