

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 17. 07. 2015

BM/kr Ares (2015) 2038834

Dear Mr McNamee,

The President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 April 2015, which you sent on behalf of the cosignatories, regarding the data protection reform package. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to you.

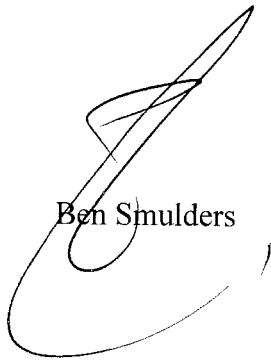
The support for and scrutiny of the European data protection reform by European Digital Rights and the other 65 NGOs from the European Union and around the world who co-signed your letter is acknowledged and welcome.

As you rightly say, the Commission has been the driving force to bring data protection rules up to date for the digital age. The proposed two instruments, both the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Directive for police and criminal justice authorities have, since their inception, sought to ensure that all of us in the European Union enjoy the right to protection of personal data as provided for in Article 8 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Your letter highlights the Commission's commitment given by former European Commission Vice-President Reding that the proposed data protection rules will not drop below the level of protection that is currently available under the current Directive 95/46/EC. The Commission has been and will continue to be true to this commitment.

The European Council stressed, on 26 June, how crucial it is to "adopt a strong EU General Data Protection framework by 2015". The European Parliament has already adopted its position confirming its strong support for the Commission's data protection reform. The Council reached a general approach on the General Data Protection Regulation on 15 June 2015.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Smulders

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