International Working Group
on Data Protection
in Telecommunications

675.52.17

**Report to the 38th International Conference
of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners on 17-20 October in Marrakesh
(Morocco)**

First of all let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to give a short report on the results of the so-called "Berlin-Group", which I had the honour to take over as a chair in February this year. The Berlin-group deals with issues of telecommunication and up to now it meets twice a year. In the 30 years of its existence it expanded from a rather tiny little group to a quite impressive group of actually 55 participants representing 36 delegations.

Since the last International Conference 2 meetings of the Berlin-Group were held. The 58th meeting took place in Berlin on 13-14 October 2015. As a result, the **Working Paper on Location Tracking from Communications of Mobile Devices** and the **Working Paper on Intelligent Video Analytics** were adopted and published[1].

The 59th meeting was held on 25-26 April 2016 in Oslo (Norway). After this meeting the **Working Paper "Update on Privacy and Security Issues in Internet Telephony (Voice over IP – VoIP) and Related Communication Technologies"** was adopted and published, also appearing on the website of the Group. Inter alia, the Group calls in this paper upon legislators and regulators to ensure that the provisions for telecommunications secrecy, as foreseen in many national constitutions and regional and global regulatory instruments, also fully cover VoIP and other multimedia communication services. In addition the paper contains recommendations on privacy and security for VoIP providers, software developers, hardware manufacturers, and for users.

At the meeting in Oslo, the Group dealt – among other things – with the following subjects:

---

[1] http://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/content/europa-international/international-working-group-on-dataprotection-in-telecommunications-iwgdpt/working-papers-and-common-positions-adopted-by-theworking-group

Privacy and Security issues of E-Learning Platforms: The amount of student data being captured nowadays through the use of e-learning platforms is dramatically more extensive and more detailed than it was in the former "physical" world. This affects not only students, but also teachers' data, for example about the effectiveness of their work, would be captured. New and additional data will be produced (for example, not only about the results of tests taken, but also on how much time it took to answer a question, the way a solution was found, mistakes made along the way, etc.). New secondary uses of the data will be developed (for example, it has been reported that one service provider claims to be able to forecast dyslexia from test results in combination with big data applications). New (also commercial) entities may process personal data of students outside of schools or universities. Other issues include storage periods for the data processed (which may, according to reports in the German press, be up to life-long as foreseen in Singapore). A Draft Working Paper has been being developed and will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Group.

The Group has also continued its discussion about **the Use of Biometrics in Electronic Authentication**. Biometric features are increasingly used for authentication online. At the same time, however, the use of biometric features gives rise to privacy issues, as biometric information is (sensitive) personal data and can in general not be revoked. There is also a concern regarding data breaches and unauthorized access to biometric data, especially when biometric information is stored in central databases. This discussion will be further continued at the next meeting of the Group and may lead to the adoption of a Working Paper at one of next meetings.

Finally, the Group has continued its exchange of information about the processing of personal data in services offered by **Google** and by operators of **social networks**, furthermore the protection of privacy of **registrants of domain names** and questions concerning **Smart TV and privacy**. For the future the group decided to discuss the issue of **connected cars**.

The autumn meeting 2016 of the Working Group will take place on 22-23 November 2016 in Berlin.

For more information you are cordially invited to have a look to the minutes of the meetings published on the group's homepage. Thank you for your attention.

Maja Smoltczyk
Chair