

## 38th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Marrakesh, 17-18 October 2016

The Executive Committee proposes the following amendment to the Conference Rules and Procedures:

### **Amendment to rule 5.4 to enable observer applications to be approved in advance of annual meeting**

Rule 5.4 is amended by inserting a new paragraph (c):

- c. Where the Executive Committee supports an application, the Secretariat will circulate the Committee's recommendation for approval of the proposed new observer to members of the Conference and invite objections; and:
  - i. If no member objects within a period designated by the Executive Committee, the recommendation will become the decision of the Conference; or
  - ii. If any member objects to the recommendation, the application will be decided at the closed session.

**Explanation:** *The amendment will introduce a more flexible process for taking decisions to admit new observers to the closed session. Under the existing process the Executive Committee offers a recommendation on each observer application but the actual decision is taken by the Conference itself on the day of the annual meeting. This arrangement creates uncertainty for applicants who must, for example, plan their travel without knowing if they will be admitted to the meeting.*

*Under the new process it will be possible for observers that have the support of the Executive Committee to be approved well in advance. The new process will also assist hosts who need to make practical arrangements for all closed session attendees.*

*The rule change does not apply to membership applications which will continue to be decided by the Conference during the closed session.*