

JOINT STATEMENT
of the
German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of
Information
and of the
Israeli Commissioner for Privacy Protection
on the
69th Meeting
of the
International Working Group on Data Protection in Technology
(IWGDPT) – “Berlin Group”

The German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Prof. Ulrich Kelber, and the Israeli Commissioner of the Privacy Protection Authority, Mr. Gilad Semama, are pleased to issue a joint statement regarding the 69th meeting of the International Working Group on Data Protection in Technology, known as the "IWGDPT" or the "Berlin Group", which was held in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 1st- 2nd June 2022.

This meeting marked a special occasion for the Group. For the first time after more than two years, the IWGDPT gathered for a face-to-face meeting with participants from data protection authorities and civil society covering 15 countries and the EU. Thus, in-depth discussions were held with a view to restart its activity and to re-examine its goals, future prospects and deliverables.

Commissioner Kelber: “I thank the Privacy Protection Authority of Israel for hosting the 69th Meeting of the IWGDPT / Berlin Group in Tel- Aviv. They provided an excellent venue and environment for all participants. This meeting underlines the importance of bringing together international experts from various backgrounds to

discuss new trends and technologies. We need to keep an eye on everything that could have an impact on privacy and data protection especially for consumers and citizens. With this successful “post-pandemic” re-launch of on location meetings, the IWGDPT / Berlin Group is thriving to keep its momentum and will continue to concentrate on those privacy relevant future technologies.

Commissioner Semama: “After two years of e-meetings it was a great pleasure for me to open the 69th meeting of the IWGDPT / Berlin Group and to welcome the participants in Tel- Aviv. The issues we discussed are in the forefront of technology, and are on the agenda of many DPAs around the world. The IWGDPT is an important initiative: It allows us to discuss challenges for privacy emerging from innovative technologies and bringing together experienced privacy professionals, so that we can learn from each other, and set recommendations, in order to enhance privacy, globally. This will empower our own authorities to achieve greater impact of our enforcement activities.”

In terms of topics and issues, the 69th IWGDPT / Berlin Group meeting focused on privacy and data protection aspects of Smart Cities and of Facial Recognition; as well as of Telemetry and Diagnostic Data. The Group decided to further work on recommendations and guidelines for vendors, operators, users and law makers to ensure and enhance data protection in relevant systems and applications in those areas.

The Group has also discussed possible collaboration with other networks focusing on data protection, and agreed to establish an at least yearly conversation about emerging technologies by conducting a “horizon scan” on new or nascent technologies or services.

The next meeting of the IWGDPT or “Berlin Group” is scheduled for November 2022 in London, UK, and will be hosted by the UK Information Commissioner.

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The Working Group has been established
by Data Protection Commissioners
and experts from all over the world in order
to improve privacy and data protection
in technology and innovative services.