

Declaration of Cooperation

On 7 April 2003 the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) was founded in the European Academy for Freedom of Information and Data Protection.

14 Delegations from all over the world declared:

“Participation in the knowledge of public entities is a legal right of the information society. Without discrimination, any person must be allowed access to the documents of public agencies. A transparent public administration, open to citizen participation in its decisions, is a prerequisite of a modern democratic society.

The Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen who secure freedom of information in their home countries are obliged to preserve and respect these basic principles.”

In order to foster a broader, worldwide public awareness of freedom of information, to further analyse and define its vital elements, and to benefit from an exchange of experience, the participants agreed to a continuous cooperation. This commitment was confirmed during the following meetings of the ICIC in Cape Town/South Africa in 2004 and Cancun/Mexico in 2005.

Recognizing that due to the legislation in the European Union, their member states and all other European nations it is considered desirable to get towards a common approach to the specific issues of promoting Freedom of Information in Europe and harmonizing the relevant legislation, the undersigned agree to a continuous cooperation in the

European Conference of Information Commissioners.

Berlin, 25 November 2005