

Ms Henna Virkkunen
Executive Vice-President for Tech
Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
Mr Michael McGrath
Commissioner for Democracy, Justice,
the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection
European Commission

BE - Brussels

By email

BEUC-X-2025-037

Brussels, 24 April 2025

Subject: The GDPR should be better enforced, not reopened

Dear Executive Vice-President Virkkunen,
Dear Commissioner McGrath,

I am writing on behalf of BEUC – The European Consumer Organisation to raise our concerns about the risks of reopening the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR is a pillar on which the digital economy in Europe now depends and is fundamental to protecting people's right to personal data.

We are very concerned about calls to reopen the GDPR, ranging from the [exclusion](#) of some entities such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from its entire scope of application¹ to [excluding](#) even bigger companies ("small mid cap" companies) from respecting some obligations under the GDPR. This would be very problematic.

We are concerned about the 'pandora box' effect of reopening the GDPR.

It is important to remember that the GDPR received close to 4,000 amendments in Parliament and took several years to conclude, implement and then set enforcement in motion. The GDPR is a good compromise between business interests to ensure the free flow of data and the need to protect people's personal data as embedded in the EU Treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Reopening the GDPR risks creating legal uncertainty and more costs.

As the European Commission has rightly [stated](#), the GDPR is "a cornerstone for EU policy in the digital sphere." This legislation overall works well for consumers provided its provisions are properly enforced; changing this legislation would come with several disadvantages. First, changing it can create inconsistencies with other EU laws which would be counterproductive to the objective of simplifying EU law. Second, it would undermine legal certainty for businesses about which rules could change in the future.

¹ For example, BEUC's German member vzbv has raised concerns about the German coalition agreement on this matter:
<https://www.vzbv.de/meldungen/der-koalitionsvertrag-im-verbrauchercheck>
<https://www.vzbv.de/pressemitteilungen/so-viel-verbraucherschutz-steckt-im-koalitionsvertrag>

Third, as corporations have already invested in compliance with the current GDPR rules, they would have no adaptation costs if they can continue to work on the current legal framework.

Personal data protection should not depend on the size of the company.

Big or small, companies need to respect and protect people's personal data. For example, a data breach in a small company can expose people's personal data, leading to safety concerns or identity theft. Even obligations for companies to keep records of data activities help ease compliance with the GDPR. It is therefore extremely important to ensure all data subject rights and principles apply equally to all companies.

Calls to amend the GDPR do not reflect the opinion of the majority of stakeholders.

The European Commission conducted thorough evaluation reports which did not find evidence pointing to a need to reopen the GDPR. The latest [evaluation report](#) and the [Competitiveness Compact](#) instead rightly identified a need to improve its implementation and enforcement. Measures to support small companies to raise awareness about their obligations and facilitate compliance are welcome. It is in people's interest to ensure all companies comply with the law. However, this should not require amending the GDPR.

We therefore urge you to **keep building on the success of the GDPR and resist pressure to undermine it**. The focus should be on improving its implementation and enforcement, including on [cross-border procedures](#).

We would like to thank you in advance for considering our recommendations. The protections and rights of data subjects could be at risk. We trust the European Commission will defend them.

Please note that due to the overarching public interest in this matter we intend to make this letter publicly available.

Yours sincerely,

Agustín Reyna
Director General