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DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY INFORMATION WORLDWIDE

Russia increases DPA's powers and fines

Since 1 July, companies in Russia face increased fines and its DPA, *Roskomnadzor*, can prosecute more offences.

Stewart and Merrill Dresner report from St. Petersburg.

Victor Naumov, Partner, and Head of IT/IP and telecommunications law, and Dentons' Managing Partner in St. Petersburg, explained that the data protection issues faced by the firm's clients, leading and high-profile global Internet companies, are often

one of a group of legal issues including copyright and other aspects of intellectual property law. For example, the definition of personal data may now be applied, depending on circumstances to a set of technical

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Ireland's DP Commissioner optimistic on One-Stop-Shop

At the *Privacy Laws & Business* 30th Anniversary International Conference, Helen Dixon, Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner, heralded a "new era" under the GDPR. **Oliver Butler** reports.

Dixon said that the GDPR is already having important effects on compliance and the development of capability. "Big companies are changing their behaviours and are advising smaller ones free of charge, and many larger

companies are appointing DPOs, not necessarily with a legal background."

Dixon highlighted how accountability and regulatory conversations between data protection authorities

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Look out for Russia's new enforcement powers

New data protection enforcement provisions took effect in Russia on 1 July. Now the DPA no longer needs to involve the state prosecutors, which makes the regime much more flexible (p.1). The DPA may also exercise its powers to block access to a website which is exactly what it did to LinkedIn. Russia is one of the 47 countries which are members of Council of Europe Convention 108. Professor Graham Greenleaf, *PL&B* Asia-Pacific Editor analyses the Convention's status and the potential for many more countries to join this club (p.12).

Slow progress is being made with GDPR national implementation laws. Germany adopted its law on 5 July and the Spanish Cabinet has been presented with a report on a DP implementation bill. The Director of Spain's Agencia told PL&B's conference that Spain is the first European DPA to create a certification scheme for DPOs (p.8).

Hong Kong is following Japan by introducing a public apology as a way to remedy a data protection problem (p.32). An early apology can often defuse a situation before formal enforcement is necessary. In India, the courts have been debating whether privacy is a fundamental right under the constitution. The decision may re-set everything to do with privacy in India, says Graham Greenleaf (p.28).

The EU DPAs have issued GDPR Guidance on Data Processing at Work (p.16). The guidance largely follows the DPAs' previous thinking on the subject but has been updated with regard to new technologies. Technology was also an issue debated in May at the ethics event, which I attended, organised by the European Data Protection Supervisor and the ethics advisory group. Sometimes ethics helps, and sometimes it hinders privacy, see p.33.

As we finalise this edition, we await the court decision which could determine the use of EU model Contractual Clauses for EU-US transfers. Read about how we ended up in this situation, and about prospects for the future on p.7.

Laura Linkomies, Editor

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