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**86th Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee**

**April 04, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Chair: Ventsislav Karadjov, President Commissioner (Bulgaria)

Morocco: Souhaila Chaoui, in representation of President Commissioner Omar Seghrouchni

Bulgaria: Ventsislav Karadjov, President Commissioner

Jersey: Paul Vane, Commissioner

Korea: Haksoo Ko, Chairperson

Dubai: Lori Baker, Vice President – Data Protection & Regulatory Compliance

South Africa: Pansy Tlakula, Chairperson

Secretariat: National Privacy Commission

**Item 1: Welcome and Scene-Setter**

Chairman Ventsislav Karadjov welcomed the members present and confirmed the existence of a quorum. Moreover, members were asked as to whether they have any comments as to the Minutes of the 85th Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee (ExCo). None of the members raised any issue.

Thereafter, the Chairman presented the agenda for the 86th Meeting for any additional matters from the members. In response, the Secretariat mentioned adding the membership status of the INAI and issues on members who are signifying the withdrawal of their membership from the GPA. Also, the Chairman stated that he wishes to inform the members regarding some changes in their data protection authority.

There being no other concerns from the members, the Minutes of the 85th Executive Committee Meeting and the agenda for the 86th Meeting were adopted.

**Item 2: Updates on the GPA Conference 2025**

The Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) of Korea provided an update in relation to its preparations for the upcoming 47th GPA Annual Meeting in Seoul:

* Key components have been outlined by date while content of the sessions and confirmed speakers are being finalized.
* The event will begin on 15 September 2025 with the pre-event and welcome reception.
* The open session is scheduled for 16 and 17 September 2025 and the closed session for 18 and 19 September 2025.
* For the open program, PIPC plans to include two or three keynote speeches, six panel discussions, two fireside chats, and two parallel sessions.
* PIPC also intends to organize parallel sessions led by GPA Working Groups, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations, which will be structured as collaborative sessions.
* On the evening of 17 September 2025, the GPA Awards and Gala Dinner will be held.
* Registration is planned to commence by May 2025.
* For member authorities, PIPC is planning to apply tiered registration fee structure (High, Medium, and Low).
* PIPC also made efforts to expand membership in Asia where it has reached out to eleven (11) regions to provide them information on how to join either as a member or as an observer.

**Item 3: Reference Panel**

The Secretariat explained that to ensure continuity and provide adequate time to recruit new members, there was a proposal to extend the term of the membership for one year or until the closed session of the GPA. The Secretariat sent an email to the ExCo for their decision and subsequently consolidated the individual votes as follows:

* Bulgaria, Jersey, Dubai, and South Africa approved.
* Korea approved but instead of a full year extension, it proposed extending the term until the next GPA meeting in September 2025.
* Mexico approved but they discussed that all current members of the Reference Panel should agree to continue the mandate, and the current composition of the Reference Panel should remain representative of all the sectors outlined in the TOR and the global regions.
* No vote from Morocco.

In line with this, the Secretariat came up with the following proposals:

1. Call for applications
2. Convene the assessment group
3. Approval of applicants by the Executive Committee

The Secretariat thereafter presented the proposed timeline which was on the premise that the expiration of term will be until March 2026 since there is also a proposal that the expiration would be in September 2026.

Under the proposed timeline, the announcement of a new Reference Panel shall be made in February 2026, before the expiration of the extended period in March 2026.

Commissioner Paul Vane clarified as to whether the existing Reference Panel, should they agree to stay for one year, will continue to do so until the announcement of the new Reference Panel in February 2026. His preference is for the current members to have their term extended until the announcement of a new Reference Panel in March 2026.

Chairman Karadjov responded that as suggested by Mexico, they should contact these people and ask them whether they agree to extend for a year. If they agree, the ExCo should decide as to whether they will extend it for one year. On the other hand, it is also an option to start the application in Seoul in September. However, it would still depend as to whether every member of the existing Reference Panel would agree to continue for one more year.

The Secretariat stated that it would await the instructions of Commissioner Vane, as Chair of the Reference Panel, because it would assist in the documentation and contacting of the current members of the Reference Panel. The Secretariat will share to Commissioner Vane the documents received from the United Kingdom Information Commissioner’s Office (UK ICO). On this note, Chairman Karadjov advised that the table with explanation and the timeline also be shared with the ExCo.

Chairperson Ko stated that the timeline Commissioner Vane, as Chair of the Reference Panel, deems fit in terms of his role, should be considered first. Chairman Karadjov replied that if Commissioner Vane identified that there is a problem for these people to continue for one more year, he might need to propose a more suitable timeline to determine these people on time.

Commissioner Vane explained that by the end of April, he would be able to update the ExCo as to the position of the current members of the Reference Panel. Afterwards, they can decide if they will have calls for applications or invitations to apply.

**Item 4: GPA Working Group for the Rules and Procedure**

In relation to the concern of the Belgian Data Protection Authority, Chairman Karadjov consulted the members of the ExCo if they will allow the closed sessions to have a final tuning and debate in the resolutions. The Secretariat answered that it is already indicated in the Rules of Procedure that after the debate of the proposed resolution, it can be voted in the closed session. The Secretariat proposed that a portion of the closed session be allotted to accommodate debates and have the tuning here as well, while on the latter part, the vote may be conducted.

The Secretariat explained that the Working Group Chair has not yet been selected. Nonetheless, the Secretariat will again reach out to GPA members as well as to the co-sponsors of the resolution who may be willing to serve as Chair and maybe two Co-Chairs for the Working Group.

The Secretariat will work towards appointing a Chair or Co-Chairs for the Working Group, starting with the drafting of the Terms of Reference, and coordinating with the FDSC for reporting purposes.

Chairman Karadjov inquired as to when the Secretariat will obtain the documents to discuss its contents. As there is no Chair for the Working Group yet, the Secretariat stated that it will send out the requests again for the possible Chair or Co-Chairs of the Working Group by early next week. Once the necessary information is obtained, the Terms of Reference and the work plan itself may already begin.

**Item 5: SDSC Chair Report Submission of Quarterly Stocktake Report and Schedule of DeepDive Session**

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) received from the Secretariat the Stocktake updates that have been submitted so far. DIFC also sent emails to the Working Group Chairs to schedule DeepDive Sessions as a group. Additionally, DIFC mentioned that they need to have a subcommittee meeting next week.

**Item 6: Consideration of Membership Fee Discounts by Host Authorities 5253**

Chairperson Ko stated that it is fine to give discounts but if this would be the rule, he believes that the GPA Rules should be revised so that part of the members’ fees collected could be used to subsidize hosting authorities in their preparation of the GPA.

Lori Baker explained that costs cannot be lowered for a large number of attendees but it could be possible if the discount would be limited to one attending member. However, if they want to bring more, they must register at a regular rate.

Chairman Karadjov suggested having a meeting on this topic with DIFC as the next organizer Lori Baker agreed and will coordinate with the Secretariat moving forward.

Additionally, Chairman Karadjov mentioned that if there will be ideas on how to put this in practice, it would be helpful to find a way to announce it in advance because there is a big chance that it will be well accepted, well distributed, and that payment of taxes from a big number of members will be received before September.

In relation to this, the Secretariat agreed that should early bird discounts be made a practice, it should be formalized through a Resolution and the GPA Rules and Procedures. Moreover, when the Secretariat submitted a proposal, they were requesting a larger funding for its operations. However, they used the proposed amount in the Resolution adopted during the 43rd Closed Session since this is the first collection of fees.

Thus, the Secretariat concluded that should this be considered, membership fees might as well be increased because a portion of these would be given to the hosting authority and will affect the operations of the Secretariat.

**Item 7: 1st Quarter Report of 2025 of the NPC-GPA Fee-Funded Secretariat**

The Secretariat presented the financial status such as the updates from collection and budget utilization as of March 31, 2025.

Commissioner Vane inquired if any action has been made to identify non-renewing members and their reasons and reasons for non-payment of last year’s fees. The Secretariat explained that it is mostly due to budget constraints.

Chairman Karadjov observed that financial statements must be more transparent since this involves spending of public money and to encourage more members to pay as it is part of their policy to determine that such payment is accounted for.

Moreover, Chairman Karadjov requested that the Secretariat send the emails they use to contact all data protection authorities who are members of the European Data Protection Board as they will cross-check it with their database to confirm if these are valid.

**Item 8: AOB**

The Secretariat discussed members who signified the withdrawal of their membership.

Chairperson Ko mentioned that it received a correspondence that PIPC Korea is to represent the GPA at the G7 Round Table among data protection authorities.

Lastly, the Secretariat stated that it is enhancing the National Privacy Commission of the Philippines’ website and social media pages and asked the ExCo for any message they could give to upload in their pages to encourage people to attend conferences.

No additional matters were raised. The meeting was adjourned.