The European Commission has published its Privacy Shield agreement with the US, 27 days after the deal was first brokered on 2nd February 2016.

The agreement, which takes the form of a Commission 'adequacy' decision, was released along with the texts fleshing out the detail of how the Shield will operate. It will now be scrutinised by the Article 29 Working Party, which is expected to give its view by the end of March.

The text will also be evaluated by the European Data Protection Supervisor. Only then will it be formally adopted by the EU Commissioners.

The Commission has indicated that it wants the scheme rubber stamped by the end of June. If the agreement is changed substantially, it could be sent back to the US for approval. One EU official has said that that is unlikely to happen.

The agreement will replace Safe Harbor, which was invalidated by the European Court of Justice last October on the grounds that US surveillance agencies have too broad access to EU citizens’ data once transferred to the US.

Max Schrems, the campaigner who disrupted the status quo by getting his case to the European Court, described the deal as an attempt to “put a lot of lipstick on the same old data-suckling pig”.

Whilst he admitted the text contained “a large number of new improvements,” he claimed it does not address the “core concerns and fundamental flaws of US surveillance law and the lack of priva-

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