



Communique

Newsletter of the Executive Committee of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2014

Newsletter highlights:

- A message from the Chair
- Introducing the new Conference secretariat
- Seeking expressions of interest to host future Conferences
- Amsterdam in 2015
- Resolutions from Mauritius 2014
- Profile of a fellow colleague

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of the Executive Committee Newsletter. It gives me great pleasure to be able to greet my fellow data protection and privacy regulators around the world and to keep them informed about next year's International Conference.

The object of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the work of the committee. This includes accrediting new authorities to the International Conference, implementing the resolutions of the previous closed session (such as the Enforcement Cooperation Resolution which was unanimously adopted in Mauritius) and most importantly, in setting the agenda and speakers for the closed session in Amsterdam in 2015.

We hope that the communication is not just going to be one way. In order to ensure that the International Conference meets the needs of all member authorities and commissioners,

we would encourage your engagement with our work and look forward to receiving your feedback and contributions.

We have already circulated a survey to elicit views on how we might approach the 2015 conference. We will soon be asking for views on some suggested themes and topics.

If you have material to be included in the next edition of the newsletter, email us at ICDPPCExCo@privacy.org.nz

This Executive Committee intends to build on the work of previous Conferences, and to ensure that the work of those earlier committees is available for the future.

I am looking forward to reconvening in 2015, this time in Amsterdam, for the 37th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners. These meetings enhance our individual capacity to be regulators because there



is undoubted value in sharing the challenges that we face.

John Edwards
ICDPPC Chair

Greetings from the new secretariat

The New Zealand Office of the Privacy Commissioner now provides the conference secretariat.

The secretariat team are (L-R): Vanya Vida, Blair Stewart and Linda Williams.

You can contact the secretariat by email at ICDPPCExCo@privacy.org.nz



Seeking hosts for post 2015 Conferences



Following a rule change at Mauritius, the Executive Committee now has the new responsibility to seek and evaluate proposals from authorities to host the International Conference. The committee decided in December to invite expressions of interest in hosting the 2016 Conference.

Authorities with an interest in hosting the Conference should let the secretariat know by 6 February 2015. No further documentation or information is required at this stage. Authorities that express

their interest by that date will be sent further information to enable them to submit a formal proposal. The plan is for the Executive Committee to complete an evaluation of any proposals received and for decisions to be taken on hosting no later than June.

The new process will enable decisions on hosting to be more transparent. By making a decision earlier than in the past, hosts will gain greater certainty and time to make plans.

The Secretariat will publish guidance for authorities making proposals to host the Conference.

The committee is likely to consider factors such as: the overall benefit to the Conference's mission; how a host will meet the Conference's needs, and will seek assurance that the organisation of the event is in capable hands. The Committee will also consider the merits of different geographic locations.

**The conference
welcomed
newly
accredited
members from
Bremen, Ghana
and Senegal**

Mauritius resolutions

The 36th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners was held in Mauritius.

Three resolutions were adopted by the Conference:

- Big data – focused upon the risks associated with the use of big data.
- Enforcement cooperation – establishing new cooperative arrangements for better privacy and data pro-

tection compliance.

- Privacy in the digital age – affirming conferences' readiness to participate in UN multi-stakeholder dialogue.

The closed session discussions led to release of the *Mauritius Declaration on the Internet of Things*. A more detailed account will follow in a later newsletter.

Other business matters included changes to the Confer-

ence rules.

The Conference welcomed new accredited members from Bremen (Germany), Ghana and Senegal.

See the resolutions at: privacyconference2014.org

Save this date for Amsterdam

We are delighted to be returning to the Netherlands next year, this time to Amsterdam, for the 37th Conference.

The Netherlands last hosted the International Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners Conference 20 years ago in 1994.

Please mark 26-29 October 2015 in your calendar.

Updates on the Amsterdam

Conference will be published as more details are confirmed.

You will be able to find the information here: privacyconference2015.org

See you in Amsterdam next year!



**37TH International
Privacy Conference
Amsterdam 2015**

Summary report on December meeting

The new Executive Committee held its second meeting on 2 December by teleconference. There was a full agenda reviewing actions agreed at the first meeting held in Mauritius, receiving updates and planning for the coming year.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The Chair has written to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recording the Conference's willingness to participate in the UN processes planned

on 'Privacy in the Digital Age'.

- Planning has begun for handling the administrative tasks anticipated in the Enforcement Cooperation resolution.
- Committee meetings have been timetabled for March, May, July and September.
- The meeting received updates on the 2015 Amsterdam Conference and preliminary results of an evaluation survey of the Mauritius Conference.
- Proposals for new communication channels, such as

this newsletter, were outlined.

- The committee agreed to invite authorities to submit expressions of interest in hosting the Conference by February.

Members wishing to know more detail about any item are welcome to contact the secretariat.

Quiz: Can you identify the commissioners?

- A tank commander, prisoner of war and holder of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.
- Knighted for services to personal and human rights, and the law, and related to a privacy cartoonist.
- Led a pathfinder sub-group that produced the APEC Cross-border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement.
- Biographer of Pierre Trudeau and outspoken critic of increased surveillance after 9/11.
- Senior researcher on Michael Kirby's privacy law reform reference in 1977 and later a judge.
- The 1st chair of the Article 29 Working Party.
- Alan Westin's student who authored a seminal 1989 privacy book.
- Led the WPISP Volunteer Group that prepared the OECD Recommendation on Cross-border Cooperation in the Enforcement of Laws Protecting Privacy.
- The first data protection commissioner appointed to a former Eastern-bloc country after the Cold War.
- Author of 15 books, co-author of five plays, first data protection commissioner in South America.
- The first national privacy or data protection commissioner appointed anywhere in the world.

Email your answers to: ICDPPCEXCo@privacy.org.nz
Answers will be published in the next newsletter.

Prisoner of war

... Political

Biographer ...

Alan Westin's

student ...

Playwright—

Who are these

people?



Profile of a Data Protection and Privacy Commissioner

In the first of a series on individuals in our international network of commissioners, we profile one of the new members of the ICDPPC.

Teki Akuetteh Falconer is the Executive Director of Ghana's Data Protection Commission.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Accra, Ghana.

When did you first become involved in data protection?

I first became involved in data protection and privacy around 2001. My interest in both, and to a larger extent in information technology (ICT) and communications law, grew as a result of not wanting to be left out of the intelligent and interesting discourse which at the time went on among my friends who were engineers in the ICT sector.

I found myself usually approaching such conversations from the perspective of a lawyer in training and always questioned their technological approach to dealing with issues in the light of the law and especially human rights.

What was the first International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners that you attended?

My first one was this year in Mauritius in October.

What did you do before you became a commissioner?

Before my appointment to the Data Protection Commission of Ghana, I worked as an ICT legal expert at the Ministry of Communications under the e-Ghana Project between 2008 and 2014. I facilitated the

development of an enabling legal and regulatory environment to promote the growth of ICT for accelerated development.

What was the funniest thing that you saw, or happened to you, at an International Conference?

I think it was my poor ability to speak or understand French which got me lost.

What was the best thing about participating in this year's conference?

For me, the best thing about my participation was the amount of relevant information that I gathered within a very short period of time as well as the network I was able to build which will no doubt facilitate the growth and development of our commission.

In the past 12 months, what has been the greatest achievement of your office?

I took over the operations of the commission about a year ago with little or no existing structures. We had lean staff (made up of myself, a principal accountant and later, three national service persons) and without office space, or financial resources.

Today, we can boast decent office space, staff, a website and registration system which has birthed the implementation of the Data Protection Act 2012 (Act 843) in Ghana.

[The Data Protection Commission of Ghana website.](#)



“Today, we can boast decent office space and a registration system which has birthed the implementation of the Data Protection Act 2012 in Ghana”