The World Summit
on the Information Society
Privacy not found

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Privacy is a core human right because it protects the essence of human rights: human dignity

In the information society, protection of privacy is crucial to retain a sense of freedom

However, often seen as..

- Mainly process (data protection)
- In opposition to security (balance)
- A luxury (not affordable)

Privacy and WSIS

- No priority to privacy
- Focus on security
- "Balance" terminology
- RFID tagging at the Geneva Summit

Section on confidence and security

"Strengthening the trust framework, including information security and network security, authentication, **privacy** and consumer protection, is a prerequisite for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. A global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international cooperation. Within this global culture of cyber-security, it is important to enhance security and to ensure **the protection of data and privacy**, while enhancing access and trade.(….)."

Section on confidence and security

"...to prevent the potential use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights"

Any light in the dark ?

- Not much...
- General tendency also at EU level
  - While praising EU directive...
  - Biometrics, PNR, Data Retention, RFID
- Where does it leave us?

WSIS and Privacy in Perspective

- Privacy no issue of international conflict anymore
- Global attention cycles for privacy
  - 1970s-1980: OECD / CoE
  - 1990s: EU-Directive
- 2000: fundamental ceasefire with Safe Harbor
- No harmonization, but interface solution

Privacy and Internet Governance

- WSIS picked up contested issues like Internet Governance
- WGIG linked privacy and IG
- WGIG report treated privacy better than Geneva Summit
  - Call for legal foundation of privacy protection
  - Details partly spelled out

Challenges & Opportunities

- Keeping privacy on the agenda for WSIS 2005 documents

- Pushing beyond pure self-regulation

- Focusing on reality and implementation

  – Use concrete examples to push for a more stringent treatment of privacy

  – Keep an eye on WSIS Plan of Action and Follow-Up

  – link with regional and national level

A New Grand Debate in International Privacy Politics?

- Link between Internet Governance and Privacy

- Link between EU law and reality

- Sober assessment of Safe Harbor implementation may be needed

  – can open up new conflict and get attention

  – can put privacy back on the EU's agenda

  – more support for legislation in the US now

Who can do it?

- New role of NGOs in international politics
- European Parliament has become stronger
- Allies inside US
- DP authorities and WSIS: Late, but…

- A new "rainbow coalition"?