

B. Braat

I have one question / suggestion for the Guidelines on controller and processor, which is:

Could the EDPB give its thoughts on the role of a bankruptcy receiver in case it is the receiver of a processor who has gone bankrupt. Does the receiver then acquire the role of controller with regard to the data for which the bankrupt processor was processor, because the receiver has a legal duty to settle the bankruptcy? Or does the receiver remain a processor for the customers / controllers who had stored the personal data with the bankrupt processor?

The latter position seems to be most in line with the GDPR: the controller is responsible for compliance with all provisions of the GDPR. It has determined the purposes and the means of the processing. The processor can only process the personal data on the controller's instruction. If the processor's (more or less static) legal position were to change into a controller because of its bankruptcy, this would mean the original controllers (customers) would lose the control over the personal data and the receiver is – subject of course to complying with the GDPR - entitled to determine the purpose and the means of the processing.

The receiver will likely however immediately run into problems there because the processing by the receiver (e.g. selling the personal data) is almost always likely not to be compatible with the original controller's purpose of the processing. It seems undesirable and also not compatible with the GDPR, to assume the receiver becomes the controller of the data. Thus, the opposite appears more desirable and compatible with the GDPR, namely that the receiver remains processor for the personal data for which the bankrupt company was processor.