

Anu Talus

Chair of the European Data Protection Board

Adrian Lobsiger
Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner

Copied to: John Edwards
UK Information Commissioner

Brussels, 16 July 2024

by e-mail only

Subject: Response to Letter on “Meeting on International Cooperation Launched by the ICO in Washington DC”

Dear Commissioner Lobsiger,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 8 May 2024, as well as for your letter of 7 June replying to Commissioner Edwards’ letter of 5 June to which I was copied.

First and foremost, I appreciate the input you shared with regard to the European Commission and ICO’s initiatives on international cooperation and your suggestions on the way forward, with the contribution of the EDPB. I would like to thank you as well for your expressed willingness to continue exploring routes of collaboration with the EDPB on matters of mutual interest.

Contributing to the global dialogue on data protection, including on data transfers, is a strategic priority for the EDPB. In particular, the EDPB and its members will continue to engage with the international community, promoting high data protection standards and reinforcing the EDPB’s involvement in international discussions. The EDPB equally intends to further facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the members of the EDPB and non-EU countries’ data protection and privacy authorities. In this context, we will increase our efforts relating to our contributions on international cooperation and supporting enforcement, and further develop our current approaches.

In that perspective, the EDPB welcomes the initiative launched by the European Commission and the goal of strengthening cooperation with all countries that benefit from an EU adequacy decision and ensuring safe data flows. While cooperation and exchanges take place in various existing international fora, the network of adequate countries brings together jurisdictions that took significant steps towards convergence and that share common values and objectives of ensuring a high level of protection of personal data. In this regard, I would also like to reassure you that the EDPB shares your views on the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts with regard to existing cooperation initiatives.

European Data Protection Board
Rue Wiertz, 60
1047 Brussels

Therefore, we will continue to exchange with the European Commission during the implementation of this initiative, to facilitate and support the cooperation of data protection authorities. The EDPB also takes note of the first ideas for concrete cooperation projects you mentioned as well as of the specific follow-up actions identified during the technical follow-up meeting organised by the European Commission on 30 May 2024.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the EDPB is planning to contact DPAs from countries with adequacy decisions to set up a meeting in the autumn. This meeting would run alongside an EDPB plenary meeting and provide the opportunity to further discuss the expected benefits, focus and form of our cooperation.

I am looking forward to continuing to collaborate and exchange our views.

Yours sincerely,

Anu Talus