



**2nd Floor, Monument House, 215 Marsh Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5NE, United Kingdom**  
Tel: +44 (0)20 8868 9200 Fax: +44 (0)20 8868 5215 e-mail: [info@privacylaws.com](mailto:info@privacylaws.com) [www.privacylaws.com](http://www.privacylaws.com)

Media information

06 July 2009

### **Germany introduces new privacy law**

Germany is introducing stricter privacy laws following a number of recent data privacy scandals in the country.

Addressing Privacy Laws & Business' 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference, Dr Ulrich Wuermeling, a legal expert, said the move meant Germany drifting away from European harmonisation. "Potentially, the new German data protection law does not comply with the European Data Protection Directive," he said.

The new law will force companies to revisit the use of data for marketing purposes. It introduces data breach notification obligations following similar State laws in the US. Several employee data scandals in Germany led to a provision restricting internal company investigations against employees. In order to improve compliance with the data protection law, the powers of data protection authorities and sanctions will be extended. Amendments are likely to come into effect on 1 September 2009. A new legal framework for credit information agencies and the use of credit scoring has been passed earlier this year and will come into force on 1 April 2010.

The new law will also see the strengthening of internal data protection officers' positions. As well as being protected against termination, he / she will to a large extent be protected against dismissal. Data protection officers will also be legally entitled to participate in education programmes paid for by employers.

Dr Wuermeling added: "More laws are likely after the next German federal election in September '09. The government has already announced plans to introduce a new data privacy audit law and employee data privacy law."

Ends

Further information: Janet Rafferty, 07912 295282 or [janet@themessageconsultancy.com](mailto:janet@themessageconsultancy.com)

**Notes to editors**

1. Privacy Laws & Business 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference: Privacy as a business risk for top management: Compliance in the credit crunch, 6-8 July 2009, St. John's College, Cambridge. To see the full programme please visit <http://www.privacylaws.com/annualconference>
2. Privacy Laws & Business provides an independent international privacy laws information service. Clients include many of the world's largest companies and specialist lawyers in almost 50 countries. In the United Kingdom, the company provides services to help its private and public sector clients comply with both the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The company's website is [www.privacylaws.com](http://www.privacylaws.com)

**Notes to editors**

3. Privacy Laws & Business 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference: Privacy as a business risk for top management: Compliance in the credit crunch, 6-8 July 2009, St. John's College, Cambridge. To see the full programme please visit <http://www.privacylaws.com/annualconference>
4. Privacy Laws & Business provides an independent international privacy laws information service. Clients include many of the world's largest companies and specialist lawyers in almost 50 countries. In the United Kingdom, the company provides services to help its private and public sector clients comply with both the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The company's website is [www.privacylaws.com](http://www.privacylaws.com)