Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue

COORDINATED BY CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

Mark Zuckerberg, CEO
Facebook
1 Hacker Way,
Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Monday April 9, 2018

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

We write to you on behalf of leading consumer and privacy organizations, members of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue, in the United States and Europe to urge you to adopt the General Data Protection Regulation as a baseline standard for all Facebook services. There is simply no reason for your company to provide less than the best legal standards currently available to protect the privacy of Facebook users. We urge you to confirm your company's commitment to global compliance with the GDPR and provide specific details on how the company plans to implement these changes in your testimony before the US Congress this week.

The GDPR helps ensure that companies such as yours operate in an accountable and transparent manner, subject to the rule of law and the democratic process. The GDPR provides a solid foundation for data protection, establishing clear responsibilities for companies that collect personal data and clear rights for users whose data is gathered. These are protections that all users should be entitled to no matter where they are located.

We favor the continued growth of the digital economy and we strongly support innovation. The unregulated collection and use of personal data threatens this future. Data breaches, identity theft, cyber-attack, and financial fraud are all on the rise. The vast collection of personal data has also diminished competition. And the targeting of internet users, based on detailed and secret profiling with opaque algorithms, threatens not only consumer privacy but also democratic institutions.

We urge you to make clear your commitment to comply with the GDPR standards in all jurisdictions for all users, and we hope that your leadership on this issue will prompt others to make similar commitments.

Yours sincerely

Jeffrey Chester
Executive Director,
Center for Digital Democracy
U.S. Co-Chair, Digital Policy Committee

Finn Lützow-Holm Myrstad
Head of the Digital Services Section,
Norwegian Consumer Council (NCC)
EU Co-Chair, Digital Policy Committee

CC: Senate Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer
House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
FTC Acting Chair Maureen Olhausen and FTC Commissioner Terrel McSweeney
EU Council President Donald Tusk, EU Commissioner Věra Jourova, EP President Antonio Tajani, EDPS Giovanni Buttarelli, Art29WP Chair Andrea Jelinek