

Working Paper on a future ISO privacy standard
- adopted at the 35th meeting, 14-15 April 2004 in Buenos Aires -

The Working Group takes note and welcomes the initiatives at present under consideration at the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) to approve a Privacy Framework Standard and to set up a Study Group on Privacy Technology. A global privacy standard could contribute to create and improve the guarantees on personal data protection particularly in those countries without any kind of adequate regulation. The standardisation of privacy technology could play an important role in assisting controllers to comply with existing national and international legal requirements on data protection.

Technical standards on privacy protection and technology need thorough discussion. A rapid adoption of a global standard may not be in the long-term interest of the international community.

To this effect the Working Group calls on the national Data Protection Authorities to address recommendations to the national standards bodies to approve technical rules that are in line with the legal framework on data protection.

In order to guarantee the highest level of transparency and security to the data controllers (companies and public agencies) which want to implement any future standard the Working Group emphasises that compliance with a technical standard does not necessarily imply or replace compliance with legal regulations.