

REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Background

A Resolution on Conference Organisational Arrangements was adopted at the 28th International Conference Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in London in 2006. The resolution called for the creation of a working group to:

- (a) prepare a document recording existing organisational arrangements of the conference and the conference's expectations of hosts
- (b) explore ideas for improving organisational arrangements with a view to ensuring the continued viability of annual conferences and promoting continuous improvement and to offer recommendations to the 29th Conference.

The working group established as a result of the above resolution issued a lengthy report summarizing many of the features of the Conference and this was adopted at the 29th Conference in Montreal. This can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/F8A79347-170C-4EEF-A0AD-155554558A5F/24484/20076.pdf>.

A resolution was adopted at the 2009 Madrid Conference to establish a Working Group (WG) to consider a number of issues related to the "Organisational Set Up" of the Conference.

Following the Madrid Conference a WG was created under the ad hoc coordination of the Spanish Data Protection Authority (DPA). Among other things, a questionnaire was distributed to canvas the views of accredited members on a number of issues and many members of the WG attended a meeting in Paris to discuss outstanding issues.

A resolution was proposed and adopted at the 32nd International Conference in Jerusalem that addressed two important issues:

- The application process and the membership criteria for authorities seeking to become accredited members of the Conference; and

33rd International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

- The process to grant entities and organisations Observer Status at the Closed Session of the Conference.

The Resolution of the Working Group on the Improvement of the Conference's Organisational Set Up also recognized that some issues remain outstanding and more work needs to be done. Accordingly, the resolution called for the creation of an Interim Executive Committee, with a term of one year, made up of the hosting authority of the 33rd Conference and the hosting authorities of the previous four Conferences.

The Interim Executive Committee is made up of representatives of the Canadian, French, German, Israeli, Mexican and Spanish authorities. Commissioner Stoddart of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada agreed to chair the Committee.

Proposed Rules and Procedures

Building on the work of the WG led by the Spanish DPA, the Interim Executive Committee has developed a set of Rules and Procedures for consideration at the Closed Session at the 33rd Conference.

The proposed Rules and Procedures are based on the existing practices of the Conference. However, they are also intended to help the Conference move forward to become more than an annual meeting of data protection and privacy commissioners. In particular, the Interim Executive Committee would like to draw attention to the following provisions:

- The Conference is an entity in its own right although the Interim Executive Committee does not think there is a compelling need in the short-term to incorporate or otherwise give the Conference legal status.
- The Rules and Procedures clarify the purpose of the Conference.
- The annual meeting shall consist of a Closed Session. The decision to hold an open meeting should be left to the discretion of the Hosting Authority. The Interim Executive Committee feels strongly that more time should be given to the Closed Session to give the members more opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest. Leaving the decision to hold an open meeting in conjunction with the closed session to the Hosting Authority would allow smaller authorities to host the annual meeting.
- A five member Executive Committee will be created to provide direction and continuity.

33rd International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

- Until such time as a Permanent Secretariat is created, the Chair of the Executive Committee will provide a Secretariat function.

A Conference Website

The Interim Executive Committee recognizes the importance and potential value of a Conference website and applauds the work of the Website Working Group that reported to the 31st Conference in Madrid. However, the Committee is not in position at this time to address the logistics of establishing and funding an ICDPPC website.