

24th International Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners Conference
Communiqué from Closed Session 9/9/02

Representatives from over 50 Data Protection Authorities and Privacy Commissioners attended the 24th International Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners Conference held in Cardiff, Wales. The Conference was jointly hosted by the Commissioners from Republic of Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man and the United Kingdom.

The assembled Commissioners and their representatives discussed many matters of common concern ranging from privacy issues in relation to websites through to video surveillance of the population in public and private places. However, the Commissioners devoted a substantial amount of time to considering the various national responses to the terrorist attacks on 11th September 2001.

The Commissioners agreed that whilst there is the need to protect society from such outrages the reaction in many countries may have gone beyond a measured response to the terrorist threat with serious implications for personal privacy. The Commissioners agreed that the need to safeguard personal privacy in such developments remains an essential task for the world wide data protection community. Unless an approach is taken by Governments which correctly weighs data protection and privacy concerns there is a real danger that they will start to undermine the very fundamental freedoms they are seeking to protect.

V.1
JB 9/9/02