

Report from Secretariat to Executive Committee

19 December 2014

36th ICDPPC Mauritius – Closed Session Evaluation Survey Results

For the second year in a row, the Executive Committee has conducted an on-line evaluation survey of the recently completed closed session. The survey results enable the Committee to measure whether the closed session met participant expectations and may offer insights for the planning of future closed sessions. We also now have enough data to set future performance targets if the Committee wishes.

As with last year's survey, the questions were set out in both English and French.

The full survey results can be viewed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.net/results/SM-YFX3L8XV/>

Respondent profile and response rate

Only 26 responses were received this year compared with 52 responses last year. The lower number of responses is likely accounted for by the fact that the Mauritius Conference was much smaller than the Warsaw event. In addition we ran this year's survey for 6 weeks whereas last year we ran the survey from December through January for 7 weeks.

Some 75% of the responses (18) were from Europe with the balance from Africa and Oceania (1 each) and Asia and North America (2 each). To some degree this is reflective of the makeup of the closed session in Mauritius for which it is understood that approximately 68% of the closed session participants came from European authorities. Accordingly, given the small number of responses and the geographic concentration, the results may not be fully representative of either attendees or the wider Conference membership.

Comparison of survey results

To facilitate comparisons we deliberately repeated the first three questions that we asked last year.

Combining the 'agree' and 'strongly agree' answers results as follows:

Question	2014	2013
1. Whether the closed session was a good use of my time	90% agreed	95% agreed
2. Whether the topic of the closed session was an interesting topic for discussion	90% agreed	96% agreed
3. Whether respondents learnt something from the closed session that was useful on their return to the office	85% agreed	86% agreed

Secretariat comment: Although satisfaction levels were not as high as in 2013, the results are nonetheless encouraging and reflect high levels of approval in these key measures.

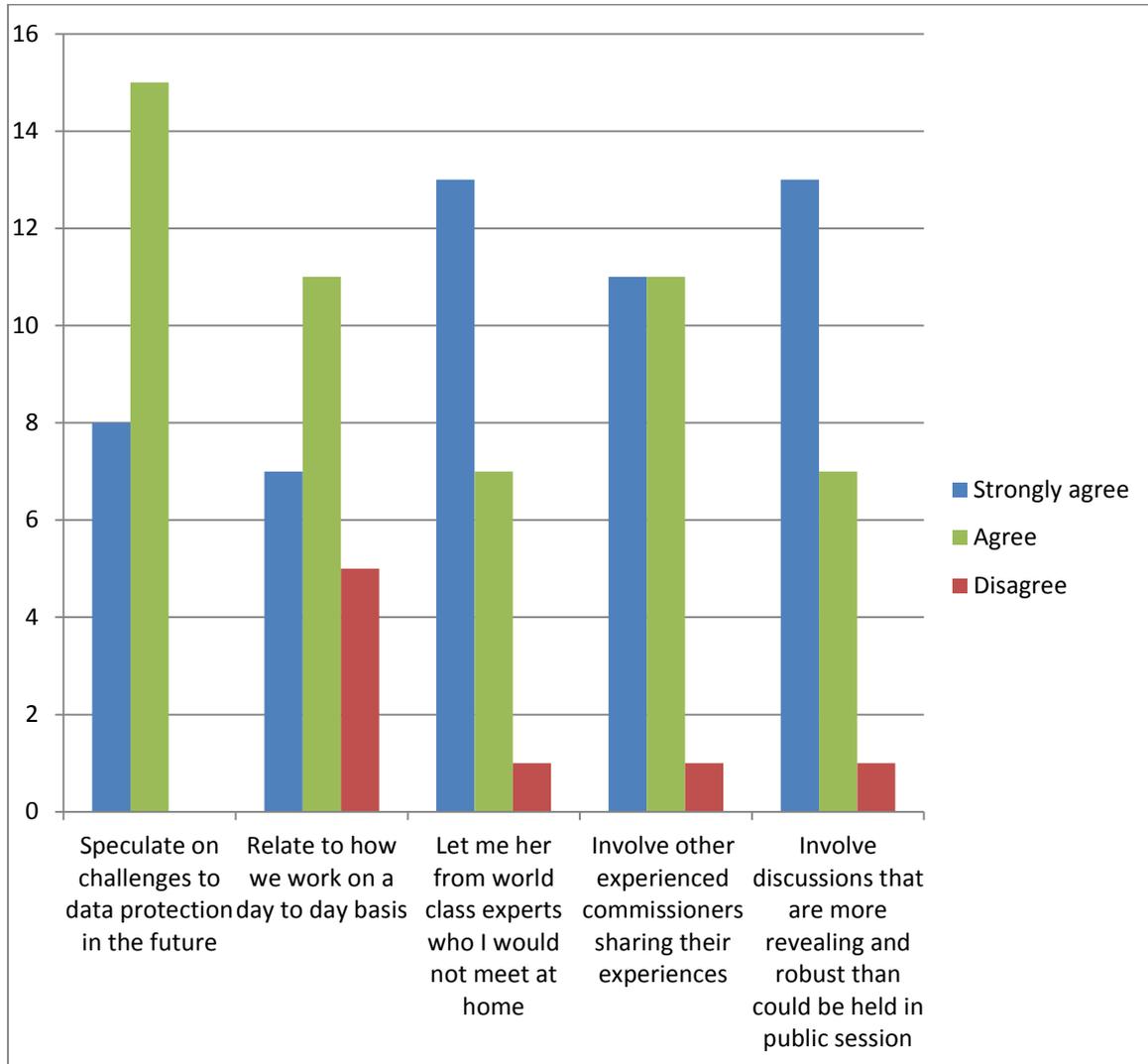
Preferences for subjects suitable for exploration in depth

Participants were asked what type of subject matter they prefer to explore in depth in the closed session. This question had no counterpart in 2013. They were offered several choices:

- Topics that speculate on challenges to data protection in the future.
- Topics that relate to how we work on a day to day basis.

- Topics that let me hear from world class experts who I would not meet at home.
- Topics that involve other experienced commissioners sharing their experiences.
- Topics that involve discussions that are more revealing and robust than could be held in public session.

The results are presented in the following graph.



Secretariat comment: All the various types of topic would seem to appeal to participants, none stands out as being exceptionally popular or unpopular.

Suggestions for topics and speakers

Only a few topic and speaker suggestions were received. They will be consolidated with other suggestions for consideration by the Committee.

General comments on the closed session

Respondents were invited to offer comments on the closed session. The comments offered included the following:

- We are really grateful for the excellent organization of the event, interesting, qualified speakers, hot topics.
- Insufficiently interactive. Needs a moderated discussion or discussion in small groups feeding into a declaration from the conference rather than the presidency.

- iii. We need top class speakers, not speakers with private interest.
- iv. I thought it was a good topic; the 1st speaker was excellent. There may have been too many speakers. If there had been one less speaker we could have used the time to discuss how to deal with or address the issues that were raised.
- v. Centrer un peu plus les débats sur des questions intéressant les problèmes des autorités de protection des pays en voie de développement [EN: Center a little more interesting debates on issues the problems of developing countries protection authorities.]
- vi. From my personal point of view it would have been desirable to receive the draft of a "Mauritius Declaration" a little bit earlier in order to be able to have read it before adoption.
- vii. La discussion du thème principal, comme l'internet des objets devrait déboucher sur des conclusions qui pourraient servir de support à la conférence ouverte; il faudrait un lien entre session fermée et session ouverte. La déclaration finale de la session fermée devrait être débattue entre commissaires et pas seulement "imposée" aux participants. [EN: The discussion of the main theme, like the Internet of Things should lead to conclusions that could be used to support the open conference; there should be a link between closed and open session session. The final declaration of the closed session should be discussed between Commissioners and not just ".]
- viii. The videoconference lecture was very successful.
- ix. The same small group of commissioners made interventions from the floor or were called upon to comment or ask questions. A style of facilitation should be adopted to encourage interventions from a broader group of commissioners and all parts of the room and all regions of the world.

Secretariat comment: The Committee is encouraged to consider all comments. From an organisational perspective, the observation about the success of the "videoconference lecture" is especially pertinent as it may point to a cost-effective technique for use in future closed sessions.

Secretariat recommendations

Evaluation surveys should continue to be used following every closed session. Drawing upon the experience of the first two surveys, the Secretariat offers the following recommendations:

1. The evaluation survey questions should be approved in advance of the Conference so that the survey may be released more promptly after the Conference.
2. If feasible the survey should be held open for 7 weeks.
3. The 3 questions about the good use of time, level of interest and whether something useful was learnt should continue to be asked as core questions.
4. The Committee should adopt performance targets and the following are offered for consideration:
 - Was the closed session a good use of my time? Target 85% agree or strongly agree.
 - Was the subject of the closed session was an interesting topic? Target 85% agree or strongly agree.
 - Did I learn something from the closed session that useful on their return to the office? Target 80% agree or strongly agree.