Data protection – Towards a modernization of the European data protection rules

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On 25 January 2012, the European Commission proposed a comprehensive reform of the EU's 1995 data protection rules to strengthen online privacy rights and boost Europe's digital economy. Technological progress and globalisation have profoundly changed the way our data is collected, accessed and used. In addition, the 27 EU Member States have implemented the 1995 rules differently, resulting in divergences in enforcement. A single law will do away with the current fragmentation and costly administrative burdens, leading to savings for businesses of around €2.3 billion a year.

The Commission's proposals intend to update and modernise the principles enshrined in the 1995 Data Protection Directive to guarantee privacy rights in the future. They include a policy Communication setting out the Commission's objectives and two legislative proposals: a Regulation setting out a general EU framework for data protection and a Directive on protecting personal data processed for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences and related judicial activities.

The Commission's proposals will be passed on to the European Parliament and EU Member States (meeting in the Council of Ministers) for discussion.

Press pack on data protection reform:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/data-protection/news/120125_en.htm [2]

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