

Press statement:

ZIA on the EU Data Act: "A practicable law is needed for the ambitious goals to really be achieved."

Berlin, 03.4.2023 - With the start of the trilogue negotiations, the legislation on the EU Data Act is entering a determining phase. ZIA therefore points out that some hurdles still need to be lowered for a European data economy to come forth. "The task of the actors in the trialogue is now to translate the positive basic idea of the Data Act into a practicable law so that the enormous potential of the European data economy is actually unleashed," explains ZIA Deputy CEO Ms. Aygül Özkan. "Regulated data access options promote the development of innovative solutions. For example, they also contribute to achieving sectoral climate protection targets by optimising energy efficiency."

ZIA considers it as essential that the trilogue negotiations succeed in creating more legal certainty through precisely defined definitions and a clearly outlined scope of application. In particular, the difference between raw data to be shared and data processed by "complex proprietary algorithms" should be clarified in an understandable way, demands Ms. Aygül Özkan. In this context, the handling of personal data should be clarified, especially in distinction to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The protection of business secrets must also be adequately taken into account.

"The Data Act is expected to have far-reaching effects on the entire European industry. That is why it is now crucial to keep the bureaucratic burden manageable," Özkan emphasises. Exemptions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and PropTechs are of great importance to ensure that the Data Act achieves sufficient momentum.

Due to the broad scope of the Data Act, it is crucial to raise awareness among companies at an early stage. ZIA wants to make a decisive contribution to this.

This scope of data exchange should be standardised for reasons of efficiency - which is why ZIA supports industry initiatives such as the International Building Performance and Data Initiative (IBPDI), the DIN SPEC ESG or the gif guidelines (real estate data exchange, data rooms and DMS).

Background:

The EU Data Act ("EU Data Act") is a planned legal framework within the European Union that aims to facilitate the free flow of data within the Internal Market and to ensure the integrity and protection of personal data. It aims to promote the use of data to support innovation, growth and competitiveness in the EU. The European Parliament adopted its position by a large majority in its plenary vote on 14 March 2023. On 24 March 2023, the Member States also agreed on a Council common position under the Swedish Presidency. The European Parliament, Commission and Council will now start the trilogue negotiations.

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ZIA

The German Property Federation (ZIA) is the leading umbrella association for the property sector. With its registered office in Berlin and a European office in Brussels, it speaks through its more than 350 members, including 30 associations, on behalf of approximately 37,000 industry companies right across the value chain. ZIA provides comprehensive, unified representation for the interests of the real estate sector in all its diversity at both national and European level, including as a member of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the German Economic Institute (IW). The President of the association is Dr Andreas Mattner.

Contact:

ZIA Zentraler Immobilien Ausschuss e.V.

Tel.: 030/20 21 585 23

E-Mail: presse@zia-deutschland.de

Internet: www.zia-deutschland.de

