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Der Bundesbeauftragte
für den Datenschutz und
die Informationsfreiheit

Vortrag

des Bundesbeauftragten für den Datenschutz und die
Informationsfreiheit

Prof. Ulrich Kelber

„Opening Remarks / G7 DPA Roundtable“

bei OECD Expert Workshop on Cross-Border Cooperation

Videokonferenz, 4. Oktober 2022, 14.00h-14.10h

(zusammen mit Audrey Plonk, OECD)

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Dear Audrey, dear colleagues and friends,

Thank you very much for having me invited to deliver some opening remarks to this important event.

I think no one can deny that in times as ours, which is an era of accelerated digitalization with ever-increasing flows of data, collaboration of data protection authorities is a key necessity in order to uphold information and privacy rights of consumers and citizens. We need to make sure that international companies will face an international network of supervisory authorities, which are able and ready to cooperate so that no loopholes in the global enforcement environment will occur.

To this end, I have always found that we need sufficient resources and expertise at our supervisory authorities, but we also need suitable networks and mechanisms for the different kinds and purposes of collaboration. In Session 1, you will learn more on some of those networks, such as the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) or the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN).

However, a relatively new group of Data Protection and Privacy Authorities – the group of “G7 DPAs” – has been introduced last year, in 2021, in the context of the British G7 Presidency 2021 on initiative of the UK Information Commissioner, who was Elizabeth Denham at this time – and I am very happy that you, dear Elizabeth, have joined us today for this event. Almost exactly one year ago, in September 2021, the first so-called “G7 DPA Roundtable” was hosted by Elizabeth Denham; but unfortunately, due to the pandemic and unlike as originally planned, this could happen as a videoconference only. However, an important step

was made last year by inaugurating the group as such and by continuing topical work on expert level in dedicated Working Groups. One working group is on technology and another one deals with enforcement cooperation. I am glad that a colleague from the PPC Japan, Mr Shohji Mihara, who coordinated the enforcement coordination group, will appear in Session 1 to inform you about this dedicated group in greater detail.

This year, under the German G7 Presidency 2022, we could get together in person for the first time. Just a few weeks ago, from 6th through 8th of September, I had the honor and joy to welcome my colleagues from the other G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn in Germany for the 2022 edition of the G7 DPA Roundtable. On this occasion, we discussed the overarching topic of “Data Free Flow with Trust” or “DFFT” and we also looked at the prospects of “international data spaces”.

In the end, as the main result of the Roundtable, we adopted a communiqué unanimously. This communiqué highlights necessary elements and conditions for the success of the concept of DFFT. I am very glad that all of my fellow G7 DPA Commissioners agreed to emphasize the importance of democratic principles and fundamental human rights in the digital world as a prerequisite for creating trust of customers and citizens when it comes to the free flow of personal data domestically or across borders. We also started to discuss the chances and challenges for convergence of legal frameworks and their potential future interoperability. Another important matter in the communiqué deals with limits and circumstances for the access of government bodies to privately held data, which is a crucial issue for me and for many other stakeholders in the Data Protection community. I am pleased to let you

know that the communiqué explicitly supports the important work being done by the OECD and its dedicated Expert Group in this regard.

Overall, I am very happy with the outcome of this year's G7 DPA Roundtable.

With regard to other international group or fora, there is one important aspect, which I would like to highlight: in the communiqué, we have emphasized that the G7 DPA Roundtable shall be complementary to those groups and fora, for example the GPA, but not duplicate them.

And for the future, we have decided to continue the Roundtable by having annual meetings on Commissioners' level, which may be prepared by Working Groups on expert level.

Therefore, I am delighted that my colleague from the PPC Japan, Commissioner and Chairperson, Ms Mieko Tanno, has already announced that next year another G7 DPA Roundtable will take place in Japan.

Thank you very much for your attention.