

For Immediate Release

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European privacy reform is broken badly

Brussels, Belgium — New leaked documents show that European Union Member States, led by Germany, are systematically working to destroy the fabric of European privacy legislation. Under the current proposals, far from being provided with security fit for the digital age, Europe's citizens right to data protection would be devoid of meaning.

“For the past three years, the EU’s privacy reform effort has been faced with an unprecedented level of lobbying from companies and foreign governments,” said Raegan MacDonald, European Policy Manager at Access. “It’s devastating to see that EU member states are now gutting the proposal, undermining our fundamental right to privacy when we need it most. They’re carving out so many loopholes there’ll soon be nothing left.”

According to the leaked proposals, crucial privacy protections have been drastically undermined, including the right to be asked for consent for the use of your data, the right to know how your data are used, the right to object to your data being used, and the minimum standards of behaviour required by companies that wish to exploit the data of individuals. In several places, the text would not likely pass judicial scrutiny under Europe's human rights framework.

The Council aims to complete its work on the Data Protection Regulation by the summer before negotiating with the Parliament on a compromise.

“The reform effort will be worthless if the final result falls beneath the standards we already have in the EU today,” continued MacDonald. “It’s critical for the Council to amend its position, or it will harm the rights to privacy and data protection in spirit and practice.”

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Background and leaked documents

Comparison of European Parliament's first reading text with Council proposal [here](#)

Council text on the One-stop-shop mechanism from 25.02.2015 [here](#)

Council text on the Right to be forgotten - Dispute settlement from 09.02.2015 [here](#)

Council text on Further processing, consent from 26.02.2015 [here](#)

Council text on Information and right to object from 26.02.2015 [here](#)

Access, EDRI, Panoptikon Foundation and Privacy International analysis of the Council proposals [here](#)