EU DPAs and APEC team up to produce checklist on data transfers

The EU Data Protection Authorities and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (‘APEC’) economies have issued a checklist on the requirements that organisations need to consider when applying for authorisation of Binding Corporate Rules (‘BCRs’) and/or certification of APEC’s Cross-border Privacy Rules (‘CBPRs’).

The Article 29 Working Party and APEC members, which comprise 21 countries including Australia, China, Japan, Singapore and the US, announced last year that they were seeking to develop new ‘tools’ to make it easier for businesses to transfer personal data overseas.

According to the CNIL, the French privacy regulator, the new guidance does just that, representing a ‘practical tool for multinational organisations’.

The document, which has ‘informal’ status, is not aimed at having organisations achieve mutual recognition of both systems. However, it could serve as a basis for ‘double certification’.

Data protection policies of applicant international companies operating both in the EU and the APEC areas have to be approved respectively by the relevant bodies in the EU Member States and in the APEC economies, in accordance with the applicable approval procedures.

The document was endorsed by APEC Senior Officials at their meeting of 27th and 28th February 2014, and the EU Data Protection Working Party adopted an opinion/working.