



DEBATING ETHICS:
DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN DATA DRIVEN LIFE

40th International Conference
of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

24 October 2018

EDPS welcomes delegates to Brussels for 40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) welcomed **over 1000 delegates** to the European Parliament in Brussels this morning to debate digital ethics, as part of the **40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC)**.

Giovanni Buttarelli, EDPS, said: *“It is a great honour to host the fortieth edition of this prestigious conference. We have put together a **superb line-up of speakers**, representing a wide range of disciplines, nationalities and viewpoints and I am proud to see this **diversity** reflected among our **1132 delegates**. Through **Debating Ethics: Dignity and Respect in Data Driven Life**, we aim to stimulate an honest and informed discussion about what digital technology has done and is doing to us as individuals and as societies, identifying the values at risk and what must be done to preserve them.”*

Debating Ethics is the theme of the public session of the conference, which opened this morning with an address from the EDPS himself and boasts an intriguing line-up of big-name speakers. Apple CEO **Tim Cook**, founder of the World Wide Web **Sir Tim Berners-Lee** and prominent philosopher **Anita Allen** were among those who took the floor this morning, with contributions from technologist **Pascale Fung**, big tech insider **Tristan Harris**, European Commissioner **Vera Jourova**, former Chief Justice of India **Jagdish Singh Khehar** and many others still to come.

This is a data protection conference like no other. In addition to data protection authorities and experts, a record number of **NGOs** are expected to attend, with over 130 delegates from 85 different NGOs registered. Also participating are **CEOs, regulators, philosophers, technologists, students** and **governmental organisations** from all over the world, making this the most diverse group of delegates ever seen at the international conference.

This diversity reflects the nature of the issue up for discussion. Developing a *digital ethics* means thinking about the kind of world we want to live in, exploring the differences between how the world is now and how it should be and acting to ensure that the values we hold dear are adequately protected. While data protection authorities might be capable of kick-starting this debate, a more collaborative approach is necessary if we are to ensure that human beings, rather than technology, remain our primary consideration in this digital era.

The 2018 International Conference takes place in Brussels from **22-26 October 2018** and consists of a closed session for accredited members and observers only, a public session and side events, with additional privacy events taking place in Sofia, Bulgaria.



Background information

The International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners is the premier global forum for data protection authorities. The conference has taken place on an annual basis since 1979. The 2018 international conference is the fortieth edition.

The 2018 edition of the conference is hosted by the European Data Protection Supervisor in Brussels, in collaboration with the Commission for Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria, which will host additional privacy events in Sofia.

1132 delegates have registered to attend the public session of the conference, dedicated to *Debating Ethics: Dignity and Respect in Data Driven Life*. These delegates include:

- Academics: 55
- NGOs: 131
- Delegates from Data Protection Authorities: 205
- ICDPPC Observers: 43
- Academics: 55
- EU institutions: 64
- Governmental organisations: 36
- Corporate organisations: 427
- Press: 112
- Students: 22
- Other/Guests: 37

In addition to the public session taking place on 24-25 October 2018, a closed session, attended by 350 accredited members and observers, took place from 22-23 October 2018. Following the tradition of past years, 44 side events will take also place in the margins of the conference.

For more information, visit: www.privacyconference2018.org

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