

## MISSION REPORT:

### WORKSHOP - DATA PROTECTION WITHIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS GENEVA, 11 AND 12 MAY 2017

<b>EDPS Participant(s)</b>	Sophie Louveaux, [REDACTED] Anne-Christine Lacoste, Giovanni Buttarelli
<b>Type of activity</b>	Cooperation with International Organisations
<b>Organisers</b>	IOM and EDPS
<b>Where/When</b>	Geneva, 11-12 May 2017
<b>Subject(s) covered</b>	Health data, cloud computing, GDPR (data transfers), role of DPOs
<b>Objective(s) of the mission</b>	Contribute to the development of a data protection culture within international organisations, support the development of an IOs network, enhance contacts with relevant stakeholders present at the conference, take lessons in view of organisation of future events.
<b>Case file number</b>	2016-0500

#### MAIN OUTCOME

The agenda (<https://saas.fabasoft.com/edps/mx/COO.6515.100.3.288137>) focused on the following items: updates from IOs on latest developments, processing of health data, cloud computing, the role of DPOs and international transfers under the GDPR.

The event was very well attended (more than 60 participants from 30 organisations), and discussions were lively and showed a serious commitment from international organisations.

Many challenges have been discussed more in depth, among which:

- balance privacy vs public health safety or other public interests;
- the sharing of personal data with other stakeholders be it governments, other organisations, private companies;
- how to render data anonymous if need be;
- how to ensure access to data on a need to know basis;
- how to obtain informed consent in often very vulnerable situations;
- the importance of respecting the sensitivity and culture of individuals (eg iris scan);
- the need for very practical recommendations for a safe cloud (Including policies, templates, use of encryption, need for hosting country a reliable and stable data protection framework).
- the scope of application of the GDPR to IOs, and the need for clarification of provisions applicable in case of data transfers.

We could see a common will to make data protection part of the culture of organisations and to hold them accountable.

In this respect the initiative of the independent control commission recently created for IRCC (The International Red Cross) is very promising as independent supervision is a key component of a strong data protection regime, and it could play a role in the context of safeguards brought by IOs for international transfers.

Some IOs expressed interest in organising the next workshops: possibly UNHCR next year, and Interpol the year after.

Giovani's speaking points:

[https://edps.europa.eu/sites/edp/files/publication/17-05-11\\_geneva\\_speech\\_en.pdf](https://edps.europa.eu/sites/edp/files/publication/17-05-11_geneva_speech_en.pdf)

#### **FOLLOW UP:**

- **finalise minutes of the workshop together with IOM.**
- **take stock of positive aspects (subjects, quality of speakers, size and duration of workshop) and those that can be improved (video conference, hotel booking in advance, others to be discussed at occasion of dedicated meeting by mid-June).**
- **identify items requiring further discussion for upcoming workshops, for instance the use of consent, the exact scope of application of GDPR, the connection between data protection issues and ethical aspects, including the human dignity of those whose data are processed.**
- **Maintain contact with participants, especially UNHCR and Interpol for the organisation of next workshops**