

PRESS RELEASE  
30 January 2019  
20:00 CET

## EPIC HONORS

**EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR GIOVANNI BUTTARELLI**

**AND**

**EUROPEAN DIGITAL RIGHTS (EDRi) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOE MCNAMEE**

### *2019 INTERNATIONAL PRIVACY CHAMPIONS*

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) has awarded the 2019 International Privacy Champion Awards to European Data Protection Supervisor Giovanni Buttarelli and European Digital Rights (EDRi) former Executive Director Joe McNamee.

The EPIC award was presented at the conference on Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection in Brussels, Belgium on January 30, 2019. More than 1,200 people from 60 countries attended the 11<sup>th</sup> annual CPDP conference. The theme of CPDP 2019 is Data Protection and Democracy.

Giovanni Buttarelli is the European Data Protection Supervisor. In 2014, he was appointed by the European Parliament and Council for a five-year term. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Buttarelli served as both Assistant Supervisor and Secretary General at the Italian Data Protection Authority. Mr. Buttarelli recently hosted the groundbreaking 40<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners on “Debating Ethics.”

Joe McNamee was Executive Director of EDRi for over nine years. EDRi is a powerful association of civil and human rights organizations from across Europe defending rights and freedoms in the digital environment. During his career he led multiple European Commission projects on Internet policy, served as a political adviser to a Member of European Parliament, and was an expert on public affairs. He currently works as a consultant.

EPIC Board Member Shoshana Zuboff presented the award to Giovanni Buttarelli. EPIC Advisory Board Members Max Schrems presented the award to Joe McNamee.

EPIC President Marc Rotenberg said, “Giovanni Buttarelli is a beacon for a data protection across the European Union and around the world. He is the guiding light for the establishment of privacy as a fundamental right in our modern age. And Joe McNamee’s dedication, perseverance, and wry humor has helped transform the politics of privacy in the EU. He has inspired both respect and fear among members of the European Parliament, and warmth and comradery among his colleagues at EDRI.”

The EPIC International Privacy Champion Award was given first in 2009 to Italian jurist Professor Stefano Rodotà. Since then the EPIC Award has gone to Australian jurist Michael Kirby (2010), MEP Sophie in’t Veld (2011), Canadian Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart (2012), EU privacy campaigner Max Schrems (2013), MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht (2014), European Data Protection Supervisor Peter Hustinx (2015), European Commissioner Viviane Reding (2016), Chair of the International Working Group on Data Protection Alexander Dix (2017), Spanish Data Protection Commissioner Artemi Rallo (2018), and Executive Director of Privacy International Gus Hosein (2018).

The EPIC Champion of Freedom Award was given first to Senator Patrick Leahy in 2004, on the occasion of EPIC’s tenth anniversary. Since that time, the EPIC Champion of Freedom Award has gone to other US Senators, Members of Congress, Federal Judges, distinguished attorneys, scholars, journalists, news organizations, CEOs, and advocates. Winners of the EPIC Champion of Freedom Award include Apple CEO Tim Cook, Senator Kamala Harris, chess champion and human rights advocate Garry Kasparov, Edward Snowden, and Judge Pat Wald.

The 2019 EPIC Champion of Freedom Awards will be presented on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

The annual CPDP conference and the presentation of the EPIC International Privacy Award occurs in conjunction with January 28, Data Privacy Day, which commemorates the day when the International Privacy Convention, Council of Europe Convention 108, was opened for signature.

The members of the jury for the 2019 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award are Professor Ross Anderson, Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge; Professor Alessandro Acquisti, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University; Professor Colin J. Bennett, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria; Professor Jennifer Daskal, Washington College of Law; Simon Davies, Founder, Privacy International and Privacy Surgeon; David Flaherty, former Commissioner British Columbia; Pamela Jones Harbour, former Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission; Professor Paul de Hert, Law, Science, Technology & Society, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Dr. Kristina Irion, Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam; Malavika Jayaram, Executive Director, Digital Asia Hub; Dr. Pablo Molina, Georgetown University; Professor Helen Nissenbaum, Cornell Tech; Stephanie Perrin; Bilyana Petkova, EPIC Scholar in Residence; Shoshana Zuboff, author *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*; and, Marc Rotenberg, President, EPIC.

## **About EPIC**

EPIC is a public interest research center in Washington, DC. EPIC was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC pursues a wide range of

program activities including policy research, public education, conferences, litigation, publications, and advocacy. EPIC works closely with a distinguished advisory board, with expertise in law, technology and public policy. EPIC maintains one of the most popular privacy web sites in the world **[epic.org](http://epic.org)**.