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**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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Right to Privacy

Statement  
by  
Edo  
Korljan

On behalf of the Council of  
Europe

Geneva, 7 March 2017

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

Let me start by praising the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy for his second annual report and his relentless actions of promotion and protection of this right.

In an era where arbitrary or unlawful interference with the right to private life is facilitated by technological means, the states wishing to preserve their democracy need to cherish the right to privacy and personal data protection more than ever before.

The Council of Europe is attached to the global promotion of standards in this area, as the right to privacy, and as we are striving to find a workable mechanism to achieve cyber peace through cyber security.

We therefore continue to implement and promote globally our two high relevant open treaties and our data protection Convention and our cybercrime Convention, which are also praised by the Special Rapporteur in his report. We noted with great interest his reference to the data protection Convention as setting out globally the minimum standards in the field. Indeed, Senegal, Uruguay and Mauritius, have already joined the Convention. Efforts of our Cybercrime Committee of the cybercrime Convention to address the issue of access to data by law enforcement in cloud computing environments are also highlighted in the report of the Special Rapporteur. Equally, his call for a multilateral mechanism tackling national security and surveillance carried out in the name of national security is noted with great interest.

The Council of Europe stands ready to continue working with United Nations bodies and mechanisms, and all interested countries, to ensure that the right to privacy is effectively protected in the digital era.

Turning now towards the work of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, we wish to congratulate her for shedding more light to the phenomenon of illegal adoptions. In this context, we revised our Adoption Convention in 2008 and I call to our member states to sign it and ratify it.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.