

European Union

European Commission to Form Another Expert Group to Support the Application of the GDPR

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers has now opened [applications](#) for membership of a multi-stakeholder expert group, whose aim will be to support the application of the GDPR. It will work alongside a separate expert group of member state authority representatives who will look at the legal aspects of the application of the GDPR and the Article 29 Working Party. The expert group will include 27 members of diverse backgrounds (academics, consumers, legal practitioners, privacy advocates). This multi-stakeholder expert group will be tasked to relate stakeholder experiences, help increase the awareness of companies and consumers of the GDPR and identify potential challenges in its application.

France

French Data Protection Expert Appointed to the French Government

On 19 May 2017, Edouard Geffray, Secretary General of the CNIL since 2012 (and previously Head of legal and international affairs of the CNIL and representing the State Council), was [appointed chief of staff of the new French Minister of Justice François Bayroux](#). Jean Lessi, who has already been active in connection with the GDPR, was appointed as the [new Secretary General of the CNIL on 22 May 2017](#). Both Edouard Geffray and Jean Lessi are from the State Council (Conseil d'Etat) and have studied at the ENA National School of Administration.

UK

Survey Reveals That 84% of SMEs Are Unaware of the Forthcoming GDPR

The results from [information security company Shred-it's survey](#) show that 84% of SMEs are unaware of the implementation of the GDPR. Given that fines associated with the new regulation are up to the higher of €20 million or 4% of a company's global turnover, it is crucial for all companies to be familiar with the new data protection procedures in time for the implementation of the GDPR in May 2018.

ICO Publishes Its Information Rights Strategic Plan for the Next Four Years

The ICO has published the [Information Rights Strategic Plan 2017-2021](#), which aims to increase the confidence that the public has in the government, public bodies and the private sector in relation to the use and processing of their personal data. The five strategic goals contained in the plan are: (i) to increase the public's trust and confidence in how data is used and made available; (ii) to improve standards of information rights practice through clear, inspiring and targeted engagement and influence; (iii) to maintain and develop influence within the global information rights regulatory community; (iv) to stay relevant, provide excellent public service and keep abreast of evolving technology; and (v) to enforce the laws we help shape and oversee. The plan also states that the ICO is expected to be confirmed as the UK's supervisory authority under the package of EU data protection reforms.

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