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"Biometrics and Security in Global Perspective" conference in Washington DC, USA

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"Biometrics and Security in Global Perspective" is the conference that will be held in Washington on May 5th & 6th.

Organised by the Centre for Policy on Emerging Technologies, this event is part of the RISE project (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics, a task 2 initiative sponsored by the Directorate European Research Area of the European Commission that aims to contribute to create a common strategic vision on responsible biometric innovation among the main international players.

RISE is ensuring continuity and is enlarging the international dialogue already instigated by the previous project BITE and two international conferences on ethics and governance of biometrics held in Brussels (2005) and in Washington DC (2006). After a series of regional events promoted by a second European project, HIDE, - which included conferences in Singapore, Prague and Ljubljana - RISE has now been enlarging the context to ASIA, notably with a conference co-organised with the Indian Ministry of Info Technology in Delhi (Biometrics and Data Protection, Data Security Council of India, New Delhi, 24-25 Sept 2009), and the international conference on ethics and governance of biometrics in Hong Kong (International Conference on Ethics and Policy of Biometrics, Hong Kong, 4-5 Jan 2010).

The experience developed with all these events convincingly shows that regular, non official, communication between international actors may play a vital role in the governance of biometric technology. Very often actors do not have different worldviews but different perceptions and interpretation of certain common values such as privacy, liberty, common good, openness, accountability. Yet any appeal to the commonality of values is an empty slogan if it is not translated into a commonality of approach. This is often prevented by factors like the different political roles in the international arena; the economic dimension of the homeland security market and the unavoidable competition between national industries; different regulatory approaches to issues such as biometric information, data protection, and data sharing. In such a context the development of a permanent infrastructure for dialogue may become the building block of a political environment, which may encourage mutual understanding, the creation of new ideas, and strong problem-solving relationships.

Keynote speakers will include the European Data Protection Supervisor, Mr. Peter Hustinx, the Chief Privacy Officer of the US Department of Homeland Security, Mrs. Mary Ellen Callahan, the Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's US- VISIT program Mr. Robert Mocny, the Director of the European Research Area, Mr. Octavi Quintana Trias, and other high rank officers, as well as stakeholders from industries, the academia community and opinion leaders.

For further information on the Washington meeting, please contact:

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RISE Secretariat

Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship

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Washington Meeting Organizer

C-PET President

Remarks :

For more information: www.riseproject.eu

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