



# DATA BREACH & SME

**Prof. dr. Patrick Van Eecke**

Global Co-chair Data Protection and Cybersecurity Practice  
Professor University of Antwerp

# Your speaker

Dr. Patrick Van Eecke is a partner with the Intellectual Property & Technology department of DLA Piper, and global co-chair of the Data Privacy and Security Group. He has more than 20 years of experience in advising clients in areas such as e-commerce, marketing, data protection, IT, telecom and e-signatures.

He is extensively involved in diverse consulting projects for the European Commission, national governments and multi-national global corporations.

Patrick is a professor at the University of Antwerp, teaching European Information and Communications Law. He is also a guest lecturer on Internet law at various universities, such as Solvay Business Institute, Kings College London and Queen Mary University of London.

Some recommendations:

- Highly commended for the firm's Privacy "GDPR" client offering (FT Innovative Lawyers Awards 2018)
- Listed as Acritas Star™ Lawyer 2017 (Acritas Star Lawyers' report 2017)
- Awarded Best Law Firm of the Year (Trends Legal Awards 2017)
- Awarded Best IT, IP and TMT Law Firm of the Year (Trends Legal Awards 2017)
- Commended for Client Service (Chambers Europe Awards 2016)



**Partner, Brussels**  
**Global co-chair of the Data Privacy and Security Group**

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## Education

Harvard Business School  
Leadership for professional services firms; KU Leuven – PhD; Stanford University – research fellow; LL.M. Universität Trier; Law degree KU Leuven; Law degree Université de Rouen.

## Admissions

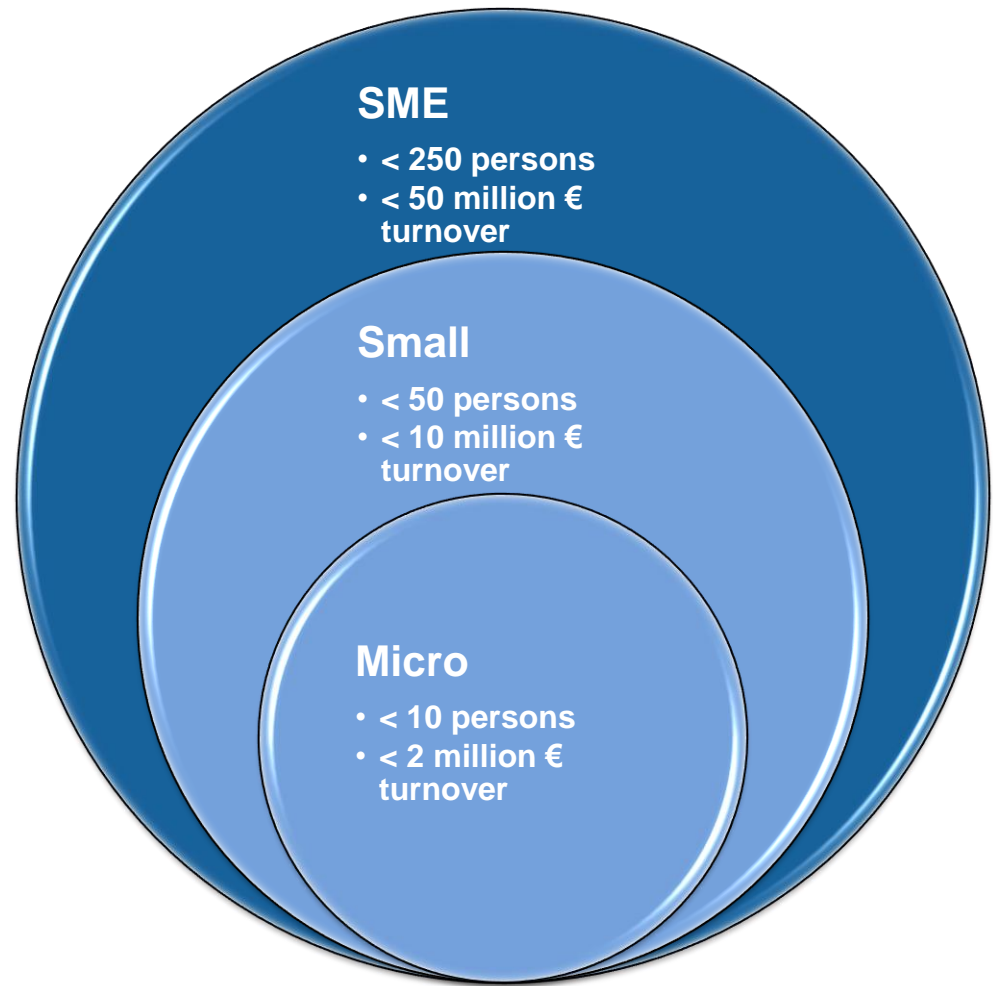
Member of the Brussels Bar (since 1994)

## Languages

Dutch, English, French

# Definition of a SME

- Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC
  - Enterprise: any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form
  - E.g. self-employed persons, family businesses, partnerships or associations.



# The DNA of a SME

Focus on  
business, less  
on risks

Tackle the  
issues when  
they arrive

Compliance is a  
cost

DIY mentality  
("I can do!")

No in house  
counsel or  
"generalist" in  
house counsel

No DPO or just  
formal  
appointment

# Discussing data breach with SME's

GDPR, is that not meant to regulate Facebook, not us?

Don't worry, we will take care of it when it comes

I will take care of it, I also handle IT and finance

It will never happen to us, we are a small fish in the pond

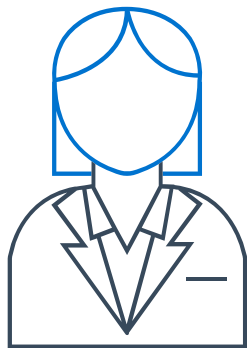
We do not process personal data

Please no procedures or handbook, we are a SME

**Busy, busy, busy!**

**But I finally found the time to join a seminar on GDPR.**

**GDPR has no secrets for me any longer !**

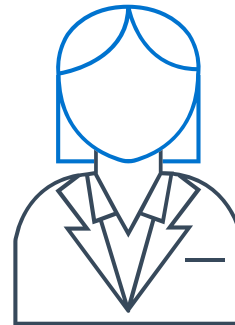


**CFO**



Sales manager

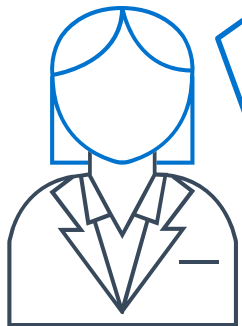
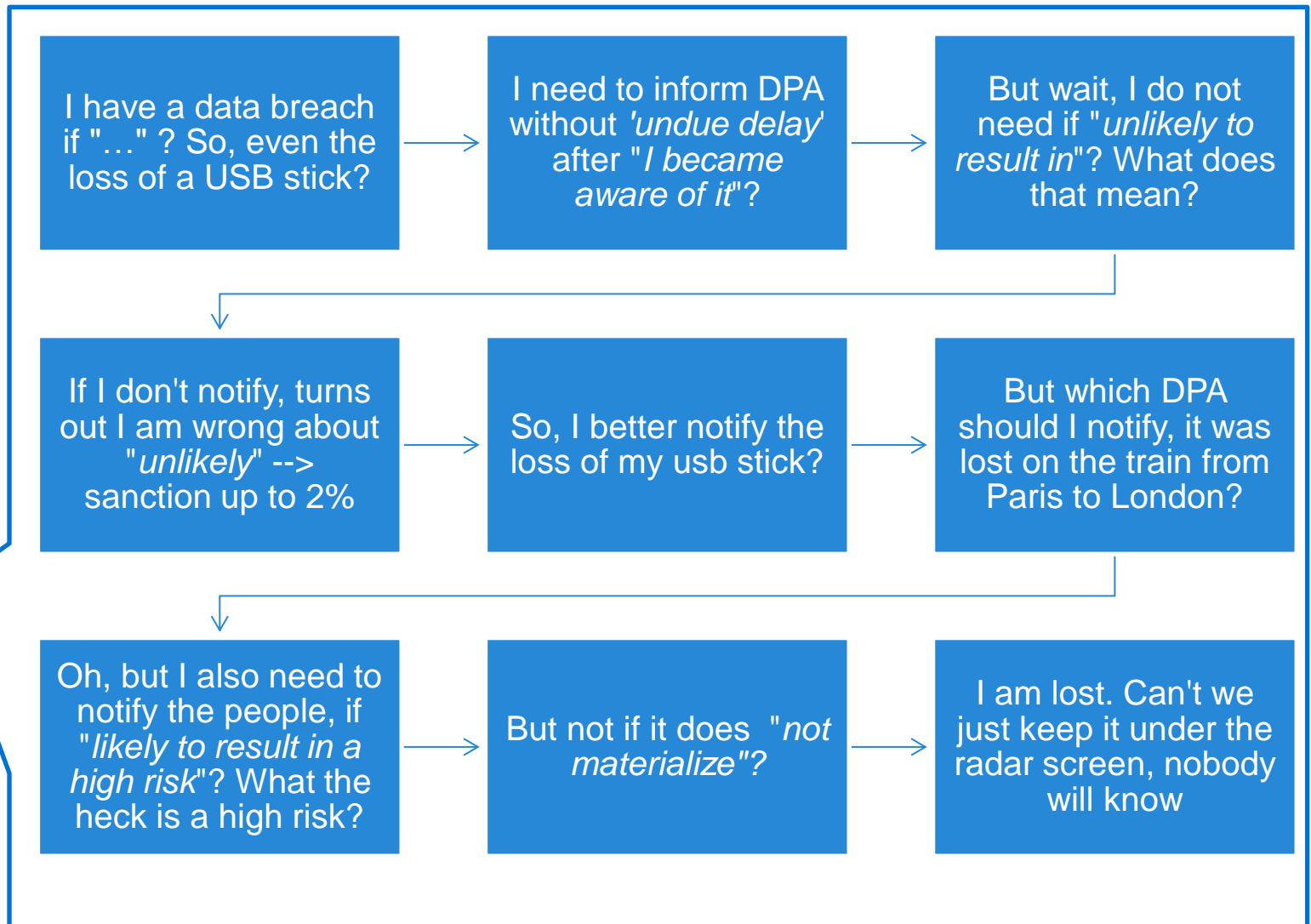
Good morning Lydia, I think I lost my USB stick with our customer data yesterday evening in the train.



CFO

Hmm, Jamie, that sounds like a data breach.  
We should investigate this!

# Help, a data breach!



CFO

**Panic & lost in GDPR lingo**



# Result: Once a cyber incident occurs: how SME reacts?

## Based on gut feeling

- Do nothing: It will go away
- Panic: Overreact and notify everything by default, bad press communications

## Results in

- Non-compliance
- Increased risk for data subjects
- Reputation risks

# How can we help SMEs to better prepare themselves?

Don't believe  
SME's will  
change their  
SME **mentality**

Create  
**awareness** and  
provide training

Provide clear  
**guidelines** using  
practical rules of  
thumb

Provide **self-**  
**service tools** that  
can be used by  
non-experts

# Building a plan based on 3 pillars

## I. PREPARE

- **Invest in prevention!** Build Cyber resilience by investing in information security measures and applying the rules throughout the company
- Train the team before it happens in real: engage in a "**Table top exercise**"
- Check if your cyber incidents are covered by your insurance. Consider getting a **cyber insurance**
- **Review your 3rd party contracts**, because you probably work with many service providers acting as processors
- Create a **one pager** rules of thumb in case of cyber incident, just like you have in case of fire, or other incidents
- **Already engage with specialist support services** (a law firm, forensics firm and PR firm) so that in case of breach one phone call would suffice to get started

## II. ACT

- Assemble **incident response team** with all relevant stakeholders.
- Instruct staff **not to speculate or discuss** the incident in writing, on social media or with the press.
- Set up a **communications workstream** and avoid the temptation to reassure when you don't know the facts.
- Set up an **investigation workstream** using forensics and legal teams to ensure the right focus and to maximise privilege. Control document creation.
- **Preserve** computer logs (stop automatic overwrite) and secure evidence.
- Set up a **notification workstream** to determine which regulators, individuals and law enforcement agencies need to be notified in which jurisdictions (and what must be notified and how). Notification deadlines are extremely short.
- Check which **insurance** is likely to engage and notify insurers. Maintain a log of losses arising and ensure compliance with terms of the policies.
- Keep a **detailed log** of the incident, investigation and response documenting the decisions taken as this may be required as evidence for regulators, claimants and other stakeholders.
- Require staff and customers to **change passwords**. Consider offering credit and fraud monitoring services (which may be a legal requirement in some jurisdictions).
- Set up **regular pulse reports** to management and staff and customers.

## III. AFTER CARE

- Deal with potential **third party claims**
- Respond to **investigations** / enforcement action by data protection or other interested regulatory authorities
- Formal legal **action against** third parties who may have contributed to the incident, eg vendors or employees breaching contract terms / codes of conduct
- **Post incident review** - lessons learned, gap analysis, adopt technical and organisational improvements

# Enisa: important role to play

