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After two years since its adoption in April 2016, the long-awaited reform of the EU data protection framework is fully applicable since 25 May 2018.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC, was published on 4 May 2016 (together with the Directive on protection of personal data processed for criminal purposes).

The reform package on data protection aims at uniformly strengthening citizens' rights while reducing burdens for companies and public authorities, as well as adapting rules to the digital era.

The GDPR promises to improve both the internal market dimension and protection of citizens, by fostering individuals' trust in the digital single market and by establishing legal certainty to make industrial investment in the EU more attractive.

[GDPR goes live: A modern data protection law](#)

At a Glance by Shara Monteleone, May 2018

Aimed at strengthening citizens' rights uniformly while reducing burdens for companies and public entities, the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies fully as of 25 May 2018. The long-awaited (and often feared) law is part of a reform package adopted in 2016 to foster trust in a digital age. The recent revelations on misuses of data show how the underlying values of the GDPR standards are essential for democracy.

[Personal data protection](#)

Fact Sheets by Kristiina Milt, January 2018

Protection of personal data and respect for private life are important fundamental rights. The European Parliament has always insisted on the need to strike a balance between enhancing security and safeguarding human rights, including data protection and privacy. New EU data protection rules strengthening citizens' rights and simplifying rules for companies in the digital age took effect in May 2018.

[Data protection reform package: Final steps](#)

At-a-glance by Shara Monteleone, May 2018

A package to reform the EU legal framework on data protection (DP) was presented by the European Commission in January 2012. Aimed at strengthening citizens' rights uniformly while reducing burdens for companies and public authorities, the package takes a comprehensive approach, including a general regulation and a directive concerning data protection for police and law enforcement purposes. Following negotiations towards a second-reading agreement, compromises on both texts have been reached, and votes in plenary, scheduled for the April I session, are now required to confirm them.

[Protection of personal data processed by the Union institutions and bodies](#)

At-a-glance by Shara Monteleone, September 2018

In view of revising the existing rules in the field and in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the European Commission made a proposal regulating the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies in 2016. Negotiations with the Council have produced a compromise text, which is expected to be voted on at first reading in the September plenary.

[The Privacy Shield: Update on the state of play of the EU-US data transfer rules](#)

In-depth analysis by Shara Monteleone, July 2018

The CJEU's Schrems judgment of October 2015, besides declaring the European Commission's Decision on the EU-US 'Safe Harbour' data transfer regime invalid, has also settled a number of crucial requirements



corresponding to the foundations of EU data protection. In less than one year from the CJEU ruling, the Commission had adopted a new adequacy decision in which the new framework for EU-US data transfer, the Privacy Shield (2016), is deemed to adequately protect EU citizens. The main improvements of the Privacy Shield (over its predecessor), as well as the critical reactions to the new arrangements, are discussed in this paper. The first joint annual review took place in September 2017 on which both the Commission and Article 29 Working Party issued their own reports. Although progress is recognised, a number of concerns remain and new challenges to the Privacy Shield have arisen, among others, from the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica scandal, as pointed out by the European Parliament in its recent resolution.

CJEU Opinion on EU-Canada PNR agreement

At-a-glance by Shara Monteleone, September 2017

A new agreement on the transfer of passenger name records (PNR) was signed by the EU Council and Canada in 2014, but conclusion of the agreement requires the European Parliament's consent. Consulted by Parliament, the Court of Justice of the EU held in July 2017 that the envisaged agreement needs to be revised.

Reform of the e-Privacy Directive

Briefing by Shara Monteleone, August 2017

In January 2017, the Commission tabled a proposal for a regulation on privacy and electronic communications which would replace the current 2002 e-Privacy Directive. The main objectives of the review are: enhancing security and communications confidentiality; defining clearer rules on tracking technologies such as cookies; and achieving greater harmonisation among Member States. Stakeholders are divided on certain issues, including on the basic need for a new measure to protect confidentiality in e-communications. Some national parliaments have made comments on the proposal, and discussions are progressing in Council. In the European Parliament, rapporteur Marju Lauristin (S&D, Estonia) presented a draft report to the Civil Liberties Committee on 21 June 2017, and this is expected to be voted in October 2017.

Fundamental rights implications of big data

At-a-glance by Shara Monteleone, August 2017

The development of smart devices connected online and of big data practices, allowing unprecedented availability, sharing and automated use of data, brings both opportunities in terms of efficiency and improvement in our lives and risks for individuals' fundamental rights. The European Parliament will vote on an own-initiative report on these issues in the second plenary of March 2017.

EYE 2016 – Golden Eye: Who rules tomorrow's Europe?

The development of digital technologies has made access to and availability of personal data easier for companies, public authorities and citizens. Keeping control over our personal data means keeping control over our life. Personal data collection and processing are regulated by EU law with the aim of striking a balance between rights to privacy and to data protection and other rights or interests (e.g. freedom of expression, public security).

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