



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEWS RELEASE

Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Contributes to Favorable Second Annual Review of EU-US Privacy Shield

(December 20, 2018) The European Commission recently published its second annual review of the EU-US Privacy Shield, which provides a mechanism for complying with data protection requirements for the transfer of personal data from EU citizens to U.S. companies for commercial purposes. The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG) Michael K. Atkinson had joined other senior officials from the United States government, the European Commission, and European data protection authorities in Brussels for the [mid-October review](#).

Overall, on the basis of its factual findings, the Commission acknowledged that the Privacy Shield has been “generally a success” and that the United States continues to ensure “an adequate level of protection for personal data” transferred under the Privacy Shield from the EU to organizations in the United States. The [published report](#)’s section on independent oversight highlighted the ICIG’s overview of the important oversight role performed by Inspectors General throughout the United States Government and of the ICIG, in particular, saying it confirmed the findings of the first annual review. The report and the [accompanying staff working document](#) also emphasized the ICIG’s remarks before the European Commission and the European data protection authorities in Brussels that any referral from the Privacy Shield Ombudsperson would receive his “*serious, timely, and effective attention*.” The Commission expects U.S. authorities to nominate a permanent Ombudsperson by February 28, 2019, to ensure complaints concerning access to personal data by U.S. authorities are addressed.

Operational since August 1, 2016, the Privacy Shield framework regulates, facilitates, and protects personal data transferred from the European Union to the United States for commercial purposes. Privacy Shield’s terms are required to be reviewed every year.

The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 established the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The ICIG’s mission is to provide independent and objective oversight of the programs and activities within the responsibility and authority of the Director of National Intelligence, to initiate and conduct independent audits, inspections, investigations, and reviews, and to lead and coordinate the efforts of the Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum. The ICIG’s goal is to have a positive and enduring impact throughout the Intelligence Community, to lead and coordinate the efforts of an integrated Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum, and to enhance the ability of the United States Intelligence Community to meet national security needs while respecting our nation’s laws and reflecting its values. The Forum consists of the twelve statutory and administrative Inspectors General having oversight responsibility for an element of the Intelligence Community. The Chair of the Forum is the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

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