



**RESOLUTION ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITIES
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITIES FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF CITIZENS
AND CONSUMERS IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners
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AUTHOR:

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CO-SPONSORS:

- Data Protection Commission, Ireland
- European Data Protection Supervisor
- Information Commissioner's Office, UK
- Datatilsynet (Data Inspectorate), Norway
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
- Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong

Resolution on Collaboration between Data Protection Authorities and Consumer Protection Authorities for Better Protection of Citizens and Consumers in the Digital Economy

NOTING that:

- a) Statutory protections for individuals, whether as citizens or consumers, are imbedded in consumer protection, privacy and data protection laws;
- b) the Conference's strategic priority includes the strengthening of our connections and work with partners to achieve our mission of supporting authorities more effectively to include the protection of personal data in their mandates;
- c) the Conference is committed to addressing the challenges related to privacy and data protection in the digital age;
- d) individuals are increasingly concerned about their lack of control over, and information about how, their information is processed and protected in the online environment;
- e) data protection authorities should cooperate with appropriate bodies that can achieve the goal of protecting the rights of the individual in relation to their personal data;
- f) personal information is increasingly a core part of business models in the digital economy;
- g) in its statement of the 27th of August 2018 the European Data Protection Board voiced the concern that *"increased market concentration in digital markets has the potential to threaten the level of data protection and freedom enjoyed by consumers of digital services"* ;
- h) privacy and data protection are becoming important considerations informing consumer decisions in the digital economy; and
- i) Accordingly, there is a growing intersection of consumer protection, data protection and privacy issues.

RECALLING that:

- a) the 39th Conference resolved to identify the need for, and highlight ways to improve, collaboration between data protection and consumer protection authorities at both domestic and international levels with a view to fostering better protection for citizens and consumers in the digital economy;
- b) the 39th Conference established the Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group which was tasked to report back to the 40th Conference on the current legal and practical state of collaboration between data protection authorities and consumer protection authorities, and to submit a resolution proposing specific measures or further concrete work.

HAVING READ the report of the Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group

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THE 40th CONFERENCE resolves:

1. to continue efforts to bring about effective inter- and intra-jurisdictional cooperation between data protection and consumer protection authorities in specific cases or categories of cases to improve outcomes for individuals' rights;
2. to consider the interaction of privacy, data protection, regulation, and competition and their implications for consumers;
3. to continue to study the overlap of substantive legislation affecting the rights of digital consumers;
4. to renew and confirm the mandate of the Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group which was originally conferred to it by the 39th Conference. In particular with a view to:
 - a. increasing the presence of the Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group at international fora that consider the intersection between consumer protection, privacy and data protection, including the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN), the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN), the Digital Clearinghouse (DCH) and Consumer Protection Cooperation Network (CPC);
 - b. leveraging this presence to engage authorities competent for consumer, privacy, data protection as well as other relevant authorities such as competition and antitrust enforcement authorities in an effort to monitor and map relevant enforcement cases and jurisprudence affecting the privacy of digital consumers, for example, in order to better understand how to design multi-disciplinary approaches to statutory protections for individuals' data; and
 - c. to report back to the 41st Conference on the elements listed above and if necessary submit a resolution proposing specific measures and/or further concrete work.