31st international conference of data protection and privacy commissioners — Madrid, 4th, 5th and 6th, november 2009

STEERING GROUP ON REPRESENTATION BEFORE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

Executive Summary

The 30th Conference established the Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations. The Steering Group has the task of arranging observer representation before relevant international meetings in order to influence international data protection policy formulation and keep the Conference better informed.

A full annual report outlining the Steering Group's activities and achievements will be made available on the Conference website.

A major initial task was settling the Steering Group's processes and working arrangements. The principal achievement was the adoption of the 'Expectations of Delegates' document. This is a guide to the key aspects of representing the Conference before international organisations.

During the year the Steering Group applied for observer status before four international organisations. The Conference:
- received Liaison Officer status before **ISO** in May - the Steering Group appointed Steve Johnston from Canada to the role of liaison officer for 2 years;
- was granted guest status for the July meeting of the **APEC** Data Privacy Subgroup in Singapore - Billy Hawkes from Ireland was appointed as delegate to observe that meeting;
- was recognised as an observer to the **Council of Europe** Consultative Committee on Convention No.108 - Allesandra Pierucci from Italy was appointed as the Conference's delegate to observe the plenary session in September.

An application to be an observer before the **OECD** Working Party on Information Security and Privacy has been submitted and a decision is pending.

The Steering Group has established contact lists for DPAs that wish to receive delegates' reports. To be added to the lists, please contact the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, New Zealand.

The Steering Group has proposed two resolutions to the Conference:
- the first seeks directions to obtain observer status before the **Internet Governance Forum**, **London Action Plan** (on spam) and **ICANN**;
- the second proposes a process for approving international organisations to be observers to the Conference's closed session.

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