



Patrick Van Eecke

Partner

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Patrick Van Eecke has deep experience in e-commerce related legal issues such as data protection, electronic signatures, consumer protection and advertising. He advises telecommunication companies, internet service providers, software developers, governments and companies using IT related services.

He is extensively involved in diverse consulting projects for the European Commission, national governments and multi-national global corporations.

Patrick provides services to DLA Piper UK LLP through a limited liability company.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- Dutch
- English
- French

EXPERIENCE

- Advising the European Commission on the legal implications of cloud computing in the 28 European Union Member States. Patrick leads a cross-border team of 30 lawyers analyzing the impact of cloud computing on the current European legal system and analyzing the need for regulatory change
- Assisting online sports betting and online casino gaming operators when entering the Belgian gaming market
- Advising one of the world's largest financial services providers on setting up a data protection compliant structure for verifying customer details and payments against numerous sanctions lists (for example, known terrorists, drugs traffickers etc)
- Advising the United Nations (UNCITRAL) on legal aspects of electronic signatures to draft a new model law on the cross-border use of electronic signatures

RELATED SERVICES

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Data Protection, Privacy and Security
- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs
- EU Law and Policy
- Corporate
- IT and Telecoms Disputes
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Global Governance and Compliance

RELATED SECTORS

- Technology
- Media, Sport and Entertainment
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Life Sciences

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Dutch English French

- Advising the European Commission on changing the regulatory landscape of technology transfer. He is leading a team of 35 lawyers (EU, US, Japan) analysing how to improve the regulatory environment for R&D in Europe
- Advising an US software company with local branches in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom on setting up a legally compliant data processing system for HR and CRM data
- Advising an international beverage company on preparing international data transfer agreements relating to the transfer of personal data to the United States
- Advising an international search engine on its privacy strategy in Europe. This entailed preparing the national data processing notifications of the European branches
- Advising two international mobile telecommunications operators on the legal issues relating to mobile gaming, including electronic payments and tax aspects
- Advised an European mobile phone operator on the implementation of a mobile payment system. Typical problems encountered included whether the electronic payment system would fall under the scope of the European e-Money Directive and thus oblige the operator to set up a new legal entity

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Advocaat registered with the Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten bij de Balie te Brussel

Prior Experience

2006 to date, Professor, University of Antwerp – teaching European Information Technology and Communications Law

2000 to 2001, Research Fellow, Stanford University, California, United States

1999 to 2003, Partner, Head of the electronic commerce and telecommunications law unit at a Belgian law firm

1996 to 1999, Expert advisor, Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Justice - Personal advisor of the Minister on legal issues related to Internet and IT

1995 to 2005, Research Fellow, I.C.R.I.-Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and IT at Faculty of Law at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

1994 to 1995, Associate, Belgian law firm

Recognitions

- Highly commended for the firm's Privacy "GDPR" client offering (FT Innovative Lawyers Awards 2018)
- Listed as Acritas Star™ Lawyer 2017 (Acritas Star Lawyers' report 2017)
- Awarded Best Law Firm of the Year (Trends Legal Awards 2017)
- Awarded Best IT, IP and TMT Law Firm of the Year (Trends Legal Awards 2017)
- Commended for Client Service (Chambers Europe Awards 2016)

Memberships

- Member of the Brussels Bar (since 1994)
- Member editorial Committee: Computerrecht, Kluwer, Netherlands
- Member of the Editorial or Professional Board of Computer Law & Security Review (CLSR), Elsevier, United Kingdom
- Member editorial committee: Revue du Droit Commercial (RDC), Larcier, Belgium
- Member editorial committee: Electronic Evidence Law Journal, Pario Communications, United Kingdom
- Member editorial committee: Journal of Internet Law, Aspen/Wolters Kluwer, United States
- Member of ITeclaw, International Technology Law Association

- Member of Association of European Science and Technology Transfer Professionals (ASTP)
- Associate member of the American Bar Association
- Member of Committee IT Law, representing the Flemish Bar Association, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
- Founder (in 2006) and chair of the ADM ICT legal counsel working group

Professor

Patrick is a professor at the University of Antwerp, teaching European Information and Communications Law. He is also a guest lecturer on Internet law at various universities, such as Solvay Business Institute, Kings College London and Queen Mary University of London.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Belgian DPA imposes a EUR600,000 fine, its highest fine ever, on Google Belgium for non-compliance with right to be forgotten

17 July 2020

Until recently, most decisions of the Belgian Data Protection Authority concerned national companies or individuals. However, on 14 July 2020, the Belgian DPA imposed a fine of EUR600,000 on Google Belgium SA/NV (Google Belgium) for not respecting a Belgian resident's right to be forgotten - the highest fine ever imposed by the the Belgian DPA.

Third edition of *The Price of Data Security*, a guide to the insurability of GDPR fines across Europe

27 May 2020

We've partnered with global broker Aon for the third year running for the updated edition of *The Price of Data Security*, a guide to the insurability of GDPR fines across Europe that includes common issues faced by organisations in international cyber scenarios and illustrated with practical case studies.

GDPR has undeniably revolutionised the data protection regime and significantly affects how organisations worldwide collect, use, manage, protect, and share personal data that comes into their possession – with significant fines for non-compliance. Within the last year alone, a EUR18 million fine was issued against a national postal operator and a EUR14.5 million fine against a real estate company.

EU Data Protection: COVID-19

1 April 2020

The world is facing unprecedented challenges in its fight to contain Coronavirus (COVID-19). Various countries are in lockdown and emergency measures being implemented to contain the pandemic, with European countries currently at the epicentre of the outbreak.

Europe initiates regulations on artificial intelligence; industry presented with opportunity to provide inputs

5 March 2020

AI Outlook

The White Paper on AI initiates a process that could potentially establish the world's first far-reaching regulatory framework for AI.

DLA Piper GDPR Data Breach Survey 2020

20 January 2020

According to DLA Piper's latest GDPR Data Breach Survey, data protection regulators have imposed EUR114 million (approximately USD126 million / GBP97 million) in fines under the GDPR regime for a wide range of GDPR infringements, not just for data breaches.

France, Germany and Austria top the rankings for the total value of GDPR fines imposed with just over EUR51 million, EUR24.5 million and EUR18 million respectively. The Netherlands, Germany and the UK topped the table for the number of data breaches notified to regulators with 40,647, 37,636 and 22,181 notifications each.

Levi Strauss and Google: Connected, not distracted!

16 December 2019

Imagine a piece of clothing with tech built into the fabric providing an ever-expanding toolkit of abilities accessible by simple gestures. The Levi's® Trucker Jacket with Jacquard™ by Google can do just that, which is what makes it so revolutionary.

EU Policy & Regulatory Alert - EU Publishes Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guidelines

12 APR 2019

On 8 April 2019, the EU's High-Level Expert Group ("AI HLEG") on Artificial Intelligence ("AI") published the much-anticipated "Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI", setting out a horizontal framework for the development and deployment of ethical and robust AI systems across the EU

Landmark privacy ruling in Europe on the right to be forgotten

26 JUN 2014

European Court of Justice: search engines must remove the link between search results and a web page if it contains information an individual deems should be "forgotten"

EU: new obligations for digital services providers and operators of essential services

28 JUN 2016

In line with the EU's broader Cyber Security Strategy, the NIS Directive is a significant step towards a more secure cross-border cyberspace with a high shared level of network and information system security.

UK: The real risk of cyber attack

1 AUG 2011

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- Van Eecke, P., Schellekens, C., "Public sales (including relevant e-commerce aspects)", in STUYCK, J. En STRAETMANS, G., *Commercial Practices*, Larcier, Gent, 2014, 101-111.
- Van Eecke, P. & Schoefs, R. " The Netherlands: The Amsterdam Escort Assassin – Not to Be Forgotten by Google", *Computer Law Review International* 2015, issue 3, 85-89.
- Van Eecke, P., Schellekens, C., "Other laws and regulations on market practices e-commerce and e-communication" in STUYCK, J. en STRAETMANS, G., *Commercial Practices*, Larcier, Gent, 2014, 267-290.
- Van Eecke, P., Le Boudec, M., Recht op vergetelheid ook van toepassing op krantenarchieven, *NJW* 2015, afl. 314, 32
- Van Eecke, P. & Schoefs, R. "News Site Publishers Liable for Defamatory Content – Sotiris Papasavvas v. O Fileleftheros Dimosia Etairia Ltd", *Computer Law Review International*, 2014, 175-177
- Van Eecke, P. & Schoefs, R., Court of Justice of the European Union, Sotiris Papasavvas v. O Fileleftheros Dimosia Etairia Ltd, Takis Kounnafi and Giorgos Sertis, *E-Commerce Law Reports*, volume 14 issue 5, p. 6.
- Schoefs, R., Van Eecke, P., Europa verstevigt vertrouwen in elektronische identificatie, *Juristenkrant* 2014, afl. 297, 3
- Van Eecke, P., Le Boudec, M., Recht op vergetelheid ook van toepassing op krantenarchieven, *NJW* 2015, afl. 314, 32
- Van Eecke, P., Cornette, A., [De verantwoordelijkheid van zoekmachines bij de publicatie van persoonsgegevens op websites: Het Google Spain SL arrest], *Computerr. (NL)* 2014, afl. 4, 240-247
- Van Eecke, P., Dierick A. "Global Gambling Advertising", *iGamingBusiness*, September/October 2013, Issue 82, 103-104
- Van Eecke, P., Dierick A., *iGaming Business*, The global business of Poker - Fifth Edition, "Comment: Belgian Online Poker Legislation", May 2013, 244
- Van Eecke, P., Dierick, A., "Belgium's recent case law regarding website blacklisting", *World Online Gambling Law Report*, March 2013, 13

Events

Previous

Webinar: Understanding and preparing for GDPR dawn raids

24 June 2020
Brussels

Data breach in Europe? Now what?

6 FEB 2019

Patrick is a regular speaker at national and international conferences, and is often asked to comment on Internet law related issues in national and international press. Typical examples include:

- Privacy by design and privacy by default, legal challenges, Brussels, 23/01/2013, CPDP congress
- New privacy rules, the challenges for Europe, San Jose (US), 10/10/2012, International Association of Privacy Professionals Congress
- Children on-line: Safety and Privacy in a Digital Europe - An International Perspective, Brussels, 15/05/2012, European Parliament
- The future EU regulation on data protection, Washington, 07/03/2012, IAPP Global Privacy summit

NEWS

EUR114 million in fines have been imposed by European authorities under GDPR

20 January 2020

Over 160,000 data breach notifications have been reported across the 28 European Union Member States plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein since the GDPR came into force on 25th May 2018.
