23rd Meeting of Central and Eastern European

Data Protection Commissioners

Kraków/Lusławice, 12-13 June 2025

Declaration on Strengthening Data Protection Authorities, Ensuring Regulatory Balance, and Supporting SMPs, SMCs, and NGOs

Recognizing the need to continue our cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of personal data and privacy protection, as established during the 1st Meeting of Central and Eastern European Data Protection Commissioners in Warsaw on December 17, 2001;

Confirming the provisions contained in previous declarations adopted in Smolenice (May 24, 2005), Kazimierz Dolny (June 3, 2008), Sopot (May 19, 2010), and Kyiv (May 21-22, 2012), which emphasize the importance of coordinated efforts in adapting data protection regulations to evolving digital challenges;

Acknowledging the ongoing discussion regarding the proposed adjustments to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) initiated by the European Commission, particularly concerning Article 30(5), and recognizing the necessity of a thorough evaluation of its foundational assumptions and potential implications for the data protection landscape; taking into account the ongoing national debates on deregulating or better regulating data processing by business and other entities;

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that small and mid-cap enterprises (SMPs and SMCs) have regulatory frameworks that support simplified compliance mechanisms while maintaining appropriate safeguards for individuals;

Emphasizing the vital role of independent data supervisory authorities in ensuring the effective enforcement of data protection laws and the urgent need for increased resources and capacity-building for these institutions to fulfil their mandates properly;

Supporting the importance of independent data supervisory authorities from non-EU Central and Eastern European countries in the process of accession to the European Union in the area of effective enforcement of European data protection law;

Highlighting that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) face similar challenges as SMPs and SMCs in navigating complex regulatory frameworks and should also benefit from reduced administrative burdens and streamlined compliance requirements;

We, the undersigned Commissioners/DPA representatives

Hereby declare:

- Our call for a thorough assessment of the proposed regulatory adjustments within the GDPR and national deregulation initiatives, ensuring that any modifications are based on comprehensive research, sectoral impact analyses, and a well-founded understanding of practical implementation challenges;
- Our commitment to a balanced approach that upholds the integrity of data protection principles while exploring ways to improve regulatory efficiency and reduce the administrative burden, particularly for SMPs, SMCs and NGOs, recognizing their significant role in society;
- Our strong advocacy for increasing financial and institutional support for national data protection authorities, enabling them to effectively oversee compliance and provide guidance for stakeholders;
- Our commitment to continued collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Central and Eastern European data protection authorities, ensuring that regulatory frameworks evolve in a way that is both practical, business and innovation oriented and protective of individuals' fundamental rights to privacy.