


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2000/0804(CNS)	Procedure completed
Data protection: establishment of a secretariat for the joint supervisory bodies		
Subject 1.20.09 Protection of privacy and data protection 7.30.05 Police cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	PPE-DE HERNÁNDEZ MOLLAR Jorge Salvador	06/06/2000
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2299	17/10/2000
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Economic and Financial Affairs		

Key events			
14/04/2000	Legislative proposal published	07381/2000	Summary
19/05/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
04/09/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0225/2000	
20/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
21/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0398/2000	Summary
17/10/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/10/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/0804(CNS)

Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the European Union (after Amsterdam) M 030
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/12776

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		07381/2000	14/04/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0225/2000 OJ C 146 17.05.2001, p. 0004	04/09/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0398/2000 OJ C 146 17.05.2001, p. 0018-0083	21/09/2000	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2000/641 OJ L 271 24.10.2000, p. 0001 Summary

Data protection: establishment of a secretariat for the joint supervisory bodies

PURPOSE : to present the initiative of the Portuguese Republic with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision establishing a Secretariat for the Joint Supervisory Data Protection bodies set up by the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention), the Convention on the Use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes and the Convention between Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands implementing the Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders (Schengen Convention). CONTENT : in matters of data protection, at present, two Joint Supervisory Bodies are operational, one set up by the Europol Convention, the other by the 1990 Schengen Convention. Shortly a third one will come into being, once the Convention on the use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes enters into force. The Supervisory bodies are independent from the governments of the Member States, from the institutions of the EU and from the organism they control. However, it was agreed that the creation of a Joint Secretariat, for the existing bodies, has priority and should be achieved as soon as possible. Delegations welcomed the idea of linking the Joint Secretariat to the Council General Secretariat, but underlined that the importance of creating a secretariat that would be as independent as possible from the Council framework in order to safeguard the independence of the Supervisory Bodies. The setting-up of a Single Supervisory Body for these three unities would be a second step. Following an agreement reached in the Article 36 Committee, Portugal has proposed a draft Council Decision for a joint secretariat for the supervisory bodies. It is based on the assumption that this would only be a temporary solution until the existing Joint Supervisory Bodies would have been transformed into one single Body vested with legal personality, with its own budget and its own staff. For the transitional period, the Joint Secretariat would have a close linkage to the General Secretariat of the Council whilst at the same time ensuring that the "Data Protection Secretary" for the Joint Supervisory Authorities would remain as independent as possible. With regard to the financing of a joint secretariat, there would be a saving since it allows for organising the work of the supervisory bodies in a coherent and structured way. At present, the Joint Supervisory Body of Europol has a budget of EUR 620 000 in the year 2000 in order to pay for meeting costs, travel costs for delegates and translation costs. The Joint Supervisory Authority of Schengen is served by the Council General Secretariat. Thus, the Council pays for these costs.?

Data protection: establishment of a secretariat for the joint supervisory bodies

The committee adopted the report (under the consultation procedure) by Jorge Salvador HERNANDEZ MOLLAR (EPP-ED, E) amending the initiative of the Portuguese Republic with a view to adopting a Council decision establishing a secretariat for the Joint Supervisory Data Protection Bodies set up under various Conventions. The report noted that the current situation (involving three different joint supervisory bodies in the EU in this area, each with its own secretariat) was open to serious criticism. It therefore felt that the Council proposal to establish a single secretariat for the three joint supervisory bodies in question was a "timid, if positive, step" but that it would do nothing to resolve the basic problem of ensuring proper protection of the right to privacy which all individuals should enjoy. The committee accordingly adopted amendments stressing the need to create a single legal framework in the EU to provide citizens with sufficient guarantees, by preventing the improper use or dissemination of personal data. The committee also considered it vital to establish a single supervisory data protection

authority, with a single secretariat, which would have legal personality, together with its own budget and staff. This authority should be totally impartial and fully independent of the other institutions, subject only to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice. The committee considered the proposal to be "fundamentally flawed" as it did not guarantee the independence of the supervisory body, which was a vital element in ensuring effective protection of the privacy of European citizens. It felt that the European Parliament should appoint the single supervisory body and should also have the powers to dismiss it if necessary.?

Data protection: establishment of a secretariat for the joint supervisory bodies

The Parliament approved the proposal together with the amendments from the Committee on Citizens Freedoms. The Parliament seeks the creation of a single legal framework in the EU to provide citizens with sufficient guarantees, by preventing the improper use or dissemination of personal data, as well as the creation of a single supervisory data protection authority with a single secretariat with its own budget and staff. The authority would be independent of the other institutions and impartial, subject only to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice.?

Data protection: establishment of a secretariat for the joint supervisory bodies

PURPOSE : to establish a secretariat for the joint supervisory data-protection bodies set up by the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention), the Convention on the Use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes and the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at the Common borders (Schengen Convention).
COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision (2000/641/JHA). CONTENT : the Council decided to adopt a decision establishing a Secretariat for the Joint Supervisory Data-Protection Bodies set up by the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol), the Convention of the Use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes and the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at the common borders. The data-protection secretariat shall fulfil the tasks provided for the secretariats of the joint supervisory bodies as laid down in the respective Rules of Procedure of those bodies. With regard to administrative support, the General Secretariat of the Council shall provide the office space and equipment necessary for the performance of the duties of the data-protection secretariat. As far as financing is concerned, the administrative overhead expenses of the data-protection secretariat (in particular equipment, remuneration, allowances and other personnel expenses) shall be charged to the section of the general budget of the European Union relating to the Council. Cost relating directly to the meetings shall be borne both by the Council and by Europol. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 17.10.00. This Decision shall apply from 1 September 2001.?