

Date: For release on February 15 2017

## New milestone reached in the development of the C-SIG data protection Code of Conduct for the European Cloud industry

Today, a new Code of Conduct aiming to strengthen data protection in the cloud has transitioned from a work-in-progress document actively encouraged by the Commission to the first official version of the Code overseen by a newly empanelled General Assembly (*new link – to be added*). The General Assembly will be responsible for its further development and alignment with EU data protection laws, on-going management and promotion. While the Code will be a living document that will mature and adapt to keep pace of evolving technologies and legal requirements, organizations can already consider how it may help them demonstrate their compliance with existing legal frameworks.

The Code of Conduct has its roots in the 2012 Communication "Unleashing the Potential of Cloud Computing in Europe", driven by former Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes. In this Communication, the European Commission stated its ambition of working with industry to agree on a Code of Conduct for cloud service providers, with the ultimate objective of strengthening trust in the cloud and boosting cloud adoption in the European Digital Single Market. In order to implement this action item of the Communication, the Subgroup on a Code of Conduct within the Cloud Select Industry Group (C-SIG) was established.

Over a period of more than four years, the C-SIG worked on bringing the Code to a mature draft in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC, and submitted versions for review to the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party (WP29), which comprises the various European data protection authorities. While today's Code is predicated on the Directive, it will continue to undergo revisions in order to align itself to the General Data Protection Regulation EU 2016/679 (GDPR), which will replace the Directive as of May 2018. It will also be revised in accordance with the comments and guidance issued by the WP29 in order to guarantee full compliance with EU Data Protection laws.

As of today, the Code begins its transition from a working document to an operational approach. During the Plenary meeting of the C-SIG, the current version of the Code was presented, and its further development and governance was handed over to a newly created organisation, SCOPE Europe. SCOPE Europe will coordinate the further alignment of the Code to the requirements of the GDPR, establish appropriate governance bodies, and promote the Code's adoption.

The organisation also aims to work constructively with data protection authorities to ensure that their expectations and future guidance on the GDPR will be taken into consideration, with a view of resubmitting the Code to the European data protection authorities by the entry into force of the GDPR.

The European Commission acknowledges the milestone which has been reached in the evolution of the draft and the handover of this Code of Conduct to SCOPE Europe. It further encourages the objectives of the Code and looks forward to a successful resubmission of the Code to either the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), or the European Data Protection Board (EDPB).

For more information, please visit [eucoc.cloud](http://eucoc.cloud)