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from: Austrian, Danish, Hungarian and United Kingdom delegations
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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the
protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the
free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation)
- Comments on Commission press release

The 3244th Justice and Home Affairs Council on 6th June 2013 discussed the data protection reform package.

The Council press release reads as follows:

“The Council discussed key issues on the proposal for a regulation setting out a general EU framework for data protection on the basis of a document prepared by the Presidency (10227/13 + ADD1). Delegations generally welcomed the considerable progress achieved on the draft regulation under the Irish Presidency.

On the understanding that no part of the draft regulation can be agreed until the whole text of the regulation is agreed, it was concluded that the amended text of chapters I to IV was a good basis for further progress on the draft regulation. The Chair indicated that the legislative deliberations should take account of both the interests of citizens and of business, in particular SMEs.”¹

Commissioner Reding however draws different conclusions.

“On data protection law, Ministers generally endorsed a consolidated version of parts I-IV of the draft Data Protection Regulation proposed by the Commission in January 2012. These important chapters deal with the core issues of the reform, including individuals' rights and companies' obligations.”²

Commissioner Reding confirmed her conclusions again at the LIBE Committee on 19th June 2013 stating that: “The Council endorsed the draft regulation under the Irish Presidency. Although a very small minority of Member States who tried to block it but the overwhelming majority of Member States endorsed the proposal.”³

Against this background the delegations would like to ask the Presidency to clarify that the Council – in fact – did not endorse a consolidated version on 6th June 2013 and that it generally welcomed the considerable progress achieved on the draft regulation under the Irish Presidency instead. Furthermore it was concluded that the amended text is a good basis for further progress.

¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/137407.pdf
² http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/reding/multimedia/news/2013/06/20130606_en.htm
³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20130619-1500-COMMITTEE-LIBE> (at 16:34)