



















# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

The Conference was held in Strasbourg, France, from 28 September to 3 October 1981. It was the first of a series of conferences organized by the Council of Europe to deal with the protection of personal data. The Conference was attended by representatives of 21 countries and the Commission of the European Communities. The Conference adopted the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which entered into force on 23 September 1985.

The Convention is the first international treaty to deal with the protection of personal data. It sets out the principles and objectives of the protection of personal data and provides for the exchange of information between the Contracting Parties. The Convention is open for signature and ratification by any State that is a member of the Council of Europe.

The Convention is based on the following principles: the data must be processed lawfully and fairly; the data must be processed for one or more specific purposes; the data must be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purposes for which they are processed; the data must be accurate and up-to-date; the data must be kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which they are processed; the data must be protected against unauthorized access, disclosure, copying, alteration, destruction or loss.

The Convention also provides for the exchange of information between the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the Convention, provide to each other information on the processing of personal data. The Contracting Parties shall also provide to each other information on the measures taken to ensure the protection of personal data. The Convention is open for signature and ratification by any State that is a member of the Council of Europe. The Convention is also open for signature and ratification by any State that is not a member of the Council of Europe, provided that it has been approved by the Council of Europe.

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