



**5062/00/EN/FINAL
WP 34**

Article 29 Data Protection Working Party

**Opinion 6/2000
on the Genome Issue**

Adopted on 13th July 2000

The Working Party has been established by Article 29 of Directive 95/46/EC. It is the independent EU Advisory Body on Data Protection and Privacy. Its tasks are laid down in Article 30 of Directive 95/46/EC and in Article 14 of Directive 97/66/EC. The Secretariat is provided by:

The European Commission, Internal Market DG, Unit Free flow of information and data protection.
Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium - Office: C100-2/133
Internet address: www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg15/en/media/dataprot/index/htm

**THE WORKING PARTY ON THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH REGARD TO THE
PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

set up by Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995¹,

having regard to Articles 29 and 30 paragraphs 1 (a) and 3 of that Directive,

having regard to its Rules of Procedure and in particular to articles 12 and 14 thereof,

has adopted the present opinion:

Opinion 6/2000 on the Human Genome and Privacy

The completion of a first draft of the DNA blueprint has been recently announced by those involved in the Human Genome Project.

The Working Party recognises that this achievement of long lasting significance may permit the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in a manner previously unimaginable.

At the public presentation on 26 June it was recognised that the risks of abuse of genetic knowledge raise legitimate concerns about the privacy of individuals. The Working Party shares these concerns. The decoding of the DNA blueprint paves the way to new discoveries and uses in the field of genetic testing. On the other hand, the information can identify individuals, link them to others, and reveal complex data about the future health and development of those individuals and other people to whom they are genetically related.

The Working Party wishes to emphasise the importance of privacy as a fundamental right and the consequent necessity of deploying new genetic technologies with safeguards adequate to protect that right.

Done at Brussels, 13th July 2000

For the Working Party

The Chairman

Stefano RODOTA

¹ Official Journal no. L 281 of 23/11/1995, p. 31, available at:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg15/en/media/dataprot/index.htm>

