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Answer given by Mr Reynders  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(7.1.2020)

The Commission is aware of the concerns raised by the Irish Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) regarding its financial and human resources.

Article 52(4) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)<sup>1</sup>, as does the Commission's ePrivacy Regulation proposal<sup>2</sup>, requires Member States to ensure that each supervisory authority is provided with the human, technical and financial resources, premises and infrastructure necessary for the effective performance of its tasks and exercise of its powers.

Failure to comply with such obligation can jeopardise data protection authorities' effectiveness, their independence, and negatively impact the way they are able to exercise their powers. In this respect, it must be taken into account that the DPC acts as lead supervisory authority for the monitoring and enforcement of the application of the GDPR in relation to several large multinational tech companies. The Commission has on several occasions reminded Member States of the importance of fulfilling such obligation<sup>3</sup>. The 11% budget increase for the DPC in 2020 follows an increase of 30% in 2019 and 55% in 2018.

The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of the GDPR in Member States and may take appropriate actions as necessary, including the recourse to infringement actions.

The Commission is providing grants to support in particular the work of the data protection authorities reaching out to stakeholders. Six contracts were concluded in 2017 for an amount of around EUR 1.9 million and a broad set of actions has started<sup>4</sup>. In 2018 EUR 2 million were allocated to nine data protection authorities for activities in 2018-2019<sup>5</sup>. EUR 1 million will be allocated following a call in 2019<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1–88.

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications and repealing Directive 2002/58/EC (Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications), Brussels, 10 January 2017, COM(2017) 10 final, recital 38.

<sup>3</sup> See in particular Communication of 24 January 2018 on Stronger protection, new opportunities - Commission guidance on the direct application of the General Data Protection Regulation as of 25 May 2018, COM(2018) 43 final, pages 10-11, Communication of 15 May 2018 on Completing a Trusted Digital Single Market for all, COM(2018) 320 final, page 4, and Communication of 24 July 2019 on Data protection rules as a trust-enabler in the EU and beyond – taking stock, COM(2019) 374 final, pages 3-5.

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/rec/rec-rdat-trai-ag-2016/1805123-call\\_results\\_-\\_selected\\_abstracts\\_rec-rdat-trai-ag-2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/rec/rec-rdat-trai-ag-2016/1805123-call_results_-_selected_abstracts_rec-rdat-trai-ag-2016_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Iceland  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/rec-rdat-trai-ag-2017>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/rec-rdat-trai-ag-2019>.