

Brussels, 11 December 2015

Dear Commissioner,

We are approaching you as the common voice of the Central and Eastern European industry federations regarding an issue of a major importance for the development of the EU's digital economy and the Digital Single Market, the current situation in the field of data protection legislation. With great concern we are observing the last development in this field, the outcomes of the Trilogue negotiations on the General Data Protection Regulation (further referred to as „GDPR“) as well as the consequences of the so called „Safe Harbor Decision“ – the judgement C-362/14 of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the Schrems case.

We feel concerned about severe negative consequences on the European economy, if these issues are not dealt with in a prompt and feasible way. We are well aware that the data protection is crucial for the development of the digital single market and for Europe's competitiveness, as data are driving innovation in all sectors of the economy. Moreover, the use of data delivers efficiency to companies allows the creation of new business models and offers a whole range of new innovative services to consumers. Therefore, we ask you to be highly active in this field and reflect the recent negative developments.

For the purpose that you are well informed about our common point of view, we attached our Position Paper. We would like to ask you to focus on the mentioned issues and take proactive action to help finding appropriate solutions. Regarding the case of GDPR the final reconciling of the opinions of the Commission, the Parliament and the Council has to lead to a well-balanced Regulation and in the case of the Safe Harbor agreement, the goal has to be a very prompt agreement with the U. S. partners that will ensure legal certainty and a sustainable approach to data transfers for both the European and American businesses. We hope very much for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Christoph Neumayer, Director General
IV - Federation of Austrian Industries

Davor Majetic, Director General
HUP - Croatian Employers' Association



Stanislav Kázecký, Vice-President
SPCR - Confederation of Industry of the
Czech Republic



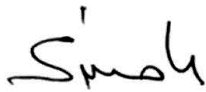
István Wimmer, Secretary General
MGYOSZ - Confederation of Hungarian
Employers and Industrialists



Henryka Bochniarz, President,
Polish Confederation Lewiatan



Peter Molnar, Secretary General
Secretary General
RÚZ - National Union of Employers of
Slovakia



Jože Smole, Secretary General
ZDS - Employers' Association of Slovenia

Attachment: Central and Eastern European Industry Federations (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) Perspectives in the Field of Data Protection

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First Vice-President
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Vice-President
Commissioner for Digital Single Market

Mr Günther H. Oettinger
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Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

