International Working Group
on Data Protection
in Telecommunications

Common Position on

Privacy and Data Protection Aspects of the Publication of Personal Data contained in publicly available Documents on the Internet

adopted at the 27th meeting of the Working Group on 4/5 May 2000 in Rethymnon / Crete

With the growing use of the Internet the publication of personal data contained in publicly available [official] documents on the Internet has increased dramatically over the last years (e.g. court decisions, public registers and other official documents).

The fact that these documents are now available electronically and globally causes new specific risks to the privacy of the persons concerned.

The Working Group notes that the "Working Party on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data" of Data Protection Commissioners in the European Union ("Article 29 Group") has addressed these issues extensively in their Opinion 3/99 (http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/docs/wpdocs/1999/wp20en.pdf) on Public Sector information and the Protection of Personal Data and fully supports their findings.

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The Working Group has been initiated
by Data Protection Commissioners
from different countries in order
to improve privacy and data protection
in telecommunications and media