



EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

GIOVANNI BUTTARELLI
SUPERVISOR

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Joint EDPS/BG DPA International Conference 2018

Please use edps@edps.europa.eu for all
correspondence

**Subject: Open letter responding to signatories of the 21 September 2017 joint statement
from global civil society coalition regarding International Conference of Data
Protection and Privacy Commissioners**

I am writing on behalf of the co-hosts of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC) 2018.

We wish to thank you for your statement of the 21 September addressed to the organisers of the ICDPPC 2017. We very much appreciated your call to enhance civil society participation at the event and to increase its transparency.

As you will be aware, in October 2018, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) and the Commission for Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria will jointly host the 40th annual ICDPPC.

To contribute to the recently launched international debate, the public session of the ICDPPC 2018 will address ethical implications of technologies, such as how artificial intelligence and big data challenge notions of individual agency, accountability and freedom in the public space.

We hope to create an environment where the views of national regulators, civil society, scholars, government and industry representatives are freely exchanged, and new partnerships are built. For a meaningful debate to take place, active participation of non-governmental civil society representatives is crucial.

As the hosts of the ICDPPC 2018, we recognise the important role of civil society organizations in protecting the fundamental right to data protection, and your contribution to the discourse on ethics in net technologies. We are committed to making the ICCDPC 2018 as inclusive as possible for all voices of those who care about digital rights.

We shall rely on your cooperation in this endeavour. To facilitate the exchange of views at ICDPPC 2018, we invite nominations of non-governmental civil society representatives from around the world be part of an advisory committee which we intend to establish. This committee will be composed of around 7-10 individuals representing a cross section of interest groups and

areas of expertise; we intend to appoint one to two persons nominated as civil society representatives. The committee will be asked to provide a sounding board for the conference programme, including the public session and side events, as it develops.

We furthermore invite you to be active contributors to the ICDDPC 2018 and to share your ideas for the open sessions of the conference, side-events and logistical arrangements.

Finally, we are also taking steps to ensure a balanced registration fee policy for the conference. In setting the fees, we will aim to be inclusive and fair as well as to meet our budgetary constraints as an authority funded by the EU taxpayer.

Please send your nominations for the advisory committee and any ideas for the conference to Mr Ernani Francesco Cerasaro at ernani.cerasaro@edps.europa.eu.

We look forward to working with you to explore the urgent question of the technological implications for our fundamental rights - particularly for our privacy and the protection of our personal data.

Yours faithfully,

Giovanni BUTTARELLI

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giovanni Buttarelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.