

AT A GLANCE: SECURITY UNION COMMISSIONER REACHES OUT TO US TO TACKLE CYBERTHREATS – HEALTH SECTOR CONFRONTED WITH AMBIGUITIES IN GDPR– LEAKED DOCUMENTS ON SPECTRUM LICENSE DURATIONS

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BREXIT

What happens to UK's seats in the European Parliament after Brexit?

The European Parliament has taken position on a number of key institutional issues leading up to the European Parliament elections on 23-26 May 2019. The Parliament calls for a size reduction of the post-Brexit hemicycle from 751 to 705.



The remaining 27 seats from the UK are to be re-distributed to Member States that are currently under-represented, based on the principle of "degressive proportionality". No member state would lose a seat and 14 Member States would gain additional seats: 5 seats (FR, ES); 3 seats (IT, NL), 2 seats (IRL), 1 seat (PL, RO, SE, AT, DK, SK, FI, HR, EE). The recommendation to create trans-national lists was heavily defeated (368 to 274).

The European Council still needs to take a final decision on 28/29 June 2018.

SOURCE: INTEREL

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CYBERSECURITY

Security Union Commissioner reaches out to US to tackle cyberthreats



The AmCham Conference "Building a Transatlantic Response on Cyber Resilience" was hosted in the European Parliament by Michal Boni MEP (EPP, PL) in February 2018.

The key points from the event were that industry involvement was welcome and encouraged in the development of cybersecurity schemes during, but also in, the follow-up of the Cybersecurity Act and the specific schemes that will be put in place for different products. Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union, also stressed the importance of the US as a partner in the effort to deal with cyber threats.

Mr Boni opened the event by emphasising the importance of cybersecurity and cyber hygiene, stressing that this is an issue the EU cannot solve on its own, but one that needs transatlantic cooperation. Commissioner King stressed that cyber threats are, by nature, global and that the EU's job has three main objectives: resilience, cybercrime, and stable and strong international cooperation.

Dr. Allan Friedman, Director of Cybersecurity, NTIA, US Department of Commerce, noted the inherently dynamic role of cyber threats, comparing them to certification for a fireproof product, where the threat is more static. He added that we cannot have the same certification for different products and posed the question of how far down the stack of a product do we go (e.g. database level, software level). He noted his concern with the fragmentation of software (e.g. health software), on which everything is built and underlined that it is treated differently, as it is, in general, more resilient.

At the time of drafting this policy bulletin, the European Cybersecurity Forum is organizing its Brussels Leaders Foresight conference this week. We will monitor for key outcomes of the main speakers, such as Commissioner King.

SOURCE: DODS + INTEREL

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DATA PROTECTION

EP workshop on free flow of data

This month Interel attended a workshop held in the European Parliament on the In



In February 2018, a workshop was held in the European Parliament on the free flow of non-personal data, organised by the rapporteur on the dossier, Ms. Anna-Maria Corazza Bildt (EPP, Sweden).

Ms. Bildt emphasised the need to limit exceptions to localisation measures as much as possible, noting that China is currently a key competitor in technological advances and this regulation is necessary for Europe to remain competitive.

The European Commission and representatives from the major political groups in the European Parliament seem to be keen to see as limited exceptions as possible in free data flows, an issue that could become a key bone of contention with the Council, once trilogues begin.

Another interesting point on the Commission's thinking, expressed by Vice-President Ansip, is that the focus is now moving towards Artificial Intelligence and algorithms as a key priority area. A study on algorithms expected to be released in Q1 2019.

An agenda for the workshop and **presentations** from other participants are available in the Parliament's Internal Market Committee website.

SOURCE: INTEREL

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ICT FOR HEALTH

Health sector confronted with ambiguities in General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)



Industry, researchers, and providers are ready to comply with the GDPR before the May 25 deadline, despite uncertainty.

For most types of data, the GDPR applies uniformly around the EU to enshrine the “right to be forgotten” and sets new standards for informed consent to use personal information. However, EU lawmakers carved out health and genetic data due to their sensitive nature, allowing member countries to tweak their existing laws as they see fit.

“If we get 28 different interpretations of what are the appropriate safeguards for processing personal health data, that’s going to make research very complicated in Europe,” said Brendan Barnes, director for data protection at EFPIA, the European federation of pharmaceutical industries and associations.

Some member countries are considering imposing new laws on research, but they seem unlikely to finish by 25 May. Another area of ambiguity is the future. Denis Horgan, head of the **European Alliance for Personalised Medicine**, said the GDPR is too prescriptive. *“The legislation says you can do A, B, C and D,” he said, but if you stray from that, “you could be prosecuted, you could be liable.”*

*That could make it hard for researchers and even providers to take advantage of new ways to share data. For example, lawyers are **warning doctors** to stop the **widespread practice** of using WhatsApp to communicate with patients due to the GDPR, despite its perceived speed and efficacy for sharing information.*

The GDPR is not all bad news for life sciences. There is a special exception to make it easier to reuse existing data for research. This is especially valuable, said Barnes, as the industry increasingly looks to real-world data to drive innovation. Again, however, there’s ambiguity: what those “safeguards” to protect that data entail remains unclear.

“That has to be developed talking to the regulators, probably involving patients as well,” Barnes concluded.

Source: Politico Pro

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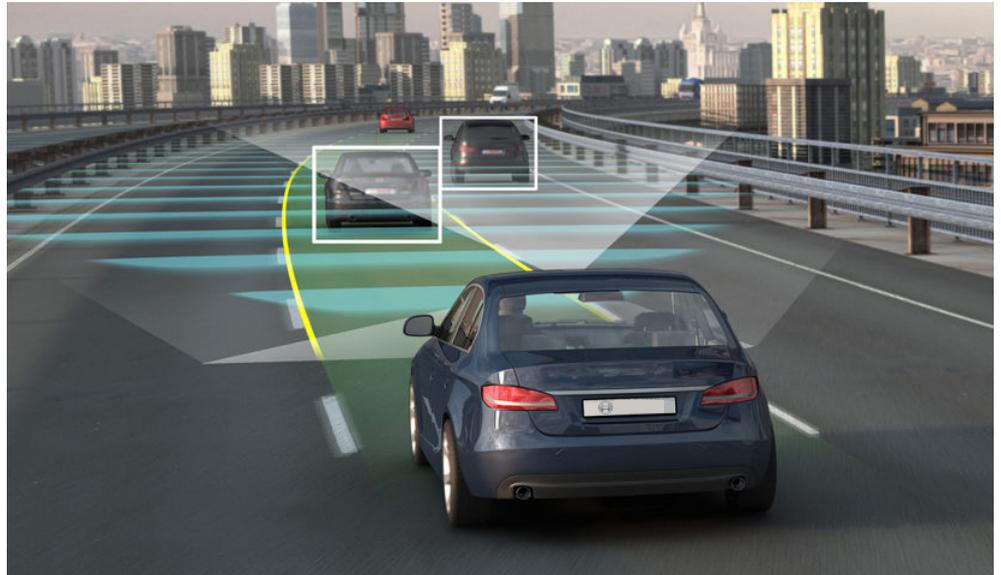
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CONNECTED & AUTOMATED DRIVING

EU announces 'road map' of 5 automated driving projects



The **European Automotive Telecom Alliance** announced this month to renew the cooperation with **5G and automotive industries around the world** to push for progress on connected and automated driving.

Digital Vice President Andrus Ansip and former Digital Commissioner Günther Oettinger both presided over the agreement.

They also announced a "road map" of new automated driving projects across the EU. The connected driving pilots will be in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain. Other countries along designated "**TEN-T**" corridors are expected to join later.

The first tests will be on "platooning" convoys of trucks and highway chauffeur tools, which provide automated guidance on the road. Next year, the project will test valet parking and more concrete automated driving projects.

The alliance will apply for EU funding through the Connected Europe Facility, seeking €24 million to support projects worth about €48 million called Concorda.

Source: Politico Pro

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Leaked documents on spectrum license durations

The Council of the EU's Bulgarian presidency is calling on Member States to adopt a new negotiating position on the most contentious issues in Europe's telecoms reform.



In a leaked document, dated 19 February, new provisions are stated on spectrum license durations and web messenger services that send emergency messages. It also clarifies the Council's reluctance to propose new rules on international calls. Read the document [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

In addition, the presidency put forward a minimum license duration of 13 years for spectrum frequencies used to transmit mobile signals – a provision particularly important for the development of 5G.

On whether or not to include new measures to cut fees for international calls, the presidency reiterated its skepticism, "especially without an impact assessment [as it] would contradict one of the main objectives of the telecommunications framework reform and namely, to incentivise investments in networks."

The document will be discussed by deputy member country representatives at a trilogue meeting with the Council, Commission and the Parliament on 28 February and March 1.

Source: [Politico Pro](#)

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