International Working Group
on Data Protection
in Telecommunications

711.360.2 2 August 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Working Paper on Privacy and Security Issues in Internet Telephony (VoIP) and related Communication Technologies adopted

The International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications, chaired by the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Ms. Maja Smoltczyk, has adopted a Working Paper on Privacy and Security Issues in Internet Telephony (VoIP) and related Communication Technologies such as instant messaging and video telephony services at its 59th meeting on 24-25 April 2016 in Oslo (Norway).

The paper contains recommendations for improving the protection of privacy and security in these services to all relevant stakeholders: legislators and regulators, VoIP providers, software developers, hardware manufacturers and users. The recommendations apply to all types of multi-media services offered by telecommunication providers as well as over-the-top providers.

The new **Working Paper "Update on Privacy and Security Issues in Internet Telephony (VoIP) and related Communication Technologies"** complements the recommendations provided in an earlier publication: Ten years ago, the Group published a first Working Paper on Voice over IP (VoIP) applications which examined privacy and security challenges. Since then, VoIP has found widespread application by organisations as well as by end users.

The re-evaluation is motivated by several developments which have occurred in the meantime, including the extent of access to Internet services by law enforcement and secret services according to the revelations by Edward Snowden, progress in standardisation processes, the development of high bandwidth cellular radio technology, and Wi-Fi networks.

The paper is available for download at http://www.berlin-privacy-group.org.

About the International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications ("Berlin Group")

The International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications (IWGDPT, a.k.a. "Berlin Group") includes representatives from Data Protection Authorities and international organisations dealing with privacy matters from all over the world. It was founded in 1983 in the framework of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners at the initiative of the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection, who has since then been chairing the Group. The Group has since 1983 adopted numerous recommendations ("Common Positions" and "Working Papers") aimed at improving the protection of privacy in telecommunications. Since the beginning of the 90s the Group has in particular focused on the protection of privacy on the Internet.

More information about the Work of the Group and the documents adopted by the Group are available for download on the website of the Group at http://www.berlin-privacy-group.org.

Secretariat
Berliner Beauftragte für
Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit
Friedrichstr. 219
D-10969 Berlin
Phone +49 / 30 / 13889 0
Fax: +49 / 30 / 215 5050

E-Mail:
IWGDPT@datenschutz-berlin.de

Internet:
http://www.berlin-privacy-group.org

The Working Group has been initiated by Data Protection Commissioners from different countries in order to improve privacy and data protection in telecommunications and media