

European Federation of Data Protection Officers AISBL
Rue de Namur 73A, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

29.01.2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Federation of Data Protection Officers on the occasion of Data Protection Day, which is commemorated on 28.1.2024.

Our organization brings together European Data Protection Officers (and their national associations from 11 countries) and works intensively on issues related to the processing of personal data and the digital economy.

We follow very closely the current regulatory efforts of the European institutions, especially in view of the growing importance of the digital economy and, in particular, the importance given to the data-driven economy in the future. Both EFDPO and our member organizations are intensively discussing new legislation such as the Data Act, AI Act, Digital Services Act, and the NIS2 Directive. We are convinced that only the correct implementation of this legislation in practice and the appropriate balancing of data sharing and use, which is vital for the digital economy, on the one hand, with data protection on the other, can bring success to the European data economy.

A large number of data professionals are needed to properly put this legislation into practice. Yet such experts are often lacking in the EU. We are therefore very concerned that the large pool of experts already available in the EU—the Data Protection Officers appointed under the GDPR—is being overlooked in connection with the above-mentioned legislation.

Data Protection Officers are often practitioners with a wide range of experience who deal with the processing of personal data and other data on a day-to-day basis, looking for ways to properly balance different rights and interests so that the most efficient processing of data takes place both in private companies and in the public sector. Thus, we firmly believe that these professionals and their representative associations are critical stakeholders and should be heavily implemented in the relevant discussions and output. Failure to exploit the potential that this group of experts has for the future of the digital economy could prove to be a crucial error.

We believe that a greater involvement of Data Protection Officers in the implementation of the new digital legislation would not only have a positive impact on the speed of its implementation but would also increase the confidence of the public, the companies concerned, and public authorities in the feasibility of the digital economy.

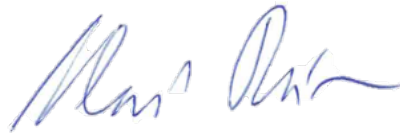
We would, therefore, like to draw your attention to this situation and the missed opportunity.

Our organization is, of course, available for further discussions on how to exploit the potential of the Data Protection Officers in the context of building a real European data-driven economy.

Sincerely,



Thomas Spaeing
President



JUDr. Vladan Rámiš, Ph.D.
Vice President

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Member Associations of the EFDPO:

- Czech Republic: Spolek pro ochranu osobních údajů
- Croatia: CENTAR FERALIS
- France: UDPO, Union des Data Protection Officer – DPO
- French Polynesia: U.D.P.O PACIFIC
- Germany: Berufsverband der Datenschutzbeauftragten Deutschlands (BvD) e. V.; Fachverband Externe Datenschutzbeauftragte (FED) e.V.
- Greece: Hellenic Association for Data Protection and Privacy (HADPP)
- Liechtenstein: dsv.li-Datenschutzverein in Liechtenstein
- Norway: Norwegian Association of Data Protection Officers (Foreningen Personvernombudene)
- Portugal: APDPO PORTUGAL Associação dos Profissionais de Proteção e de Segurança de Dados
- Slovakia: Spolok na ochranu osobných údajov
- Switzerland: Data Privacy Community; Swiss Association of Data Protection Officers (ASDPO)