European Data Protection Commissioners' Conference
Brussels, 5 April 2011

Conclusions of the Conference

The Conference was organised in Brussels, jointly by the European Data Protection Supervisor and the Chair of the Article 29 Working Party. The Commissioners have come to the following conclusions on the different points of the agenda.

Session I – Overview of Developments
The Conference adopted a Resolution on the need for a comprehensive data protection framework (see annex). The ongoing reviews in EU, Council of Europe and OECD will return on the agenda of the Spring Conference 2012.

Session II – Developing a comprehensive framework
The WPPJ was mandated to work with a view to the integration of its EU related competences and expertise into the WP29, as soon as possible, but latest by early 2012. The WP29 was invited to clarify the status of its subgroup on law enforcement and the participation of delegations from non-EU member states in its work. A final decision on a possible new mandate of the WPPJ will be taken by the Spring Conference 2012.

Session III – Supervision in Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
There seemed to be broad consensus about the essential requirements for effective supervision. The discussion document submitted by the EDPS will be amended in the light of comments made in order to serve as a reference document in the context of the consultation which is to be launched by the Commission in the course of 2011.

A working group has been established, with participation of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the WPPJ and of the JSBs, the EDPS, Portugal, Germany and other interested countries, with a view to present a proposal for a common approach at the next Spring Conference.

Session IV – Any other business
The DPA of Moldova was accredited as a national authority. The JSB of Eurojust was accredited as a European authority within an international or supranational body.

Elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the WPPJ were not considered necessary in view of the outcome of session II. The current Chair and Vice-Chair will continue to act in a transitional capacity as long as needed to finish the mandate provided.

Luxembourg and Poland are candidates to organize the conference in 2012 and 2013, respectively. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Session V – Conclusions and follow up
The EDPS will issue a press release on the main elements of the resolution adopted in session I and the gradual integration of the WPPJ into the WP29. The resolution will also be sent to the relevant stakeholders in EU, Council of Europe and OECD.