



Major Change in International Data Transfers: GDPR Certification Goes Global with Europrivacy

Luxembourg, 16.04.2026 — The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) took two major decisions that will facilitate international data transfers, while enhancing personal data protection: It approved the extension of Europrivacy, the European Data Protection Seal of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), to be used in non-European countries too. It also approved a specific version of Europrivacy criteria to be used as a mechanism for international data transfers under Art. 46 GDPR.

GDPR Certification Goes Global

EDPB just released two new opinions that impact international data transfers. The first one authorises the use of the Europrivacy certification outside of Europe. Europrivacy was already approved to serve as European Data Protection Seal under Article 42 GDPR by companies established in EU and EEA countries. This decision enables companies that are subject to the GDPR for processing of personal data all over the world to benefit from this mechanism to demonstrate GDPR compliance of data processing activities.

A New Mechanism for International Data Transfers

In its second decision, the EDPB approved a specific version of the Europrivacy certification criteria. These criteria may be used, in accordance with Article 46 of the GDPR, as part of the appropriate safeguards for international data transfers. This marks an important step in the operationalisation of certification mechanisms in the context of cross-border data flows. In practice, it will support companies acting as data importers outside the EEA in demonstrating compliance with GDPR requirements, provided that binding and enforceable commitments are in place. This development strengthens legal certainty and promotes trust in international data transfers.

Impact on Data Transfers

International data transfers are subject to increasing number of obligations and restrictions aiming at protecting personal data. The GDPR makes 73 references to certification. By leveraging independent third-party assessment and regular audits, GDPR certification facilitates compliance and data transfers. According to the early adopters of this mechanism in Europe, it enabled them to:

- Check and demonstrate their compliance;
- Reduce risks and enhance trust;
- Simplify compliance and save associated costs;
- Value compliance and turn it into a source of competitive advantages and revenues;
- Facilitate data transfers.

Moreover, Europrivacy enables companies to:

- Extend compliance assessment to non-EU jurisdictions;
- Access online resources to support compliance and certification;
- Benefit from a global ecosystem of service providers.



Press Release



Towards International Data Protection Certification

By making the GDPR mechanism accessible to other countries, EDPB is addressing a growing need to offer a reliable mechanism to demonstrate data protection compliance across borders. Last year, Interprivacy, the international data protection certification scheme, has been approved by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to be used worldwide. Both certification schemes, Europrivacy and Interprivacy, are closely aligned and complement each other to support a digital economy respectful of individual rights and freedoms.

Testimonials

Dr Anu Talus, Chair of the European Data Protection Board: *"Certification criteria can play an important role in supporting GDPR compliance. The approval by the EDPB of the Europrivacy criteria as European Data Protection Seal to be used as a tool for transfers is a recognition of the fact that personal data transferred to third countries or international organisations under these criteria are properly safeguarded, in line with European data protection standards."*

Commissioner Alain Herrmann, Luxembourg Data Protection Authority: *"This development reflects a broader shift towards more innovative and operational compliance tools under the GDPR. Certification has the potential to play a key role in supporting trusted international data flows, provided that it is implemented with strong safeguards and effective oversight."*

Dr Sébastien Ziegler, President of the Europrivacy International Board of Experts: *"EDPB decision is a major paradigm shift enabling the most important GDPR mechanism for demonstrating data protection compliance to become global. It is great news for the data subjects, with a reinforced protection, and for the industry with less risks, simplified data transfers, and reduced associated costs."*

About ECCP

The European Center for Certification and Privacy (ECCP) was established in the context of the European research programme. It aims at supporting research and innovation on regulatory compliance and accountability mechanisms. ECCP schemes are made available for free to selected partners.

About Europrivacy

Europrivacy serves as European Data Protection Seal under Article 42 GDPR to demonstrate GDPR compliance of data processing activities.

Useful links

- Europrivacy: europrivacy.org
- European Center for Certification and Privacy: eccpcenter.org
- European Data Protection Board (EDPB): edpb.europa.eu
- EDPB Opinion 14/2026: edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2026-04/edpb_opinion_202614_europrivacy_en.pdf
- EDPB Opinion 15/2026: edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2026-04/edpb_opinion_202615_europrivacy_en.pdf
- Join the upcoming webinar on 'GDPR certification goes global' on May 5th at 16:00 CEST: academy.europrivacy.com/events/gdpr-certification-goes-global

Contact information and interview requests

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