

**31st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY
COMMISSIONERS**

MADRID, 5 NOVEMBER 2009

**STEERING GROUP RESOLUTION: ADMITTING OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE**

The Steering Group proposes that the 31st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners adopts the following policy for admitting observers from international governmental organisations to the closed session of the Conference:

1. The Conference approves the international governmental organisations listed in the schedule as initial observers for a period of three years. The listed organisations may apply for a continuation of their observer status in accordance with the process established by this resolution.
2. Any international governmental organisation may apply to the Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations to be admitted as an observer. The Steering Group may grant observer status either for a particular Conference or for any period not exceeding three years.
3. International governmental organisations should apply in writing at least two months before the Conference. Approved observers will be admitted to the closed session by the host of the Conference. Late applications may be accepted in the discretion of the Steering Group. However, in the case of approvals granted on late applications, hosts may refuse entry to the closed session if there is insufficient space available.
4. Admission of approved observers to the closed session is subject to the observer having:
 - (a) registered for the Conference;
 - (b) met any administrative requirements imposed by the host (such as completing a form or paying applicable fees).

Annex of initial observers

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Council of Europe

Proposed by the Data Protection Authorities from: Australia, Canada, European Data Protection Supervisor, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain

Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations

Explanatory Note

The Conference has for many years admitted observers from selected international organisations in the closed session. The 29th Conference resolved that it would revisit the issue of admitting observers from international governmental organisations in due course with a view to adopting a standard list of approved observers for the convenience of hosts

and governmental international organisations.¹ This resolution establishes a new more transparent process that will provide greater certainty to international organisations that wish to observe the proceedings of the Conference.

This resolution approves an initial group of international governmental organisations as observers to the Conference. The resolution also establishes a process for other international governmental organisations to obtain observer status and for the listed organisations to continue their observer status after of the initial three years. The role of granting observer status for international governmental organisations transfers under this resolution from the Conference host to the Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations. The Steering Group anticipates developing a simple guide to assist international organisations to apply to be observers.

¹ Resolution on Conference Organisational Arrangements, clause C, Montreal, 2007.