Committee: European Parliament

Member: Stephen Nikola Bartulica

Agenda Item: Amending Council Decision 2009/917/JHA, as regards its alignment with Union rules on the protection of personal data

As techological advancements shape the very world we live in at a dizzying pace, the implications of these changes should be discussed extensively. Among the most crucial issues brought about by this era of perpetual change is the question as to how personal data should be managed, and to what extent should it be processed without undermining the rights of civillians and not marring national prosperity and infrastructural development. A shrewd assessment of the sharp increase in the speeds at which data is created, destroyed and transferred by virtue of novel methods of data preservation, along with consideration of what the change ahead can give rise to, are both indispensable if we want to come up with solutions that are efficacious and long-lasting. It is paramount to consider and locate the delicate balance between the two ends of the spectrum, both of which are unpleasant: transgressing the right of persons to remain anonymous, and truncating advancements that will be shaping the modern world in the foreseeable future. As elucidated in the 8th Article of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the 16th Article on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, data should be regarded as personal and the security and privacy of it should be maintained at all costs. Croatia is also stringent about data protection policies, as evident from the legislation it approved as regards data protection, most notably the entries 68/18 and 42/18 that can be found in our Official Gazette. I, as a voice representing the unified will and sheer resolve of my fellow Croatians, and also the determination of my party to ensure that they live in the best Europe that we can build as the EU, am eager to try and tackle this significant issue with fellow Members that are just as enthusiastic as I am.

In order to sustainably contend with the issue at hand, I believe it is paramount that we refrain from passing acts that curtail the authority Member States have over what is laid down in their national laws, with a view to protect the sovereignty of Member States. Emphasizing that each Member State is an autonomous entity, I believe that Member States should unite in order to come up with solutions to grave issues that have sway over us all, but refrain from undermining the authority Member States have over their preexisting legislation. Throughout the conference, I will be ardently supporting concise, effective, well-defined articles that are not prone to being construed in multiple ways. I will also be paying utmost attention to whether the amendments in question recognize the sovereignty of member states and bear in mind the aforementioned balance is maintained. I sincerely hope that we will be able to come up with promising solutions in this conference.