

## **EDPS message on the occasion of Data Protection Day 2012**

In the 21st century world, there is a huge amount of data, flying freely from one place to another. Personal information is valuable and it can be used by others for profit. Have you ever thought that your personal data might attract someone else's attention? Have you ever thought about protecting it?

Peter Hustinx: "Privacy and data protection are fundamental rights in the European Union. You have the right to know whether an institution or company is processing your personal data. And you should be able to check what data is being processed relating to you, such as your CV, medical files or even your photos. In some situations, you might want to object to someone processing your personal data, or at least to make sure that they are correct and up to date.

Every day, you are leaving a trace, with your secrets, your feelings, your plans, your thoughts, your wishes... You must know who is looking out for your privacy, who is ensuring your fundamental right to privacy and data protection.

Giovanni Buttarelli: "We, as the EDPS, are the independent European data protection authority. Our main task is to ensure that European institutions and bodies comply with the rules on data protection, including when they decide on new legislation. If you believe that your privacy or your personal data have been violated, you have the right to a legal remedy. In addition, in each of the 27 Member States and at European level, you can complain to an independent supervisory authority."

Wherever you are, whatever you want, whatever you are looking for or what you are planning to do. All your personal information belongs to you. Protect it from others that want to use it. Take care of your data, take care of yourself.