

Ms. Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin
Chairwoman - CNIL
Chairwoman - Art. 29
Working Party
Via email

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Ref.: BEUC-L-2016-330/MGO/cst

29 September 2016

Subject: Sharing of data between WhatsApp and Facebook

Dear Ms. Falque-Pierrotin,

I am writing on behalf of BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation. We are addressing this letter to you in your capacity as Chairwoman of the Article 29 Working Party to voice our concerns with regards to the recent amendments that the messaging service WhatsApp has made to its privacy policy and terms of use and how consumers have been informed about the changes.

Our German member vzbv (Federation of German Consumer Organisations) has already requested WhatsApp to stop the implementation of these amendments¹. Also, as you know, the Hamburg Data Protection Commissioner has issued an order² that officially bans Facebook from collecting and storing data from German WhatsApp users, also ordering it to delete all that might have been forwarded by WhatsApp already.

This is an issue that concerns not only users in Germany. There are millions of WhatsApp users all across of the EU who are affected by this fundamental shift in the company's practices.

We would ask that the Article 29 Working Party looks into this issue to ensure that the data protection rights of all European WhatsApp users are adequately protected.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
Director General

¹<http://www.vzbv.de/pressemitteilung/daten-ohne-schutz-whatsapp-ueberschreitet-rote-linie>

²https://www.datenschutz-hamburg.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Press_Release_2016-09-27_Adminstrative_Order_Facebook_WhatsApp.pdf