

Wednesday 19 April 2006

Consolidating the EDPS: second annual report presented

Today, Peter Hustinx, the European Data Protection Supervisor, and Joaquín Bayo Delgado, Assistant Supervisor, presented their second annual report (2005).

While the first year was devoted to setting up the new independent authority that protects personal data and privacy on the level of the EU institutions and bodies, the second year was one of consolidation. The three main activities: supervision, consultation and cooperation were confirmed in the institutional context, and the office benefited from a slight increase in staff and the setting up of its own press service.

Peter Hustinx says: *"There is reason to be proud of what we have achieved during these two years. The EU administration is progressing towards complying with its obligations, and we are fostering the development of a data protection culture - essential for safeguarding this fundamental right. Equally important, the EDPS advises the Commission, the Council and the Parliament on proposals for new legislation that affect the privacy of citizens. However, much remains to be done in this important area."*

Taking a pragmatic and constructive approach to enforcing the data protection obligations of the EU administration, the EDPS has allowed for a learning period - until spring 2007. Within one year from now, all EU institutions and bodies need to ensure good governance in this respect. During 2005, the EDPS provided a number of tools to enable compliance, such as some 34 opinions on risky processing operations in the thematic priorities: medical files, staff appraisal, disciplinary procedures, social services and e-monitoring. Other tools include the publishing of a paper on the role of the compulsory Data Protection Officers, as well as providing them with advice and training.

In the context of the obligation to advise the European legislator of the possible impact on data protection and privacy of new legislative proposals, some 6 formal opinions were published last year. Mostly relating to the policy area "Justice, Freedom and Security", these opinions covered proposals such as the highly controversial one on data retention, as well as proposals for large scale IT-systems such as the second generation Schengen information system (SIS II) and the Visa information system (VIS).

The Annual Report and Executive summary are available on our [website](http://www.edps.europa.eu)

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