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The GDPR and Journalism. Protecting Privacy or a Break on Democratic Accountability?

18 September 2018

U-Residence, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050, Brussel (Access also via
Generaal Jacqueslaan 271, 1050 Brussels)

Journalism like many other professions depends on the use of data which is often of a personal nature. Unlike many other areas however the profession can be set apart because it gaining the consent of the data subjects involved is often not realistic given its investigative nature. Traditionally journalists have been able to carry out such functions using public interest based exceptions. The arrival of the GDPR has heralded a change for the journalistic profession and has to a large extent harmonized data protection law throughout Europe. The regulation requires *inter alia* that applicable national law exists in order for journalists to carry out their function as before. The form such law takes is important as its formulation has the ability to restrict journalistic practice causing potential problems for our democratic societies. This presentation will discuss this using the perspective of the GDPR and Belgian law as a useful illustration.

12.00-12.30	Arrival and lunch
12.30-13.45	Pol Deltour – General Secretary Flemish Union of Journalists. (VVJ/ AVBB)
13.45-14.30	Discussion with discussants and audience, chaired by. Dr. Paul Quinn