



Federal Trade Commission

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
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Next Steps for Cross-Border Enforcement Cooperation

Remarks of Pamela Jones Harbour
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I. INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon. I am Pamela Jones Harbour, a Commissioner at the United States Federal Trade Commission. I begin with the usual disclaimer: the views I express here are my own, and are not necessarily those of the Federal Trade Commission or any other individual Commissioner.

I am delighted to be here in Canberra at the APEC ECSG's Data Privacy Subgroup meeting. I would like to thank the Australian Government for hosting us here today and a special thanks to Colin Minihan from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department for chairing this meeting. I am not sure if I can thank Colin for this, but I am grateful for the summer weather - a welcome reprieve from the winter coat, hat and gloves that I was wearing in Washington, DC.

I applaud the Data Privacy Subgroup on all the work it has already

accomplished. We all agree that the APEC Privacy Framework is an important vehicle to accommodate the different privacy approaches within the vast Asia-Pacific region. And I know that we all acknowledge that our work is not done. We just had a very productive two days at the implementation workshop and several interesting sessions on implementation today. As we have been discussing, these cross-border privacy rules would provide a mechanism to transfer data across the region, which is only becoming more and more crucial in the globalized economy that we live in today.

As a Commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. agency charged with protecting consumers, my perspective is one that always leads to the following question: “What does this mean for consumers?” I spent a number of years as a partner at a large law firm, and when you are at a law firm, you always think, “What does this mean for my client?” And so now, I look at it this way. I have quite a large client base in my current position as a Commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission. Consumers are my clients. And what do cross-border privacy rules mean for them?

Cross-border privacy rules, **if** implemented effectively, have the potential to provide more consistent and reliable privacy protections for personal information across the region. And, overall, such increased privacy protections could benefit consumers. In addition, consumers could also benefit in a number of ways from unrestricted information flows under cross-border privacy rules, which is another goal of the implementation of the APEC Privacy Framework. Unrestricted transfers

