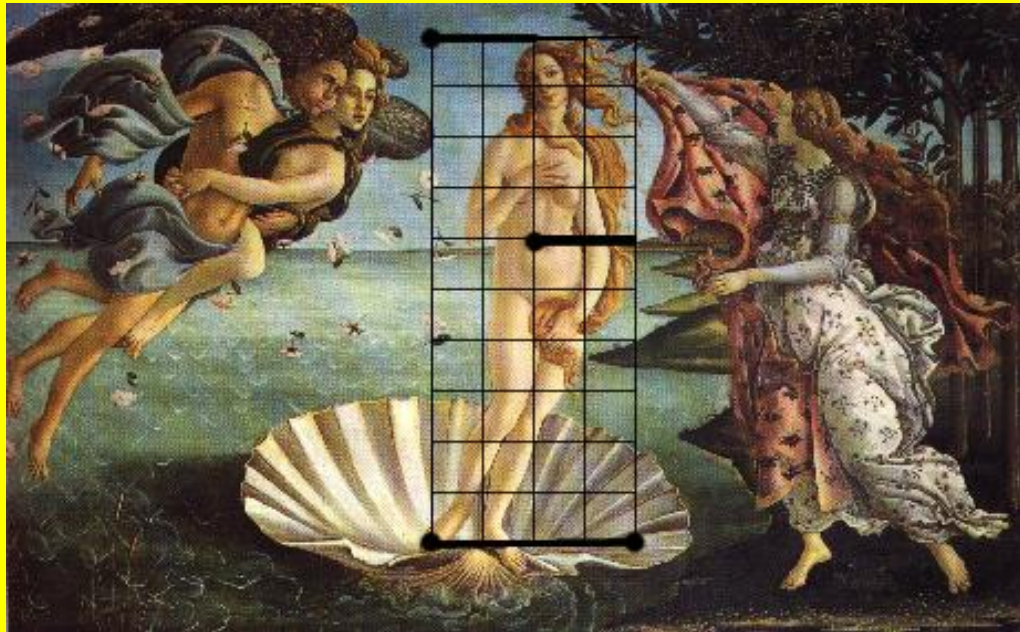




Workshop on

**Ethical and Social Implications of Biometric
Identification Technology:
Towards an International Approach**



ORGANISED BY:
European Commission – Science and Society

Brussels, 15-16 December 2005
Berlaymont Building, rue de la Loi 200,
Meeting room S7-50

BACKGROUND

This workshop is convened by the European Commission, DG Research, Science and Society, in the context of an EC funded research project on “**Biometric Identification Technology Ethics**” – BITE (www.biteproject.org).



BITE involves 9 partners (Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, University of Rome La Sapienza, University of Lancaster, Erasmus University, International Organisation of Migration, International Biometric Group, HumanScan, Optel, Esa Communication) and aims to initiate a public debate on ethical, social and policy aspects of emerging biometrics.

RATIONALE OF THE WORKSHOP

Biometric applications concern a variety of areas: civil and criminal identification, surveillance and screening, health care, eCommerce, eGovernment, physical and logical access. Most important, biometrics have been one of the chief 'technical' responses to September 11 and accurate automated systems for human identification are more and more a critical component of anti-terrorist programs. In the last four years the public outcry for better and more universally available identification technology has been significant and civic leaders have responded with legislation mandating not only better security but achieving that result using high-tech biometric devices. In his speech before the European Parliament, on 23 June 2005, Tony Blair made a priority of “developing biometric technology to make Europe’s borders secure”.



Yet biometrics evoke a range of social, legal and ethical concerns. Concerns are based on a variety of factors, including fears about the centralization of information, the development of a unique identifier, and the potential for data misuse. Moreover, the very intimate interdependence between human bodies and technology, the so-called informatization of the body, is a serious reason for concern.

Proponents of biometrics feel that education and appropriate policymaking can diminish concerns regarding the new technology. However, there is an ongoing debate among experts and policymakers about what policies should be deemed “appropriate”. What is clear is that future policies must be an international endeavour. Any effort to govern identification technologies will be global or will be ineffective.

PURPOSES

There is undoubtedly a cultural divide between US and Europe in the way in which each deals with the issue of data protection. The laws governing privacy in the US primarily address these rights from a consumer perspective, while Europe regards privacy as a basic human right. Yet it is clear that the issues raised by emerging identification technologies are going far beyond data protection. Biometrics – in its social and ethical dimension – is essentially biopolitics. Identity is a key concept of the information society. The first globalisation – between the XVI and XVIII centuries – was required to create the golden standard to ground economic transactions. Contemporary globalisation must ground electronic transactions on certainty of identity. Biometrics could become the golden standard of the new global, networked, economy.



As biometric identification technology attains a larger presence in everyday life, the issues of potential data misuse and high-tech surveillance will become paramount. Information technologies are de-centred, dispersed and disseminated, and their control and use are largely in the hands of the individuals, citizens’ groups, and enterprises. The governance challenge is no longer democratic control over centralized systems— as it was in the 20th century - but governance over decentralised, distributed systems. The current political and legal infrastructures – shaped on “hard” technology – are likely to be inadequate and expecting to deal with biometric identification technology following old schemes would be worse than wrong, would be counterproductive. There is thus a need for an international initiative on ethical and social implications of biometrics. This initiative should promote research on policies for enhanced security, respect for privacy, respect for human dignity, technological transparency. By bringing together an international, multidisciplinary group of experts involved – at various levels and in various ways – in policy advising, this workshop aims to be such an initiative.

Contact organisers:

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Workshop on Ethical and Social Implications of Biometric Identification Technology: Towards an International Approach

BRUSSELS, 15 December 2005

9.00- 9.20 OPENING:

J.M. Baer - Director, European Commission, DG Research – Science and Society
E. Mordini - Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, co-ordinator of the BITE project
K.Wadhwa – Global Security Intelligence

9.20-9.40 Welcome addresses delivered by:

Representative of the European Group of Ethics (EU)
Representative of the President's Council on Bioethics USA)

9.45 Key lecture delivered by Stephen Toulmin

Coffee: 10.30-10.45

10.50 - 13.30 1st Session: Biometrics for Border Control and Civil Identification

Chairs: D. Grondin – International Organisation for Migration – Int.Org.
S. Gutwirth - Center for Law, Science, Technology & Society Studies – BE

Rapporteur: M. Savastano – CNR – IT

Key Speakers:

- M. Donohue– Information Computer Policy Division – OECD
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- S. Rodotà – Former Chair Italian Data Protection Authority - University "La Sapienza – IT
Biometrics, the Body and the Integrity of the Person
- J. Kropf - Director of International Privacy Programs - U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – USA
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- P. Schaar - Chair EU Data protection Group (Art. 29) – DE
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Discussion

Lunch 13.30-14.30

14.30- 17.30 2nd Session: Tracking, Surveillance and Covert Biometrics

Chairs: Antonis Galetsas - DG INFSO – European Commission
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Rapporteur: I. van der Ploeg – Erasmus University - NL

Key Speakers:

- J. Woodword – Intelligence Policy Center, RAND Corporation – USA
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- C.W. Crews - Competitive Enterprise Institute – USA
Human Bar Code: Monitoring Biometric Technologies in a Free Society
- R. Küster – SMC Trust GmbH - DE
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- J.C. De Cordes - Council of Europe Directorate General of Legal Affairs
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- P.J.A. De Hert - Center for Law, Science, Technology & Society Studies - BE
Surveillance: is human dignity still an useful concept?
- K.P. Mortensen - The Privacy Office, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – USA
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- A. Liberatore - European Commission, DG RTD, Directorate K, Social and human sciences research

Discussion

16 December 2005

9.00-11.15 3rd Session: Digital Identities

Chairs: R.Chadwick – University of Lancaster - UK

I. Maghiros - Institute for Prospective Technological Studies DG JRC - European Commission

Rapporteur : A. Juels – RSA Security – USA

Key Speakers:

- D.O. Jaquet-Chiffelle – Virtual Identity and Privacy - University of Berne – CH

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- H. J. Boitel - Biometric Bits – European Biometric Portal – USA
The Individual's Right to a Unique, Efficiently Provable and Scalable Identity

- J. Caplan – University of Oxford –UK
Individual Identity Documentation - a Historical Overview

- R. Ryan - National Biometric Security Project – USA

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- M. Snijder - Biometric Expertise Group – NL

Coffee 11.15-11.30

11.30- 13.30 4th Session: The Unique Identifier dream/nightmare

Chairs: H. von Bose - Head of Unit, EC, DG ENTR

H. Chang - CEO & President – Humanscan - DE

Rapporteur : S. Bird – Massachusetts Institute of Technology - USA

Key Speakers:

- D. Blackburn – FBI Investigative Technological Division – USA

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- J. Lodge – University of Leeds – UK
Ethics and eJustice: dilemmas of ejudicial cooperation

- W. McMeechan – European Biometric Forum – IR

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- W. Bicz – OPTEL – PL
Fraud possibilities in biometric devices

Discussion

Lunch 13.30-14.30

14.00-16.00 General Discussion

Chairs: B. Renaudier - Head of Unit, EC, DG JLS

G. van Steendam - International Forum for Biophilosophy - BE

Reports from the sessions

I. M. Savastano – CNR - IT

II. I. van der Ploeg – Erasmus University – NL

III. A. Juels – RSA Security – USA

IV. S. Bird – Massachusetts Institute of Technology - USA

Coffee 16.00 – 16.15

16.15 Closing Session

Closing remarks:

E. Mordini - Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, co-ordinator of the BITE project

J.M. Baer - Director, European Commission, DG Research – Science and Society

16.45 End of the workshop