



Meeting	Executive Team	Date	05/05/2015
Agenda item	5	Time	10
Proactive publication	Yes	Internal publication	Yes
Title	<b>European Spring Conference 2015</b>		
Presenter	David Smith		
ICO Plan aim	5. The ICO is alert and responsive to changes which impact on information rights		
Information rights strategy aim	9. The law, technology and public policy developed and deployed consistently with ICO's goal;		
Issue	Update on progress in preparations for European Spring Conference 2015		
Decision	Accept update and provide any comments		
Financial impact	As already budgeted		
Risks			

## Introduction

The ICO is the Host of the European Spring Conference 2015 which will bring together Europe's data protection authorities and other observer organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, European Commission) ) in Manchester on 18-20 May 2015, at the Hilton Deansgate (Beetham Tower). The focus of this paper is to provide an update to the ET on the state-of-play of preparations.

## **Background**

Corporate Affairs and the International Team are working together in partnership on this event. The International Team is traditionally the ICO team which manages the content (policy programme) of the ICO's contribution to the European Spring Conference.

## **Theme**

'Data protection in practice' is the theme of the 2015 European Spring Conference with the title '**Navigating the Digital Future – let's get practical!**' This theme is all about delivering rights for individuals – with a clear practical call to action.

## **Format**

The European Spring Conference in 2015 will essentially be a two day event on 19-20 May with an additional evening introductory session on 18 May.

Around 90 delegates will join the ICO delegation at the Conference. Participants will attend from over 40 authorities, with six observer organisations also attending.

The first evening session (Monday 18 May) will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry in the media hall. This will involve video presentations from Claude Moraes, the Chair of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party in Europe, as well as Věra Jourová, the European Union's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

The Hilton Deansgate (Beetham Tower) has been booked for the main conference proceedings. The Hilton will offer lunch to delegates on both days of the conference.

The first evening session (Monday 18 May) will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry in the media hall. This will involve video presentations from Claude Moraes, the Chair of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee, and Věra Jourová, the European Union's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

The ICO is producing a research paper which will provide an introductory basis to the theme of the Conference. Christopher Graham will discuss this in the opening speech on 19 May and we hope that the paper will feed into the panel sessions during the rest of the day, stimulating debate throughout the rest of the Conference. The research paper will be distributed to participants just before the event so that DPAs arrive fully briefed.

The gala dinner for participants will take place at the Manchester Town Hall on Tuesday 19 May, from 7pm. We are offering delegates the opportunity to take part in a walking tour of Manchester before dinner.

After the final session of the Conference on Wednesday, delegates taking part in the social programme will visit either Manchester (the Whitworth Art Gallery and Salford Quays) or Liverpool (Albert Docks).

### **Progress since March 2015**

- Coordination has continued with Commissioner Věra Jourová's office and Claude Moraes' office for the video presentations. We have contacted their respective offices with possible speaking topics, including: Data Protection in Practice, Passenger Name Record data; surveillance and Safe Harbor; data retention ruling by the CJEU; and the impact of the CJEU judgment of Google v. Spain & González one year on.
- An ICON announcement calling for staff volunteers has been successful, with 12 volunteers recruited. This is enough for the European Conference, which is smaller scale than the DPP Annual Conference.
- The conference microsite is up to date and contains information about travel, the content of the agenda and speakers who will participate in the conference.
- The Enforcement department has all but finalised the "Effective Enforcement" presentation on Tuesday 19 May. This will include video footage of recent PECR raids, case study examples and a Q&A session.
- Policy Delivery is finalising the research discussion papers to be provided to delegates and speakers to aid discussion. Focus group sessions have been completed and results are being analysed. This analysis will contribute to the UK-centric part of the research on putting data subjects' rights into practice.

The Europe-wide part of the research (literature review on data subjects' rights in practice) is largely complete.

- Two resolutions have been submitted for consideration by Conference members. One is from the French DPA about the development of cooperation tools. The second one from the ICO is being developed by Policy Delivery on the theme of the Conference and relating to the research paper.
- Progress is being made to produce a session entitled "Effective Enforcement" with the cooperation of Enforcement and Corporate Affairs. This will involve case studies, video examples and a Q&A session.
- The ICO continues to coordinate the French DPA for a panel on the final day of the Conference about cooperation tools between Conference members. This will include developing the European Commission's CIRCA platform.
- All speakers have been confirmed for three of the panel sessions on Tuesday 19 May. Confirmed speakers include Richard Lloyd of Which?, Anna Fielder of Privacy International, James Leaton-Gray (formerly of the BBC) and the European Data Protection Supervisor – Giovanni Buttarelli. Panels will be chaired by Christopher Graham, Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin (Chair of WP29) and Jacob Kohnstamm (Chair of the Dutch DPA).
- The Council of Europe the European Data Protection Supervisor will provide an update to the Conference about their work over the last 12 months.
- As hosts of the 2014 Case Handling Workshop, the Macedonian DPA will make a short presentation and we will also hear from the hosts of the 2015 Workshop, Albania.
- The Hungarian DPA has agreed to host the 2016 edition of the Conference. Contact has been made with the Hungarians to help plan the early stages of their event.
- The Accreditation Committee (the French and Hungarian DPAs and the CNIL) have is working on a report for the accreditation of the Andorran DPA as a full member of the Conference, and its recommendations about the next steps to take with the accreditation of the Gibraltarian DPA.

### **Costs and funding**

European Spring conference - budget topline, main items:

- Hilton 1.5 day delegate rate – £16,500 – 50% paid already (£8,232)

- Town Hall room hire - £3,300 - 100% paid already
- Town Hall food - £2,400 (estimate) not yet paid
- MOSI room hire and food – £1,683 - 100% paid already
- AV including translator services and wifi for all delegates – £9238 + VAT (20% paid, £3000 below previous estimate).
- Entertainment for the dinner on 19 May will be approx. £2500.
- There will be additional costs – to be announced - associated with the social trips on 20 May

**Estimated total: £45,000**

Finance Department has advised that although several payments have already been made in this financial year - 2014/15, the budget needs to be assigned from financial year 2015/16, as that's the year the conference takes place.

