

Mission

The **European Privacy Association (EPA)** is a non-party-political pan-European network of privacy, data protection and security experts based in Brussels, Belgium. Its aim is to provide a 'space' for bringing together experts from across Europe, to engage with them as we seek out new policies to enhance privacy, e-security and data protection. EPA will work closely with European institutions, particularly the European Parliament, academia, civil society, and industry. EPA will engage with policy makers, industry, advocates, and the media, to bring forward new ideas and to propose policy frameworks to deal with pressing privacy issues as they arise. EPA will therefore be a clearinghouse for new ideas on preserving and enhancing privacy protection across Europe.

EPA is a forum dedicated to ensure the rule of law for the processing of personal data in the global information economy and society. EPA involves not only the best European specialists in privacy law, but also representatives of the public and private spheres, who often deal with personal data and sensitive information on a daily basis. Working as a think tank, EPA aims to consolidate itself as a meeting place for European "new law" experts, and for several of the players of high technology content markets, including industries and policy makers. EPA will be the first independent cross-sector organization dealing with privacy and security issues at the European level.

The European Privacy Association is led by an administrative council (Executive Board) with functions of management and direction, co-operating with a Scientific Committee that is composed of scholars, advocates, and experts on the subject of privacy. These groups are assisted in turn by a Committee of Supporters, comprised mostly of companies tasked with direct financing and fund-raising. EPA shall gather some of the most prominent experts in the security and data protection field, including law scholars, law firms' representatives, experts on new media and communication, market and competition, and professionals or academics in the areas of sociology, psychology and international politics.

Objecives

- EPA shall bring together policy makers with experts from academia, civil society, and industry to provide insight into leading research and innovations relating to privacy and data protection.
- EPA aims to develop and provide new privacy and data protection policies to public officials and elected members at European and Member State level.
- EPA shall consult policy makers and industries on issues regarding personal data and security.
- Industries shall view EPA as an advisory organisation regarding current and future topics in the privacy and data protection field. EPA aims to help the market evolve by developing the correct strategies concerning privacy and security.
- EPA shall provide studies and analysis that envisage the future in the privacy field, favouring the proactive development of new policies and the rapid adaptation of the market.
- EPA shall promote advanced training seminars on privacy issues for European professionals.
- EPA shall recognise and award the best practices in the privacy and security field.
- EPA shall act as a watchdog to monitor the use of personal data and security measures by industries, institutions and authorities.

Primary areas of interest

- Privacy, international security and anti-terrorism
- Privacy and human rights
- E-Government and protection of citizens' data
- Internet advertising and other forms of consumer profiling
- Identity management and identity assurance
- Cybersecurity
- Search engines and social networks
- Intellectual property rights, anti-piracy and users' e-privacy
- Privacy and e-health systems
- Privacy and innovation
- Justice, e-crimes and anti-phishing

Special focus to the Internet and converging media

EPA works to ensure that European Internet users are properly protected against invasions of their personal privacy. EPA conducts analyses and formulates policy proposals based on the following principles:

Privacy is a basic human right. Without privacy, citizens are not fully free to search for information, conduct business, and participate in the public debate online.

The Internet industry (i.e. service providers, search engines, and others) has a responsibility to ensure the privacy of their customers.

Governments have a responsibility to ensure the privacy of its citizens, including properly safeguarding personal information in public databases. Governments should not be able to infringe on privacy without proper cause and due process.

EPA believes that privacy is best protected when citizens all over the European Union work together to hold governments and the industry accountable. EPA therefore actively co-operates with individuals and groups in other European countries who share our mission and principles.

Types of activities

As its principle working tool, EPA uses its website (in the role of "electronic magazine"), to which its fellow partners and other researchers may contribute with publications, and a semi-monthly informative newsletter, which provides major news and analysis on the evolution of privacy issues in EU and the world. There will be meeting of the experts group every six months, as well as seminars run on a quarterly basis to brief policy-makers on the current pressing challenges and leading research, in partnership with European industries. This is done to improve training for professionals and to heighten the awareness of across sectors. The seminars will be broadcast over the internet, through EPA's portal, and are made available as downloadable or streamed content.

Media Outreach

Among other activities, we will produce articles and other types of interventions for different media-partners (newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, web). In addition, the EPA will offer whitepapers and other publications on privacy. On a biannual basis, scholarships on the subject of ICT law will be awarded, according to the criteria established by the Scientific Committee and based on the economic resources made available by each business concerned.

European Data Protection Award

Every year, beginning on January 28th 2010, Data Protection Day, EPA will award best privacy practice and research in the European context. Industries, campaigns and scholars will be recognised and rewarded for their work during the year in the privacy and data protection field.

EPA Executive Board

The Executive board is comprised of a broad range of renowned experts in their own right:

Karin Riis-Jørgensen (Chair), former Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the Liberal Group.

Pat Cox (Vice-Chair), President of the European Movement International and former President of the European Parliament.

Pietro Paganini PhD, (Executive Officer), Adjunct Professor at John Cabot University and independent consultant on innovation, market and competitiveness.

Luca Bolognini is the Chair of the Italian Institute for Privacy, and consultant for e-business, privacy, and new technologies laws in Italy.

Birgitte Kofod Olsen (Treasurer) is a human rights expert and former Vice Director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Ms Kofod Olsen is also member of the Danish IT Security Committee.

Christopher Kuner is a Partner of international law firm Hunton & Williams, Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Task Force on Privacy and Data Protection, and previously a member of the former Data Protection Expert Group of the European Commission.

Gus Hosein is an academic, a consultant, and an advocate. He is the Policy Director at Privacy International.

Learn more about EPA

The European Privacy Association website (www.europeanprivacy.eu) contains information more information on the backgrounds of the Executive Board and the profiles of our Scientific Committee members who span Europe and domains of expertise and interest. Also published online are all EPA press-releases, general news and membership details.

Contact us

Telephone: +32 2 791 75 18

Email: info@europeanprivacy.eu

Fax: +32 2 791 79 00

Web: www.europeanprivacy.eu

Postal Address: Square de Meeus, 37 - 4th Floor, 1000 Brussels, Belgium