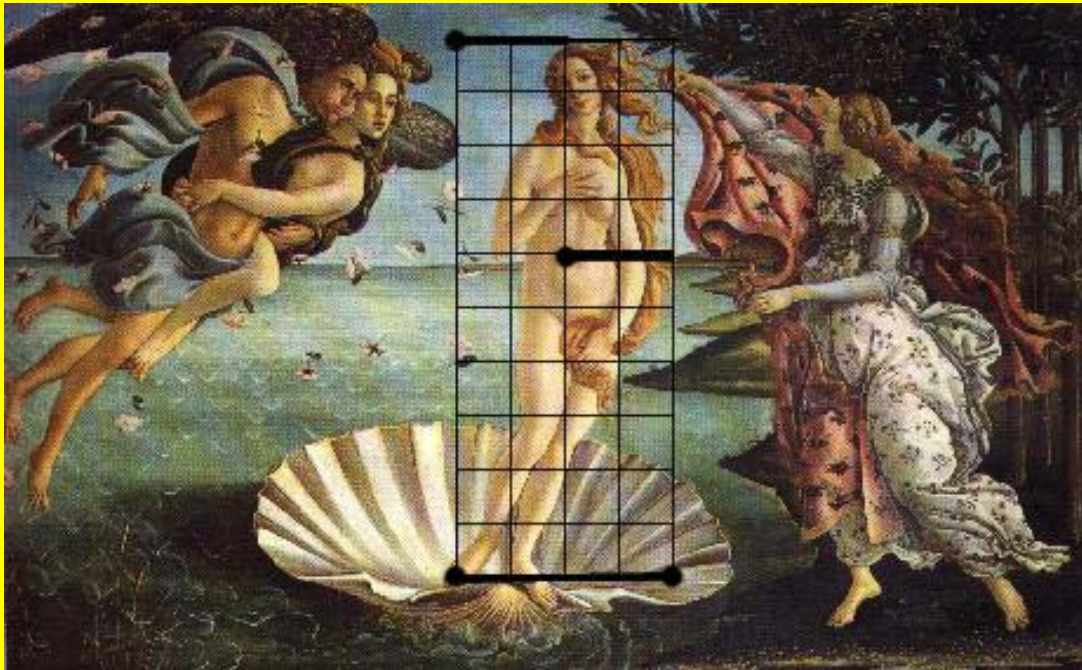




Workshop on

**Ethical and Social Implications of Biometric  
Identification Technology:  
Towards an International Approach**



**ORGANISED BY:**  
European Commission – Science and Society

**Brussels, 15-16 December 2005**  
*Berlaymont Building, rue de la Loi 200,*  
*Meeting room S7-50*

## BACKGROUND

This workshop is convened by the European Commission, DG Research, Science and Society, in the context of an EC funded research project on "**Biometric Identification Technology Ethics**" – BITE ([www.biteproject.org](http://www.biteproject.org)).



Biometric applications concern a variety of areas: civil and criminal identification, surveillance and screening, health care, eCommerce, eGovernment, physical and logical access. Most important, biometrics have been one of the chief 'technical' responses to September 11 and accurate automated systems for human identification are more and more a critical component of anti-terrorist programs. In the last four years the public outcry for better and more universally available identification technology has been significant and civic leaders have responded with legislation mandating not only better security but achieving that result using high-tech biometric devices. In his speech before the European Parliament, on 23 June 2005, Tony Blair made a priority of "developing biometric technology to make Europe's borders secure".

## RATIONALE OF THE WORKSHOP

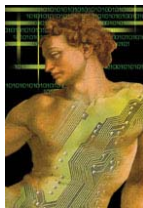


Yet biometrics evoke a range of social, legal and ethical concerns. Concerns are based on a variety of factors, including fears about the centralization of information, the development of a unique identifier, and the potential for data misuse. Moreover, the very intimate interdependence between human bodies and technology, the so-called informatization of the body, is a serious reason for concern.

Proponents of biometrics feel that education and appropriate policymaking can diminish concerns regarding the new technology. However, there is an ongoing debate among experts and policymakers about what policies should be deemed "appropriate". What is clear is that future policies must be an international endeavour. Any effort to govern identification technologies will be global or will be ineffective.

## PURPOSES

There is undoubtedly a cultural divide between US and Europe in the way in which each deals with the issue of data



protection. The laws governing privacy in the US primarily address these rights from a consumer perspective, while Europe regards privacy as a basic human right. Yet it is clear that the issues raised by emerging identification technologies are going far beyond data protection. Biometrics – in its social and ethical dimension – is essentially biopolitics. Identity is a key concept of the information society. The first globalisation – between the XVI and XVIII centuries – was required to create the golden standard to ground economic transactions. Contemporary globalisation must ground electronic transactions on certainty of identity. Biometrics could become the golden standard of the new global, networked, economy.

As biometric identification technology attains a larger presence in everyday life, the issues of potential data misuse and high-tech surveillance will become paramount. Information technologies are de-centred, dispersed and disseminated, and their control and use are largely in the hands of the individuals, citizens' groups, and enterprises. The governance challenge is no longer democratic control over centralized systems— as it was in the 20th century - but governance over decentralised, distributed systems. The current political and legal infrastructures – shaped on "hard" technology – are likely to be inadequate and expecting to deal with biometric identification technology following old schemes would be worse than wrong, would be counterproductive. There is thus a need for an international initiative on ethical and social implications of biometrics. This initiative should promote research on policies for enhanced security, respect for privacy, respect for human dignity, technological transparency. By bringing together an international, multidisciplinary group of experts involved – at various levels and in various ways – in policy advising, this workshop aims to be such an initiative.

## *European commission*



### **Dr Maurizio Salvi (Secretary of the workshop)**

European Commission  
Research Directorate -General  
Directorate C - European Research  
Ethics and Science  
SDME 07/64 - B - 1049 Brussels  
[Maurizio.Salvi@cec.eu.int](mailto:Maurizio.Salvi@cec.eu.int)

### **Prof. Emilio Mordini**

BITE Project Coordinator  
Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship Via Sistina 37 – 00187 Rome – IT  
[e.mordini@bioethics.it](mailto:e.mordini@bioethics.it)

**WORKSHOP ON ETHICAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY: TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH**

**BRUSSELS, 15 DECEMBER 2005**

**9.00- 9.20 OPENING:**

**J-M. Baer** - Director, European Commission, DG Research – Science and Society

**E. Mordini** - Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, co-ordinator of the BITE project

**K. Wadhwa** – Global Security Intelligence

**9.20-9.30 Welcome addresses delivered by**

Representative of the European Group of Ethics (EU)

**9.30-13.30 1ST SESSION: BIOMETRICS FOR BORDER CONTROL AND CIVIL IDENTIFICATION**

Chairs: **D. Grondin** – International Organisation for Migration

**S. Gutwirth** - Center for Law, Science, Technology & Society Studies – BE

Rapporteur: **M. Savastano** – CNR – IT

**Introduction by D. Grondin 9.30-9.40**

9.30-9.55 **S. Rodotà** – Former Chair Italian Data Protection Authority - University “La Sapienza – IT

Questions (10 minutes)

10.05 -10.20 **K.P. Mortensen** - The Privacy Office, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – USA  
*What is Privacy in the Context of Biometrics?: Fair Information Principles Applied to Biometric Data Collection, Use, and Retention*

Questions (10 minutes)

10.30-10.45 **M. Donohue**– Information Computer Policy Division – OECD  
*OECD work on privacy and security: a first look at biometrics*

Questions (10 minutes)

10.55 -11.10 Coffee

11.10-11.25 **J. Kropf** - Director of International Privacy Programs - U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – USA  
*Cross Border Information Sharing Using Biometrics - Transparency and Accountability*

Questions (10 minutes)

11.35-11.50 **J. Lodge** – University of Leeds – UK  
*Ethics and eJustice: dilemmas of ejudicial cooperation*

Questions (10 minutes)

12.05-12.20 **D. Blackburn** – FBI Investigative Technological Division – USA  
*Overview of Biometrics within the US Government*

Questions (10 minutes)

12.30-12.45 **R. Küster** – SMC Trust GmbH - DE

Questions (10 minutes)

12.55 General Discussion

**13.20 Conclusive remarks by S. Gutwirth**

Lunch 13.30-14.20

**14.20- 18.00 2ND SESSION: BIOMETRICS FOR SCREENING AND SURVEILLANCE**

Chairs: **G. E. Schumacher**, DG INFSO, – European Commission  
**P. Youn** - International Biometric Group - US

Rapporteur: **I. van der Ploeg** – Erasmus University - NL

**Introduction by Guenter Egon schumacher 14.20-14.30**

14.30-14.45 **J. Caplan** - University of Oxford - UK  
*Individual Identity Documentation - a Historical Overview*  
Questions (10 minutes)

14.55- 15.10 **A. Liberatore** - DG RTD, Programme on Social Sciences and Humanities Research  
*Balancing" security and democracy: the case of biometric identification in the EU*  
Questions (10 minutes)

15.20-15.35 **W. Crews** - Competitive Enterprise Institute – USA  
*Human Bar Code: Monitoring Biometric Technologies in a Free Society*  
Questions (10 minutes)

**Coffee break 15.45-16.00**

16.00-16.15 **W. McMeechan** – European Biometric Forum – IR  
*Public Perceptions of Biometrics*  
Questions (10 minutes)

16.25-16.40 **R. Ryan** - National Biometric Security Project – USA  
*A Draft Protocol for the Collection, Use, Dissemination and Storage of Biometric Data*  
Questions (10 minutes)

16.50-17.00 **P.J.A. De Hert** - Center for Law, Science, Technology & Society Studies - BE  
*Biometrics: a question of liberty or human dignity*  
Questions (10 minutes)

17.10-17.25 **M. Kosaka** - Smart Identification Solution Division, Information & Telecommunication Systems,  
Hitachi Ltd – JA  
*Finger vein authentication technology and its applications to realization of secure society*  
Questions & Comments (10 minutes)

17.35 *General Discussion*

**18.00 Conclusive remarks by P. Youn**

**16 DECEMBER 2005**

**9.00-11.20 3RD SESSION: DIGITAL IDENTITIES**

Chairs: **R. Chadwick** – University of Lancaster - UK

**I. Maghiros** - Institute for Prospective Technological Studies DG JRC - European Commission

Rapporteur: **D. Kreuzer** - University of Siegen - DE

**Introduction by R. Chadwick 9.00-9.10**

9.10-9.25 **J. Daugman** – Cambridge University - UK  
*What now is biometrically possible*

Questions (10 minutes)

9.35-9.50 **D.O. Jaquet-Chiffelle** – Virtual Identity and Privacy - University of Berne – CH  
*Biometrics in the light of Virtual Identities*

Questions (10 minutes)

10.00-10.15 **M. Snijder** - Biometric Expertise Group – NL  
*Where do we want biometrics to go*

Questions (10 minutes)

10.25-10.40 **H. J. Boitel** - Biometric Bits – USA  
*The Individual's Right to a Unique, Efficiently Provable and Scalable Identity*

Questions (10 minutes)

**Conclusive remarks by I. Maghiros 10.50-11.00**

**Coffee break 11.00-11.20**

**11.20- 13.20 4TH SESSION: THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER: DREAM OR NIGHTMARE?**

Chairs: **Representative from** DG ENTR

**H. Chang** - CEO & President – Humanscan - DE

Rapporteur : **S. Bird** – Massachusetts Institute of Technology - USA

**Introduction by Representative from DG ENTR 11.20-11.30**

11.30-11.45 **P. Schar** - Chair EU Data protection Group (Art. 29) – DE  
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Questions (10 minutes)

11.55-12.10 **A. Maceo** - Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis Study and Technology - USA  
*Biometrics: Gold Mine or Land Mine for Law Enforcement?*

Questions (10 minutes)

12.20-12.35 **W. Bicz** - OPTEL – PL  
*Fraud possibilities in biometric devices*

Questions (10 minutes)

12.45-13.00 **I. Dror** - University of Southampton - UK  
*Identification, Technology, and Human Experts: Where might it go wrong*

Questions (10 minutes)

**Conclusive remarks by H. Chang 13.10-13.20**

**Lunch 13.20-14.20**

**14.20-17.00 GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Chairs: **N. Ringou** -, EC, DG JLS

**G. van Steendam** - International Forum for Biophilosophy - BE

**Introduction by N. Ringou 14.20-14.30**

**Reports from the sessions**

14.30-40 **M. Savastano** – CNR - IT

14.40-50 **I. van der Ploeg** – Erasmus University – NL

15.00-10 **D. Kreuzer** - University of Siegen - DE

15.10-00 **S. Bird** – Massachusetts Institute of Technology - USA

**Coffee break 16.00 – 16.10**

**16.10-16.30 Discussion**

*Participants are kindly requested to register themselves for the general discussion before the opening of the session.*

**Summary of the discussion by G. van Steendam**

**16.40 Future initiatives**

**16.40-16.50 E. Mordini** - Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, co-ordinator of the BITE project

**16.50-17.00 Final Remarks delivered by J-M. Baer** - Director, European Commission, DG Research – Science and Society