

***Appreciation letter to Sophie Kwasny, Head of the Data Protection Unit of the Council of Europe***

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have the honour to present to you the profile of another winner of the Michał Serzycki Data Protection Award, **Ms. Sophie Kwasny**. Ms. Sophie Kwasny is the Head of the Data Protection Unit of the Council of Europe. The role of the Council of Europe is to set the personal data protection standards by promoting the values of the Convention 108 of the Council of Europe and pursuing the data protection and privacy policy. Sophie is a graduate of the Strasbourg Law University and has been working for the Council of Europe for 20 years on a variety of topics ranging from prison's reforms to medical insurance, or from the independence of the judiciary to nationality law.

I wish to sincerely thank you for the educational activities in the field of personal data protection undertaken by you within the Council of Europe. The Michał Serzycki Data Protection Award is the recognition of the Council of Europe's activities aimed at promoting data protection values and the right to privacy, as well as of special awareness, efforts and involvement in this area.

The activities conducted in cooperation with the Council of Europe are of special importance for the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection. Therefore, at this point I would like to emphasise the exceptional involvement of Ms. Sophie Kwasny and her support provided for many years not only to GIODO, but to all data protection authorities in the initiatives undertaken for the benefit of data protection, for which I am very grateful. It would be hard to list all the projects and initiatives aimed at promoting the right to privacy implemented by the Council of Europe, but let me mention at least the projects addressed to children, numerous trainings and conferences, in particular those destined for countries in which personal data protection is still developing, e.g. the Eastern Partnership countries, promoting the idea of the Data Protection Day.

The contribution of Sophie Kwasny to the works on the modernisation of the Convention 108 cannot be overestimated, either. The content-related contribution of Ms. Sophie Kwasny as representative of the Council of Europe has undoubtedly led to the success of the educational activities undertaken by GIODO.

Dear Ms. Kwasny,

Taking this special opportunity, on behalf of myself and my predecessors as the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection, I wish to warmly thank you for all the years of successful cooperation, thanks to which it was possible to achieve the objectives in the field of data protection and the right to privacy pursued both by the Council of Europe and by the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection. On behalf of all of us gathered here today, I would like to express our appreciation, respect and sincere thanks to you.

Edyta Bielak- Jomaa, PhD

Inspector General for Personal Data Protection