

Stichting Bescherming Privacybelangen

Board of Directors' report 2024

Activities and results

Stichting Bescherming Privacybelangen (the “**Foundation**”) was incorporated on 30 December 2021 under the laws of the Netherlands as a not-for-profit organisation (*zonder winstoogmerk*) and was established to protect the interests of consumers in the Netherlands who are affected by Google’s privacy violations. More information about the Foundation’s purpose and mission can be found on its website www.stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com and in the Foundation’s Articles of Association available on its website.

The Foundation is committed to protecting Google users’ right to privacy and ensuring that Google will no longer compromise their rights when it collects, processes, stores, and transfers personal data derived from the use of its products, tools, and services. The Foundation insists that Google fundamentally change its business practices, which are in breach of Dutch and European consumer and privacy laws. In addition, the Foundation seeks to secure financial compensation for consumers who, at any time on or after 1 March 2012, have used one of Google’s many products and services while residing in the Netherlands and are as such affected by Google’s violations of the law (the “**Aggrieved Parties**”).

To achieve these goals, the Foundation has joined forces with the Consumentenbond in 2022 and had its writ of summons vis-à-vis Google served on 12 September 2023. In the course of 2024, Google filed written defenses on formal issues and asked the Court to declare the Foundation inadmissible. On 26 June 2024, the Foundation hosted an event for participants in Jaarbeurs Utrecht, where participants were updated on the status of the proceedings. In addition, the Foundation established a panel of participants. The panel members will be asked to provide input on certain decisions of the Foundation or to share their views on certain topics with which the Foundation is concerned. On 22 October 2024, the first oral hearing took place before the District Court of Amsterdam addressing the defenses raised by Google. At the time of the oral hearing, the Foundation received the support of already more than 150,000 participants. In addition, the Foundation obtained the support of important privacy interest organizations.

Management

The board of directors of the Foundation ("Board") consists of the following members:

- A.P.M. van der Veer-Vergeer (Chair)
- B.M.A. van Eck
- I.S. Rubinstein

The supervisory board of the Foundation ("Supervisory Board") consists of the following members:

- B.F.M. Knüppe (Chair)
- C.H. Zietman
- A.E. Waldman

The Supervisory Board acts in policy matters as an advisor for the Board. The Board is responsible for decision-making and its implementation. The Supervisory Board supervises amongst others the strategy, material decisions and the annual reporting of the activities, income, expenses and the financial position of the Foundation.

Financial statements

The Foundation has entered into an exclusive funding agreement with Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP ("LCHB"). LCHB finances the activities of the Foundation for the benefit of the Aggrieved Parties. In exchange, LCHB is entitled to a specific percentage of the recovery for Aggrieved Parties, ranging between 18-25%, payable only if the Foundation obtains a recovery for Aggrieved Parties.

The Foundation's day-to-day costs mainly comprise the Board and Supervisory Board members' remuneration and the costs of the Foundation's advisors such as its legal counsels. Each of the Board and Supervisory Board members invoices the Foundation in accordance with the applicable engagement agreement between the Foundation and each of the Board and Supervisory Board members.

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Claim Code Compliance

The Stichting endorses the Claim Code that came into force on July 1, 2011 as amended on March 4, 2019 (the “**Claim Code**”). The Claim Code consists of principles (the “**Principles**”) that are considered to be broadly accepted general guidelines and views on how claim foundations and associations should represent collective interests, including – but not limited to – litigation. The Principles create a set of standards for the founders, members of the Board and Supervisory Board, consultants and advisors engaged by the Foundation. The Foundation complies with the Claim Code. This is further elaborated on in the Claim Code compliance reports the Foundation publishes on its website on a yearly basis. (<https://stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com/en/documents>).

Ongoing affairs and Future outlook

On 15 January 2025, the District Court of Amsterdam declared the Foundation admissible in the collective action against Google. On 23 April 2025, the District Court of Amsterdam decided to stay the proceedings pending confirmation of the District Court of Rotterdam that it would refer questions to the Court of Justice of the European Union on the interpretation of art. 80 GDPR.