Nordic data protection authorities working together

In the dawn of the new data protection regulation (GDPR) coming into force 25 May 2018 the Nordic data protection authorities from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Åland met in Copenhagen 7-8 May to discuss future cooperation, a cooperation that is essential in a changing world of challenges.

It was agreed that the authorities will take an enforcement initiative to ensure that public authorities have appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) with a follow-up on the results and reactions in cases of non-compliance.

The authorities also discussed future cooperation within the European Data Protection Board, handling of cross-border cases, strategy for the first months, information sharing, sanctions in the new regime, enforcement cooperation with authorities outside the EU and general awareness raising. The focus at the meeting was on working together on specific issues that would add real value to the work already being carried out by each authority separately using the synergies of joining forces.

The most important results of the meeting were that the authorities will

- work together on splitting the work when it comes to producing guidance and tools for our “customers”. Instead of developing the same information separately we will coordinate and share each others’ material and thus provide more guidance in total
- offer data controllers and data processors a template for a data processor agreement (in their local languages as well as English) to facilitate and ease the process of making these important agreements compliant with the new set of rules
- collaborate on making it easier for data controllers and data processors to carry out Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) where this is required
- develop a base list of well-defined situations where a data controller has to perform a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) according to Art. 35 (4) of the GDPR
- deal with data breach notifications based on a classification of the severity of a data breach. The authorities will continue to work on a common approach on which notifications will require further investigation and actions
• increase coordination and information sharing in relation to sanctions, i.e. by exchanging case law on a regular basis

Our cooperation will as always be based on the Nordic values and traditions when it comes to respecting the individual’s fundamental rights and freedoms, transparency and the rule of law.

The Nordic data protection authorities

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