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### **Operational note**

7 May 2008

For immediate use

### **The Transatlantic Battle Over Information**

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London and the Society for Advanced Legal Studies, are pleased to announce a lecture entitled: "The Transatlantic Battle over Information: US and EU clashes over passenger data, financial transactions and corporate disclosures," which takes place on Thursday 8 May 2008, 6-7pm, Russell Square, London.

James Michael, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and editor of Privacy Laws & Business International will be speaking and the event will be chaired by Lord Justice Sedley.

When the first UK Data Protection Act was passed in 1984, The Times leader explained that commerce, not privacy, was the motor for such legislation: different national data protection standards could become non-tariff trade barriers. With EU standards harmonised by the 1995 Directive, attention turned to a possible conflict in the transatlantic information market from the lack of equivalent legal standards in the US. The first shot was fired by an order from the UK prohibiting the transfer of mailing lists to a US sales promoter. That has now expanded to an EU/US war, with continuing battles over air passenger information, scrutiny of international financial transactions and forced corporate disclosures to US regulators and courts. Thus far, conflicts have been resolved, if only temporarily, by a series of ad hoc agreements and compromises. On the horizon are future conflicts over data protection and competition law. One possible solution could be a global privacy standard, with disputes over

whether it would be a harmonising or a levelling-down instrument.

(This event is free. For further information see: [www.sas.ac.uk/events/view/4343](http://www.sas.ac.uk/events/view/4343) . If you wish to attend please RSVP to [IALS.Events@sas.ac.uk](mailto:IALS.Events@sas.ac.uk) )

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### **Notes to editors**

Privacy Laws & Business provides an independent international privacy laws information service.

**Clients** include many of the world's largest companies and specialist lawyers in almost 50 countries.

In the United Kingdom, the company provides services to help its private and public sector clients comply with both the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The company's website is [www.privacylaws.com](http://www.privacylaws.com)