

## International

### **United Nations Establishes Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy**

The Human Rights Council of the United Nations has passed a resolution establishing the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy. Special rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the Human Rights Council who are mandated to report on human rights. The resolution will bring the right to privacy firmly within the UN human rights agenda. The rapporteur's tasks will include raising awareness, reporting on violations of privacy and submitting annual reports to the General Assembly. Each mandate shall last for three years. The first nomination of a rapporteur is expected this summer.

[The United Nations](#)

### **The Inter-American Juridical Committee Adopts Report on the "Protection of Personal Data"**

The Inter-American Juridical Committee (IAJC) of the Organization of American States (OAS) has adopted a report on "Protection of Personal Data". The report proposes 12 principles related to privacy and protection of personal data that can serve as a basis for formulating and adopting new laws defending the right of individuals to privacy. Each member state must decide how best to implement these principles in its domestic legal system.

[OAS Press Release](#)

## EU

### **Council of Europe Releases Recommendations for Processing of Employee Data**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on 1 April 2015, adopted recommendations on the processing of data in the context of employment. The recommendations to member states include increased transparency in the processing of employee data and rights for employees to have access to and to object to the use of their personal data. Employers should only process personal data necessary for employment purposes. Medical and biometric data should be processed only under specific and strict conditions. Genetic data may not be processed even with the consent of the data subject. Employers should refrain from the use of technology designed to monitor employees – for instance, video surveillance.

[The Council of Europe](#)

## Germany

### **Germany Introduces Law Allowing Class Actions for Data Privacy Violations**

The German government has recently passed a bill that will give consumer associations the right to bring claims for breaches of data protection law. Until now, only individuals and data protection authorities have been able to bring claims. The act targets companies whose business models are based on the commercialisation of data, such as market research and data brokering companies and credit agencies. The German Federal Council (Bundesrat) has expressed some concern on the compliance costs for companies.

[German Federal Ministry for Justice and Consumer Protection](#)

### **The 89th Conference of German Privacy Commissioners publishes its Resolutions**

The Conference of German Data Privacy Commissioners has warned against a softening of privacy standards through the proposed EU General Data Protection Regulation, particularly with regard to the principles of limited collection, specific purpose and consent. But the conference advised against restrictive state regulation and called for the development of encryption infrastructure. The Conference also called for improvements in the draft laws on IT security and electronic health and cautioned against the use of "Big Data" for prosecution purposes.

[Conference Press Release](#)

## US

### **AmCham Report Published on Protecting Data Flows in the US-China Bilateral Investment Treaty**

The American Chamber of Commerce in China ("AmCham") has published a report, entitled "Protecting Data Flows in the US-China Bilateral Investment Treaty". The report highlights the adverse effect of data localisation policies in China on economic growth and innovation. It challenges the belief that greater data security can be achieved through local storage of personal data and urges China to consider an alternative approach based on the principle of "accountability" that should be incorporated into the bilateral investment treaty being negotiated between the US and China.

[AmCham's Report](#)