

H.E. Ambassador Declan Kelleher  
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union  
The Permanent Representation of Ireland  
Rue Froissart 50  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

American Chamber of Commerce Ireland  
6 Wilton Place, Dublin 2, Ireland

**T** +353 1 661 6201  
**F** +353 1 661 6217  
**E** [info@amcham.ie](mailto:info@amcham.ie)  
[www.amcham.ie](http://www.amcham.ie)

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Dear Ambassador,

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland wish to express our support for the timely approval and implementation of the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Agreement. We strongly encourage the Irish government to back the agreement at the next meeting of the Article 31 Committee. This would enable data flows and ensure a high standard of data protection for European and American citizens alike.

Cross-border flows of data and information now generate more economic value than the exchange of goods. The US and the EU are each other's most important trading partner in digital deliverable services and these flows represent the highest levels of cross-border data flows in the world\*. Businesses of all sizes, and across all sectors, depend on the free flow of data to compete and thrive in the global economy, to the advantage of the hundreds of millions of consumers who use their services on a daily basis.

The Privacy Shield agreement includes significant new oversight mechanisms designed to address concerns about personal data protection and dispute redress in the USA, including the appointment of a fully-independent ombudsperson and an annual review process. Timely implementation of the Privacy Shield agreement will remove a significant source of uncertainty for companies in the conduct of their businesses.

Our member firms are eager to serve their customers and comply with privacy protections on both sides of the Atlantic. Negotiators believe they have concluded a deal that allows companies to achieve these twin objectives. We urge the Irish government to support approval of the Privacy Shield agreement in the Article 31 Committee meeting.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mark Redmond**  
Chief Executive

\*'The Transatlantic Economy 2016', Centre for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC