

Privacy & Data Protection

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- Google — fined by the Spanish and French authorities, and sued in the UK, p.18
- ICO publishes breach trends, p.19

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Reding rallies troops to power forward with reform

Vice-President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, has called for a hardening of political will in order to push through data protection reform in Europe.

Speaking on 28th January 2014, European Data Protection Day, Mrs Reding said on the state of the EU data protection reform negotiations:

"There has been a lot of hypocrisy in the debate. For instance, those who called for a high level of data protection in Europe, while simultaneously arguing that the Regulation should be replaced by a Directive.

"We have listened to these arguments for two years. Round and round in circles while, every day, the headlines have reminded us of why the reform is important. Discussions are mature. The text is ready. It is just a matter of political will."

Progress on the negotiations came to a standstill late last year after Europe's top Legal Advisor casted doubt over one of its key principles, 'one stop shop' regulation (see Volume 14, Issue 2, of *Privacy & Data Protection*).

Since then, ministers in the Justice Council have

held numerous discussions on the proposals, but not yet agreed on a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament.

During her speech, Mrs Reding rallied for speedy passage of reform:

"We need to get serious on data protection. The European Parliament understood, and its LIBE Committee voted in October [2013] for a strong Regulation, with credible sanctions to ensure European rules are respected. Last week in Athens, the three insti-

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LIBE recommends close down of US/EU data flows and that UK cleans up its act

A report by the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee on US National Security Agency surveillance has been leaked, showing that MEPs recommend a complete shut down of data transfers between EU and US entities.

The report is the outcome of more than 15 hearings and submissions from EU and US experts, EU insti-

tutions and the legislative and executive branches of the US government, that took place over the course of last year, following Edward Snowden's revelations.

The report singled out the UK for playing along with the NSA and for having its own comparable system, called Tempora. While there are strong indications that the UK is a 'bad apple',

limited, but still related, systems might be in use in Germany and France, according to the Committee.

The Committee recommends that the US and EU Member States cease and prohibit 'blanket mass surveillance activities and bulk processing of personal data', suggest-

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