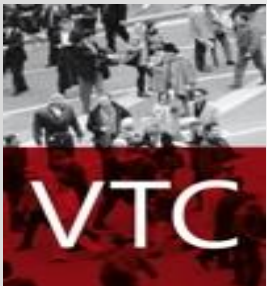




AI's security and privacy dilemma – Perspectives from the Flemish data protection authority

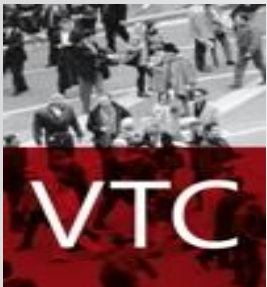
BE-CYBER - 2025 COFFEE EDITION, 7 October 2025

Hans Graux, President of the VTC



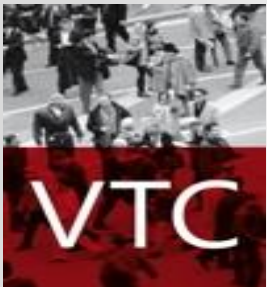
About the VTC

- The VTC (*Vlaamse Toezichtcommissie – Flemish Supervisory Committee*) is the **independent data protection authority for Flanders**, and an **Article 77 authority** under the AI Act.
- The VTC **supervises data protection (GDPR) compliance** by (among others):
 - ☐ Advising on new Flemish legislation
 - ☐ Advising on new projects / initiatives (upon request, or upon its own initiative)
 - ☐ Investigating complaints
 - ☐ Investigating data breaches
- The VTC has a “**hands-on, close proximity**” tradition since 2010.



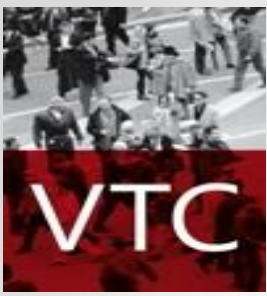
The VTC's prior experiences with AI

- (As an important aside: **AI is increasingly *everywhere***, in every policy domain. When it's not there, it's coming).
- AI in general office/productivity, labour, fraud detection, education, automated supervision, chatbots, ...
- June 2025 Round Table on AI, with senior administrators



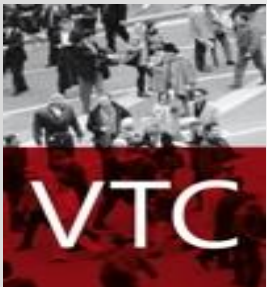
Concerns and priorities (I)

- **Where will the data go?** GDPR: international transfers
 - Your working data, *and* your queries?
 - How clean is your system?
- **What is the AI supposed to do?** GDPR: purpose and proportionality.
 - Do you have a clear plan, or is it a fishing expedition?
 - Is your deployment tailored to that plan (including changes in circumstances)?
- **How will the AI affect citizens?** GDPR: automated decision making
 - Will citizens know that AI is involved?
 - Can you explain the AI's decisions (be fair & realistic about “decision support”)?



Concerns and priorities (II)

- **Is it safe?** GDPR: appropriate technical and operational measures
 - Do you have a security plan?
 - How dependent is the AI on your current technical infrastructure?
- Do you **manage risks, or just document your acceptance of them?**
 - This is arguably *the* central challenge for the future: AI should not be pushed back; but it should be used fairly and responsibly. Efficiency alone is not enough.
 - In the VTC's context: remember that citizens and civil servants usually don't have a choice. Don't easily accept risks on their behalf.



Thank you for your attention!

Questions or comments?

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www.vlaanderen.be/vlaamse-toezichtcommissie