



*CPDP 2018*

*26 January 2018*

*Giovanni Buttarelli - closing remarks*

CPDP Closing Speech 26.1.2018

Ladies and gentlemen,

My congratulations to Paul and the whole CPDP team on another triumphant CPDP.

Over 1000 participants, multiple stakeholders, with a need for a big second venue, and now running now for 5 days, including the Privacy Salon event tomorrow for the true diehards.

The range and depth of panels here present an embarrassment of riches.

And now, with many of the sessions being filmed, you can watch them after conference at your leisure.

At this rate of expansion, Paul, I may need to put you in touch with the managing director of the National King Baudouin Stadium

A big year lies ahead - Probably the biggest year ever for EU data protection.

Of course we are going to celebrate GDPR Day on 25 May.

It will be a great achievement for the DPAs who for years have called for updated rules, for civil society organisations who have campaigned for it, and for the legislators who had the courage to stick to the principles and values of the Charter.

It is even an achievement for the lobbyists who, I am sure, helped improve the text in many ways with their 3 999 amendments.

(By the way, what a disappointment that no one had the creativity and ambition to table amendment number 4000!)

The EDPB will soon launch, and all eyes will be on the effectiveness of the One Stop Shop and the Consistency Mechanism, as DPAs seek to cooperate closely while respecting each authority's independence.

The internet has been with us for only a couple of decades.

It has evolved in weird and wonderful ways, but also in very bad ways.

'Connecting people' should not mean following them around and recording their movements, words, actions and thoughts for eternity.

'Convenience' and making life's chores quicker or easier should not make people less safe or less free.

So at least as important this year is the work to adopt the ePrivacy Regulation.

Constant monitoring of behaviour is not the only business model for digital products and services, nor is it the most desirable business model. And it shouldn't be the most profitable.

The ePrivacy regulation is the law which will do more than anything else to persuade companies and investors that there is a better way to connect people and services.

So let us make 2018 the year where Europe says "Enough! No more covert opaque and ubiquitous surveillance of people in the digital environment."

Let us also make 2018 the year where the EU adopts rules, obligations and rights where EU bodies process personal information consistent with the GDPR.

It is, ultimately, a question of integrity.

We claim to lead by example - so therefore we need to ensure that all EU bodies, including those dealing with the most sensitive and complex issues like Europol, applying consistent and reliable standards.

Don't forget, this year will be five years after the Snowden revelations.

We may have made great progress on data protection, but on surveillance it is a very different story.

The Privacy Shield is a sticking plaster.

What we need is for the European Council to make good on its commitments, particularly those in its conclusions, particular in October 2013, undertaking to find a sustainable approach to intelligence sharing with strategic partners.

Apparently last year was the moment over 50 per cent of the world's population became connected to the internet.

Meanwhile another 10 or so countries around the world adopted data privacy laws last year.

The total according to our oracle for such questions, Professor Graham Greenleaf, is now 121 countries.

But this extraordinary growth is uneven.

There are huge numbers being left behind.

Women tend globally to have less access to the internet.

And that means poor urban communities suffer in particular.

Our children are being surveilled like never before – take the example of the schools in California which, for lack of public funding, have chosen to allow their pupils to be monitored in exchange for private capital.

And then there are massive data protection deserts around the world - imagine a gigantic arc from southern Africa through to central Asia and China - where there are no formal privacy protections, or at least no independent regulator protecting individuals from the risks of digitisation.

In too many parts of the world, data protection is treated as a proxy for national security.

We in this room have a lot of work to do.

Everybody deserves to be respected, not only those who can afford to pay for the privilege.

Later this year, from 22 to 25 October, here in Brussels, I will host the next International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners.

You might think that the biggest sporting occasion this year will be the World Cup.

I disagree – and not, I insist, because I am a bad loser.

This year, for those not familiar with this annual jamboree, Olympic Games for privacy are coming to town.

We can promise unmissable events including mental gymnastics, legal marathons and of course the corporate lobby steeplechase.

I promise that this is going to be an event unlike any other.

We will have over 700 places in the hemicycle of the European Parliament, each seat equipped with microphones and headsets. It is going to be a big and spectacular conversation about technology and ethics in the age of artificial intelligence and the internet of everything.

In our closed session we will determine the future of the conference: how we can be more inclusive to global partner authorities while preserving the integrity of the community of independent regulators.

2018 is going to be a big year.

You should count on us DPAs to be focussed, and single minded, like a squad of human-rights-obsessed Jose Mourinhos.

Thank you – and see you at the Olympics in October.