Press Release

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European Parliament's IMCO Committee approves Alex Agius Saliba's Opinion on the Data Protection Act by a large majority

Earlier today, the European Parliament's IMCO Committee voted by a large majority in favour of the Opinion prepared by MEP Alex Agius Saliba on the Data Protection Act.

The European Commission's proposal introduces amendments to the Data Act, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and e-Privacy rules, while also proposing the repeal of the Platform to Business Regulation.

As rapporteur, Alex Agius Saliba opposed any form of deregulation and instead worked to strengthen data rules that protect the interests of European citizens and businesses.

"While I support the idea of bringing different European Union data rules under a common regulatory framework through the Data Act, it was clear that we could not support any form of deregulation that would undermine the protection of our citizens' data. We managed to secure the support of a solid majority of political groups behind this Opinion, which strengthens the elements needed to give a boost to the European data economy," said IMCO Committee rapporteur, MEP Alex Agius Saliba.

As a special category of data intermediation services, the Opinion introduces a new actor, the Data Expert Representative, who will be able to negotiate better terms and conditions for the use of data.

"For small businesses, such as restaurants and hotels, transparency regarding the way major technology platforms operate is essential. These businesses depend on such platforms to reach their customers, and therefore repealing these European rules could lead to serious and unintended consequences. We are calling on the European Commission to present a proper impact assessment before proposing the withdrawal of the regulation governing platforms," concluded MEP Alex Agius Saliba.