



Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2018 – week 25

Free flow of non – personal data

The Parliament, Council and the Commission reached a political agreement on new rules that will allow data to be stored and processed everywhere in the EU without unjustified restrictions. The new rules set a framework for data storing and processing across the EU, prohibiting data localisation restrictions. Member States will have to communicate to the Commission any remaining or planned data localisation restrictions to the Commission in limited specific situations of public sector data processing. The Regulation on free flow of non-personal data has no impact on the application of the GDPR, as it does not cover personal data. However, the two Regulations will function together to enable the free flow of any data – personal and non-personal – thus creating a single European space for data. In the case of a mixed dataset, the GDPR provision guaranteeing free flow of personal data will apply to the personal data part of the set, and the free flow of non-personal data principle will apply to the non-personal part. Public authorities will be able to access data for scrutiny and supervisory control wherever it is stored or processed in the EU. Member States may sanction users that do not provide access to data stored in another Member State.

Austrian Presidency

On July 1, 2018, Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the third time after 1998 and 2006. The Austrian government outlined its priorities for the upcoming presidency. It will consist of **security** (the fight against illegal immigration by securing external borders), maintaining Europe's **competitiveness** through digitization, and **stability** in Austria's neighboring countries (working towards EU accession for Western Balkan countries).

Another important aspect for the work of the Austrian Presidency concerns the elections to the European Parliament in spring 2019. As the Parliament's legislative period is coming to a close, it will be crucial to prepare the finalisation or reach agreements on as many open legislative proposals as possible. Thus, one of the main tasks of the Austrian Presidency will be to reach common positions of the Council on individual proposals. These common Council positions are a precondition for negotiations with the European Parliament. These negotiations, also known as "trilogues", are usually very intensive and present a particular challenge for the Presidency. After Austria, the next trio presidency will take over: Romania (first half of 2019), Finland (second half of 2019) and Croatia (first half of 2020).

Public consultation on the Evaluation of EU support for Rule of Law

European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations department open the public consultation with the purpose to seek comments from the general public, that is citizens of the EU and citizens of countries eligible for support from European Neighbourhood Instrument and of beneficiaries of Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) on the Evaluation of EU support for Rule of Law in neighbourhood countries and candidates and potential candidates of enlargement (2010-2017). Any interested party, including private citizens, companies, organisations, public authorities etc. are welcome to contribute to this consultation.

Consultation period: **11 June 2018 - 17 September 2018**. Please see the questionnaire at:

[Public consultation on the Evaluation of EU support for Rule of Law in neighbourhood countries and candidates and potential candidates of enlargement \(2010-2017\)](#)