



Press Release

Bonn, January 27, 2015

EuroPriSe: Constituent Meeting of New Advisory Board

The EuroPriSe Advisory Board met in Bonn last week and started its work. Board members discussed about the tasks of the board, new certification products, dispute resolution and the expiration of interim requirements regarding the so-called “cookie law”.

The European Privacy Seal (EuroPriSe) is the only independent privacy seal recognized and accepted across the EU. One of the measures to ensure the outstanding quality and independence of EuroPriSe certifications was the establishment of an advisory board last year. The purpose of this international board is to consult the EuroPriSe Certification Authority (CA) on matters that are of fundamental importance for the quality of EuroPriSe certifications, such as changes to existing inspection schemes or introduction of new certification products. On January 20, 2015, the EuroPriSe Advisory Board met in Bonn, Germany, for its constituent meeting.

“With the kick-off meeting of the advisory board, we have reached an important milestone in the further growth and development of EuroPriSe”, says Sebastian Meissner, Head of the EuroPriSe Certification Authority. “This meeting has proved that the outstanding expertise of the members of the board will contribute greatly to EuroPriSe’s quality in the future.”

The main results of the advisory board meeting are summarised below:

(1) The members of the board reached an agreement on the tasks to be performed by the advisory board: The board supports EuroPriSe CA by giving opinions, in particular on

- Changes to existing inspection schemes (particularly, the EuroPriSe Criteria Catalogue)
- New certification products (e.g., website certification or commissioned data processing certification)
- Disputes between EuroPriSe CA and EuroPriSe Experts regarding legal or technical issues of general importance
- Matters raised by EuroPriSe Experts which are presented to the board by the experts’ representative (currently, Dr. John Borking acts as experts’ representative)

(2) EuroPriSe CA provided an overview on the current status of the new products “website certification” and “commissioned data processing certification”. The controversial discussion of the board members focussed on website certification. In this respect, the following challenges were denominated by some members of the board:

- It might be a challenge to be clear about the scope of website certification when communicating the new product to the general public (“transparency”)
- Seal holders could try to disguise the limited scope of website certification (in comparison with the scope of certification of IT products and IT-based services)

EuroPriSe CA assured the board members that EuroPriSe already identified measures to minimise these risks such as the use of a different seal image for website certification and other measures to ensure transparency regarding the seal’s scope.

EuroPriSe plans to introduce “website certification” and “commissioned data processing certification” in the course of 2015. First results of the pilot projects on website certification will be available soon. Board members agreed on continuing the discussion about the new certification products at the next board meeting.

(3) EuroPriSe CA informed the advisory board that rules of procedure regarding dispute resolution as well as a dispute resolution form are currently under development. The members of the board will be invited to give their opinions on the new approach to dispute resolution as soon as the rules of procedure and the form will have been finalised.

(4) The members of the board agreed that seal holders who still benefit from the interim requirements regarding the so-called “cookie law” should be given a transition period of three months to achieve compliance with Article 5(3) of the ePrivacy Directive, as amended in 2009. If seal holders should fail to achieve compliance, the validity of the seal will end after the expiration of this deadline.



From left to right: Meissner (CA), Le Grand, Weichert, Borking, Kotschy, Farmer, Drost (CA), Schaar, Priebe

About the EuroPriSe Advisory Board

The advisory board supports the EuroPriSe Certification Authority by giving opinions on matters that are of fundamental importance for the quality of EuroPriSe certifications, such as changes to existing inspection schemes or introduction of new certification products. Members of the board meet twice a year. The board consists of the following privacy professionals:

1. Dr. John Borking,
Director of Borking Consultancy, former Privacy Commissioner of the Netherlands;
2. Dr. Gwendal Le Grand,
Director of Technology and Innovation at the French data protection authority CNIL;
3. Dr. Waltraut Kotschy,
Director of Data Protection Compliance Consulting e.U., former Executive Member of the Austrian Data Protection Commission;
4. Dr. Reinhard Priebe,
former Director for Internal Security in Directorate General Home Affairs at European Commission;
5. Mr. Peter Schaar,
Chairman at European Academy for Freedom of Information and Data Protection, former German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information and former Chairman of the Article 29 Working Party;
6. Dr. Thilo Weichert,
Head of the Independent Centre for Privacy Protection (ULD) and Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Ms. Gemma Farmer, Senior Policy Officer at Information Commissioner's Office, United Kingdom, will participate on behalf of the ICO as an observer in the meetings of the EuroPriSe Advisory Board.

About EuroPriSe

EuroPriSe started as an EU-funded project aimed at establishing a trans-European privacy seal. Today, EuroPriSe offers certifications for IT products and IT-based services throughout the EU. A unique certification, the EuroPriSe seal assures users that their personal data are handled in accordance with European data protection laws. As the only EU-wide, independent privacy seal, EuroPriSe enables enterprises to demonstrate their compliance with European laws and regulations. EuroPriSe certifications have been awarded to businesses of all sizes, including small and medium-sized companies as well as multinational organizations such as Microsoft and SAP.

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