

EU

Article 29 Working Party Comments on EU-US Privacy Shield

The Article 29 Working Party (WP29) has welcomed the conclusion of the "EU-US Privacy Shield", but called on the European Commission to communicate all documents relating to the new agreement by the end of February. WP29 will then consider whether the Privacy Shield provides key protections in relation to intelligence activities, and whether transfer mechanisms such as Standard Contractual Clauses and Binding Corporate Rules can still be used to assure adequacy of protection on transfers to the US. Until this time, the WP29 considers that these existing transfer mechanisms can still be utilised.

[WP29 Statement](#) (PDF)

One in Four Internet Users in the EU Experienced Security-Related Problems in 2015

Eurostat has issued information regarding the number of common security issues experienced by internet users in 2015, including viruses affecting devices, abuse of personal information, financial losses and children accessing inappropriate websites.

[Eurostat News Release](#) (PDF)

UK

The UK Won't Opt-In to the EU General Data Protection Regulation

The UK Government has announced it will not choose to opt in to Article 43a of the proposed EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Article 43a provides that the order of a court outside the EEA requiring the transfer or disclosure of personal data is not enforceable unless there is in force between the EU or relevant Member State and recipient country a mutual legal assistance treaty or similar. The decision was announced in a statement to Parliament, with the government citing concerns relating to the integrity of the UK legal system.

[Press Release](#)

US

President Obama Signs Executive Order Establishing Federal Privacy Council

Barack Obama has signed an Executive Order establishing a permanent Federal Privacy Council as an interagency support structure that aims to: (i) increase protection of privacy and provide expertise and assistance to agencies that already exist; (ii) expand the skill and career development opportunities of agency privacy professionals; (iii) improve the management of agency privacy programs by identifying and sharing lessons learned and best practices; and (iv) promote collaboration between and among agency privacy professionals to reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts and to ensure the effective, efficient, and consistent implementation of privacy policy Government-wide in the US.

[Executive Order](#)

Senate Passes the Judicial Redress Act

The House has passed the Judicial Redress Act (the "Act") – an important gesture from the US in relation to the new Privacy Shield framework brought into place earlier this month. The Act passed was amended slightly from the initial proposed bill and included a limit on the privacy protections only to countries that have signed off on major data transfer agreements with the US and whose policies do not impede US national security interests. The Act provides judicial redress for European citizens that have had their privacy rights infringed by the US government and will allow them to review and correct information held on them by federal agencies.

[Judicial Redress Act](#)

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