

Data Protection Ireland

Volume 7, Issue 1

January / February 2014

Headlines

- DPC ‘entirely unsatisfied’ with Department’s data handling, p.17
- Irish credit union exposes data of thousands, p.18
- Germany appoints a new Federal Commissioner, p.20

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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 6, Issue 6 of *Data Protection Ireland*).

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

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DPC will ‘use and deploy’ fines as required, but will not make extensive use

Ireland is preparing for its front-line role in the enforcement of the European Union’s proposed new data protection regime, but does not expect to make extensive use of the new large fines that might be levied on non compliant companies, according to Data Protection Commissioner Billy Hawkes.

Speaking in late January 2014, the DPC said that fines for data protection infringements would be

a ‘useful addition to the toolbox,’ but should not be triggered automatically. The Irish regulator would ‘use and deploy fines as required.’

Ireland will be prominent in the implementation and enforcement of the pending EU data protection regulation because, under the system currently outlined in the draft regulation, privacy complaints about a company will be handled by the authority where that

company has its main establishment.

Ireland is the European home for a large number of US multinationals, including internet and social media companies such as Facebook Inc., Google Inc. and LinkedIn Corp., and technology companies, such as Apple Inc., Dell Inc., Hewlett Packard, IBM Corp. and Intel Corp.

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