

42ND CLOSED SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PRIVACY ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 2020

ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON ACCREDITATION

Having regard to the GPA rules and procedures (Consolidated version, October 2019),

The 42nd Global Privacy Assembly closed session meeting accredits the following new Members and Observers:

1. Members

- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Bermuda, The Islands of Bermuda
- Cayman Islands Ombudsman, The Cayman Islands
- Data Protection Commissioner of Canton of Bern, Canton of Bern (Switzerland)
- Data Protection Commissioner, **Dubai International Financial Centre**

2. New Observers

• The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

Explanatory note

The accreditation process begins when an applicant completes an online application to become a <u>Member</u> or <u>Observer</u>. This application requires all relevant details to establish eligibility. The GPA Secretariat forwards each application to the Executive Committee members who have been assigned the responsibility to undertake the assessment. Each application has first been reviewed by an Accreditation Sub-Committee, comprising three Executive Committee members, who are tasked with producing an accreditation recommendation for each candidate, subsequently approved by the Executive Committee as a whole.

With respect to the applications from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Bermuda and the Data Protection Commissioner of Canton of Bern, all membership criteria were fully met. The Cayman Islands Ombudsman and the Data Protection Commissioner of Dubai International Financial Centre were granted Observer status at the 41st Annual Meeting. Following legislative changes in their respective jurisdictions, these authorities have been found to meet the criteria for membership, having applied to upgrade their status this year.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee decided to recommend the accreditation of these applicant authorities as GPA Members.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision of the Executive Committee to hold the closed session meeting in a virtual setting translated into the need to take a pragmatic and flexible approach to accreditation of new members. The Accreditation Resolution would normally be adopted on the first day of the Annual Meeting during the Governance Matters session where GPA members would have the opportunity to raise objections on the Executive Committee's recommendation. The holding of the meeting virtually in 2020, with members and observers joining remotely from their respective time zones, has required to keep the matters for discussion at the closed session as focussed as possible. As a result, mirroring the process for accreditation of Observers, an objection period on the Executive Committee's recommendation of new members was also introduced, envisaging an electronic vote taking place on the Accreditation Resolution in September 2020 in the event an objection was raised.

In accordance with the GPA Rules and Procedures, organisations for which the Executive Committee recommends an accreditation as GPA Observer are those public entities that do not meet the criteria provided for in article 5.1, but are involved in dealing with the protection of personal data and/or privacy, or international organisations whose activity is related to the protection of personal data or privacy. In line with the GPA Rules and Procedures, where the Executive Committee supports an observer application, the Secretariat will circulate it to the membership and invite objections within a period designated by the Executive Committee. If no member objects within this period, the recommendation becomes the decision of the Assembly.