

To:

European Data Protection Board (EDPB)

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Subject: Concerns Over the Use of GDPR to Justify a Ban on Bitcoin in the European Union

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Dear Members of the European Data Protection Board,

I am writing to express serious concern over any effort to interpret or apply the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR/DSGVO) in a manner that could lead to a de facto or de jure ban on Bitcoin or related decentralized technologies within the European Union.

1.

Misapplication of GDPR Principles

Bitcoin, as an open-source, decentralized protocol, does not operate with a central entity acting as a controller or processor of personal data in the sense intended by GDPR. Holding an entire permissionless network to compliance standards designed for centralized institutions sets a dangerous legal precedent. It risks undermining legal certainty, while unfairly targeting a neutral and globally accessible technology.

2.

A Tool for Human Rights and Financial Inclusion

Bitcoin provides a means of financial empowerment for individuals around the world — especially the poor, the unbanked, and those living under authoritarian regimes or in inflationary economies. Millions of people in developing countries already rely on Bitcoin to preserve their savings, conduct cross-border transactions, and escape financial censorship.

A ban in the EU, or even rhetoric that delegitimizes its use, would undermine global financial inclusion and Europe's stated commitment to supporting fundamental rights and development goals worldwide.

3.

Decentralization as a Democratic Safeguard

Bitcoin's decentralized nature reflects core democratic values: freedom, privacy, transparency, and resistance to authoritarian control. No single party governs the Bitcoin network, and this lack of central authority makes it more resilient to censorship and abuse. To treat decentralization as a legal liability rather than a democratic feature would contradict both the spirit and the letter of European constitutional values.

4.

Economic Sovereignty and Deflationary Design

Bitcoin's fixed supply and deflationary character offer individuals a hedge against monetary instability, currency debasement, and reckless fiscal policies — phenomena that have historically caused enormous suffering, especially among lower-income groups. In a time of increasing concern about the erosion of savings and real wages due to inflation, Bitcoin offers an alternative that protects purchasing power over time.

To ban or restrict access to such a tool — particularly in defense of speculative data protection concerns — would be both economically regressive and ethically unjustified.

5.

Preserve Technological Neutrality and Innovation

The European Union has long upheld the principle of technological neutrality. Using GDPR to target open financial networks undermines this commitment and risks stifling innovation across blockchain, cryptography, and financial technologies that could lead to more privacy-preserving systems — not fewer.

Rather than pushing such technologies away, the EU should engage constructively to ensure alignment with its core values, encouraging technical solutions to privacy challenges rather than preemptive legal exclusions.

6.

Recommendations

- Affirm that decentralized protocols cannot be considered “data controllers” under the GDPR unless specific actors in the network actively and knowingly process personal data.
- Engage with technical and civil society experts to better understand the mechanics of blockchain systems and avoid regulatory overreach.
- Promote guidelines and best practices for privacy within decentralized systems, rather than resorting to punitive or prohibitive interpretations.

Conclusion

Bitcoin is not a threat to the GDPR. Rather, it is an expression of individual liberty, financial self-determination, and democratic decentralization — all of which align with Europe's foundational principles. Any attempt to restrict or ban Bitcoin under the banner of data protection would not only be legally and technically flawed, but also unjust, economically harmful, and in conflict with the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

I respectfully urge the European Data Protection Board to resist such efforts and to ensure that Europe remains a champion of freedom, innovation, and inclusion in the digital age.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Konig