

Niraj Nathwani

Notes:

Surveillance, Data Protection and the Role of the EU-Agency for Fundamental Rights

This presentation will be subdivided in two parts. The first part will be a general introduction to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and its mandate. The role of the Agency to provide assistance and expertise on fundamental rights issues to the EU institutions and Member States when implementing Community law will be explained. A special focus will be the limitations of this mandate, especially the third pillar of the EU, which the Agency can only address upon request.

The multiannual framework determines the areas on which the agency focuses and is decided by the Council of the EU for a duration of five years. The first multiannual framework of the Agency includes especially one area of relevance for the topic of the conference: information society and in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data.

The second part will be dedicated to a presentation of relevant work which the Agency has already carried out or is currently undertaking (PNR opinion and legal data protection study). Following its basic socio-legal approach, the Agency is planning follow up studies in the coming years with a focus on surveys and social studies in this area.

The Agency welcomes this conference as a possibility to brainstorm with experts to identify areas or issues where the Agency should become active to improve fundamental rights protection in the EU.

Niraj Nathwani is programme manager for legal research at the FRA and coordinates the legal experts group of the Agency (FRALEX).