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### Hamburg DPA demands information about privacy protection from the operators of the Clubhouse app

The Clubhouse app is currently the talk of the town and has seen a considerable rush of users. This is quite understandable. At the moment, many people have an overwhelming interest in a new discursive platform that promises exciting communication and informal exchange with others. However, the app raises many questions about the privacy of users and third parties.

For example, the address books in the mobile devices of those users who invite other people are automatically read out and stored by the operators in the USA. As a result, contact data of numerous people, without them even coming into contact with the app, ends up in foreign hands, where they can then be used for purposes of advertising or contact requests. According to their own statements, the operators also store the recordings of all conversations held in the various rooms of the app in order to track abuses without the closer circumstances becoming transparent.

Providers offering services to European users must respect their rights to transparent information, the right of access, the right to erasure and the right to object. At the same time, there is an obligation to guarantee technical and organizational measures to protect the data. There are currently some doubts about all of this with the Clubhouse app. The Hamburg DPA has therefore coordinated with the other German supervisory authorities and sent a catalogue of questions to the operators in California to check compliance with European data protection law.

Johannes Caspar, Hamburg Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information: "Unfortunately, it happens time and again that providers from the U.S. enter the European market or are simply successful with their products and services in the EU without complying with the most basic data protection requirements of the European digital market. Here, it is important to point out early which rules apply on the playing field of Europe and to enforce them. It is in the interest of all European users to be able to use services that do not violate their own rights or those of others and that do not open up to the principles of privacy protection only after years of strengthening links with the users in Europe."

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