

To: Dr. Jonathan Levy ask+request-6840-f3e5f03d@asktheeu.org

Brussels, 17 May 2019

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref No 2019-13

Dear Mr. Levy

We refer to your e-mail dated 22/04/2019 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 24/04/2019 under reference number 2019/13.

You requested access to “all working papers and other information that address the GDPR and its application to Bitcoin and other crypto currencies.”

We have identified 6 documents in our possession that fall within the scope of your request.

You may reuse the documents requested free of charge for non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that the source is acknowledged and that you do not distort the original meaning or message of the document/documents. Please note that neither the EDPB, nor its Secretariat assume liability stemming from the reuse.

To facilitate our assessment and your consultation of the files, the titles of the files have been adequately numbered. We will refer to the numbers of each single file in our assessment below.

1. Full disclosure

The three documents that can be fully disclosed are publicly available at the following addresses:

- <https://edpl.lexxion.eu/article/edpl/2018/1/6>
- <https://academic.oup.com/idpl/article/8/2/103/5047578>
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/150761/TAX3%20Study%20on%20cryptocurrencies%20and%20blockchain.pdf>

2. Partial disclosure

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, alongside the scope of your request, I have come to the conclusion that full disclosure of the documents cannot be granted. Some parts of the documents have been redacted as the information either falls outside the scope of your

request or its disclosure is prevented by the following exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of Regulation 1049/2001:

Document falling partially outside the scope of your request:

- Documents 1, 2, 3

Exceptions applicable under Article 4 Regulation 1049/2001:

1. **Exception 4(3), 1st paragraph.** The disclosure of the redacted parts would seriously undermine the decision-making process of the EDPB as they relate to a matter where a decision has not been taken by the Board and contain discussions, views and/or opinions of the EDPB members, of members of its Secretariat or of third parties. The disclosure of said discussions, views and/or opinions would prevent the involved parties of contributing for internal discussions in an unrestrained and uncensored manner, thus seriously impairing the quality of the discussions and, ultimately, of the decision-making process of the EDPB.

Moreover, rapporteurs were redacted in order to avoid unnecessary pressure from external parties regarding the discussions and guidance provided, which would seriously undermine the decision-making process of the EDPB.

This exception applies to the following documents:

- Documents 1, 2, 3

Please, also note that all metadata containing direct or indirect identifiers that would allow for an identification of a specific data subject was removed for the entirety of documents assessed in accordance with Article 4.1.b) of Regulation 1049/2001.

The exceptions laid down in Article 4(3) of Regulation 1049/2001 apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the documents. We have not been able to identify such an interest.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the European Data Protection Board to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the following email address: edpb@edpb.europa.eu. Please make reference to the case number of your request in the subject.

Yours faithfully,



Ventsislav Karadjov

Vice-Chair of the EDPB

Secretariat of the European Data Protection Board

rue Wiertz, 60
1047 Brussels

Info note



EDPB Plenary meeting, 14-15 May 2019

ITEM 4.2.2. – 9-10 April INFO NOTE - Blockchain – Request for mandate

Technology Expert Subgroup

I. Background

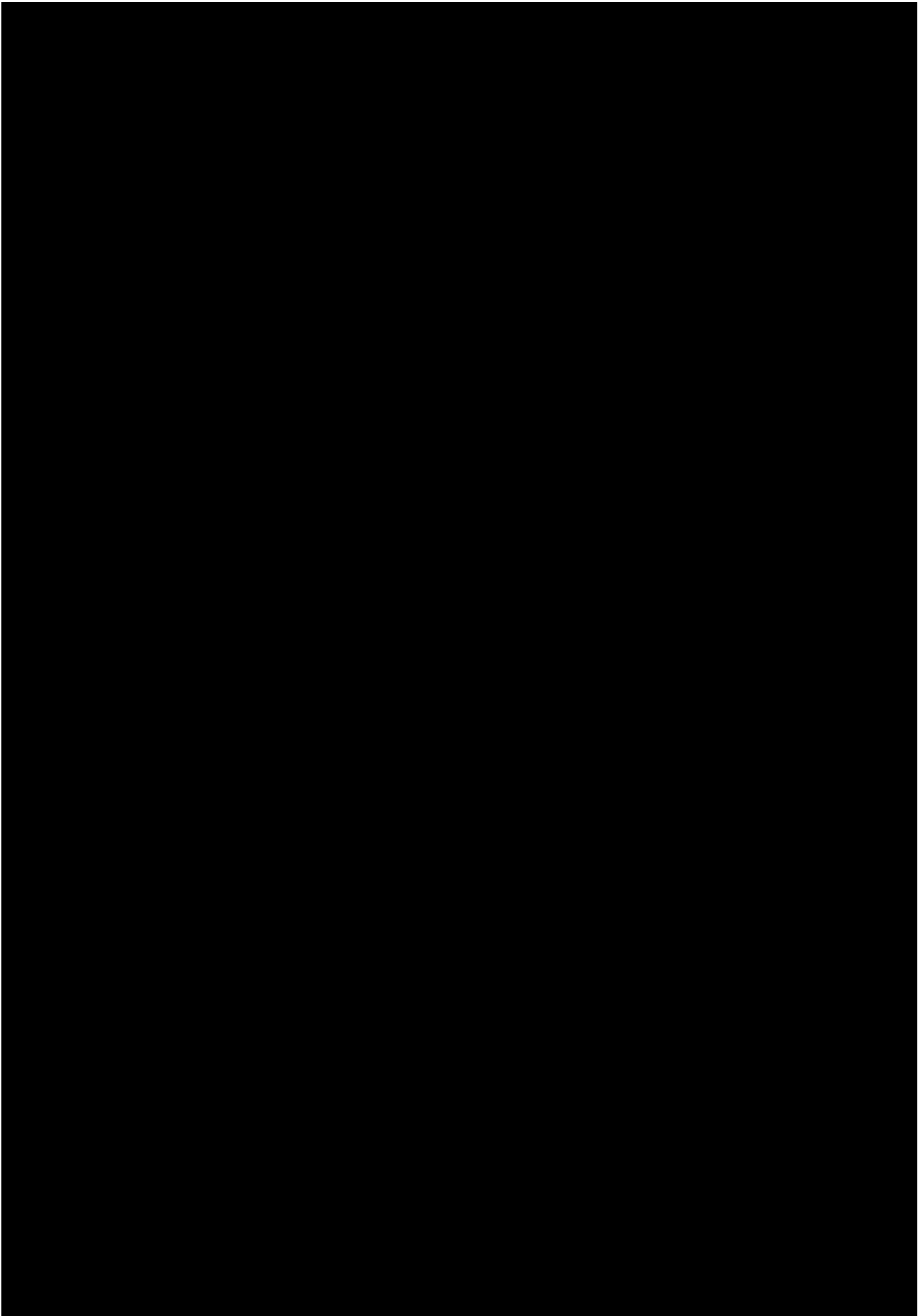
A “Blockchain” is a distributed digital ledger system that can confirm transactions and establish who owned some digital asset (cryptocurrency, files) at a given time. A blockchain-based ledger system needs no central authority that must be trusted by all parties, and that is vulnerable to outside influence. The integrity and trustworthiness of the system are based on cryptographic proofs.

The first work on cryptographically secured chains of blocks was published in the 90s. One of the practical implementations is the transaction system for the Bitcoin cryptocurrency, which was designed around 2008 by someone using the pseudonym of Satoshi Nakamoto¹. In the last few years, the interest in the use of Blockchain has hugely increased, to the point that Blockchain is considered to be one of the buzzwords of the year 2018.

The use of Blockchain based systems is promoted for various purposes in various sectors (healthcare and notarization are among them), and would in most cases include the processing of personal data. Early versions of Blockchains, especially those, which were used as publicly traded cryptocurrencies, were often incorrectly considered as anonymous. Some of them process and store huge quantities of personal data in ways difficult to apprehend and to control.

However, the suggested fields of application of Blockchain technologies is much wider than cryptocurrencies.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satoshi_Nakamoto





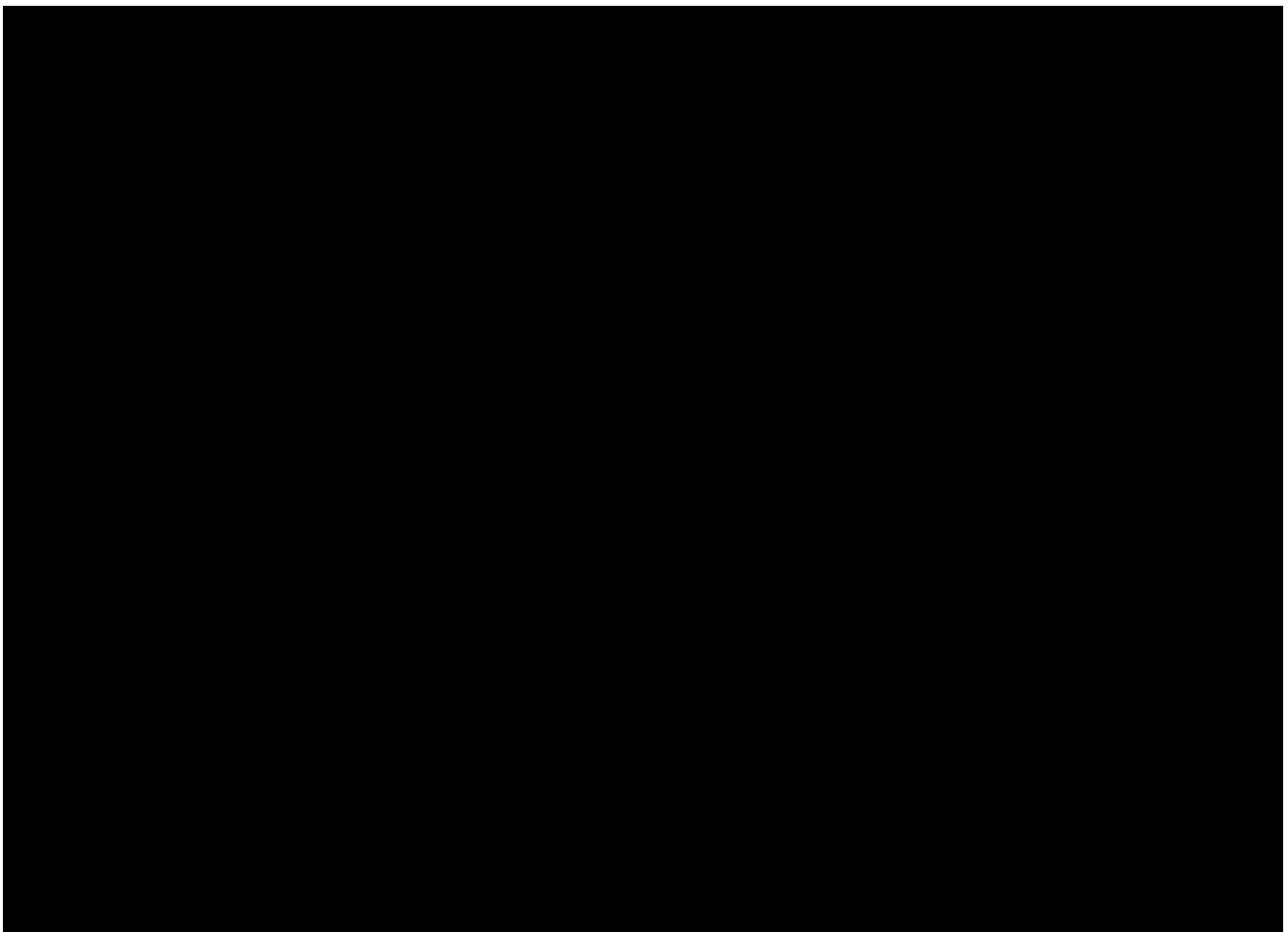
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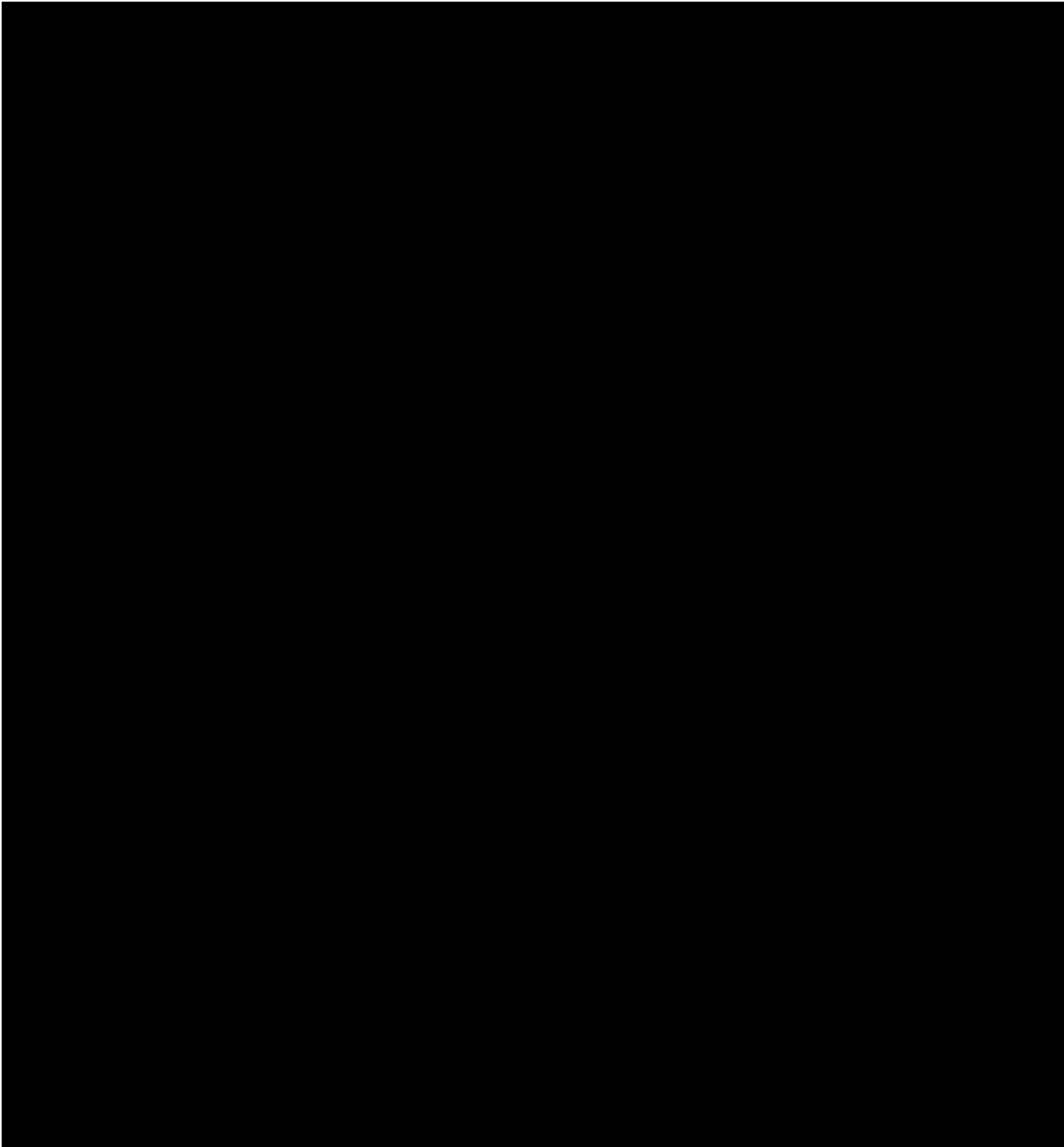
Financial Matters Subgroup meeting
15th November 2018, EDPB premises, Brussels

Welcome by the Coordinator

Approval of the Agenda

The order of the draft agenda was amended and approved.

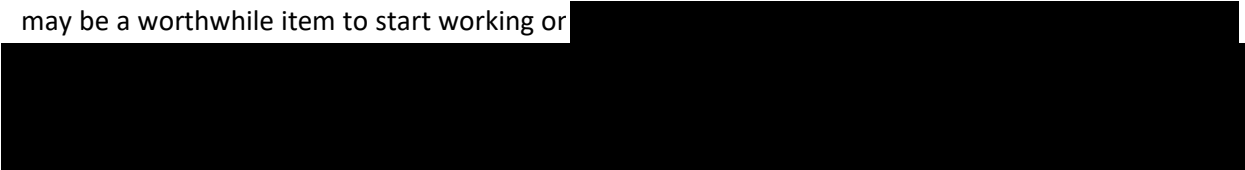


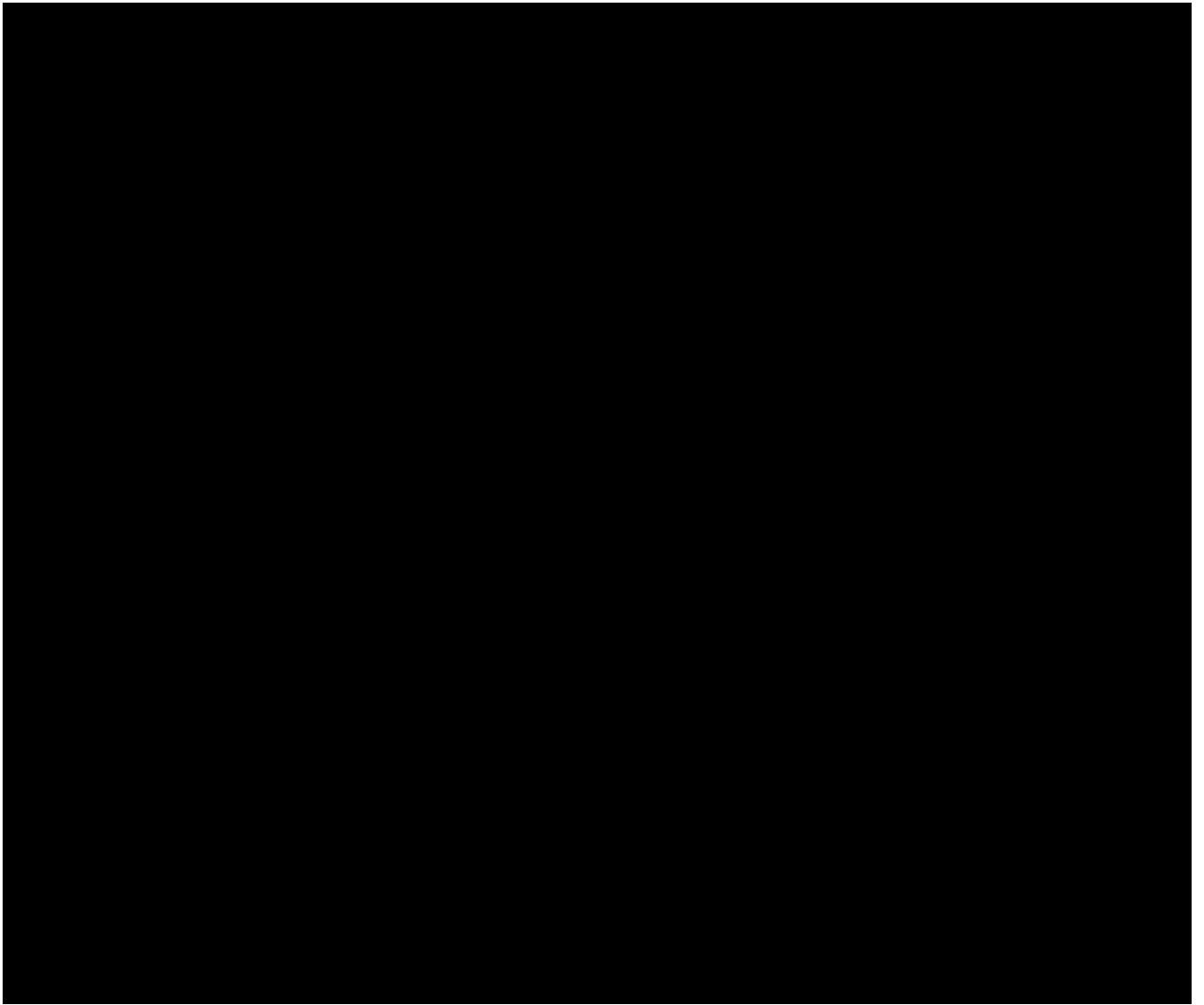


Blockchain and crypto currencies

The subgroup had a preliminary discussion on blockchain and crypto currencies which, amongst others, referred to a report by the European Parliament and the work done by the [redacted] on blockchain.

Although blockchain does not inherently have to do with financial matters, a focus on crypto currency may be a worthwhile item to start working on [redacted]





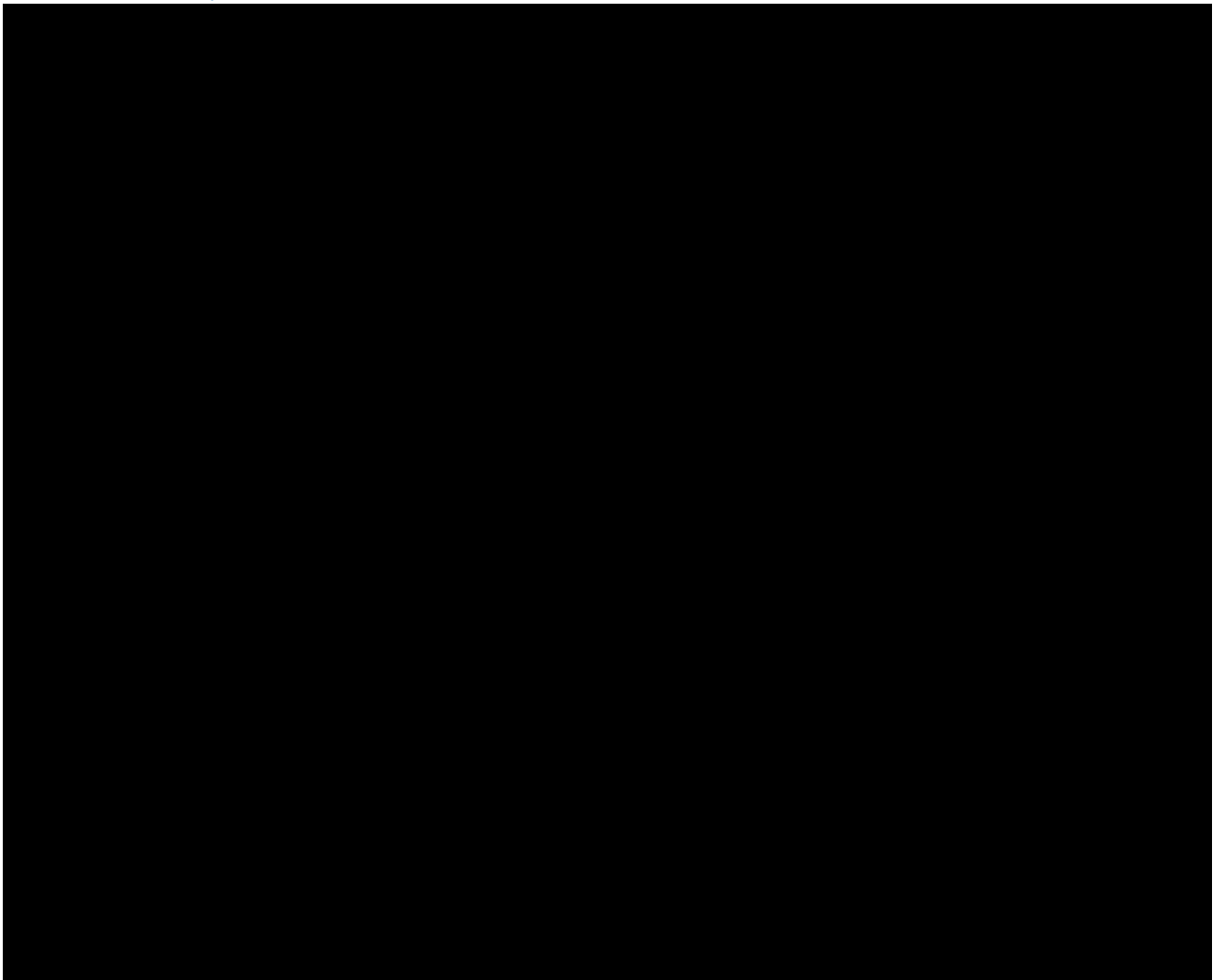


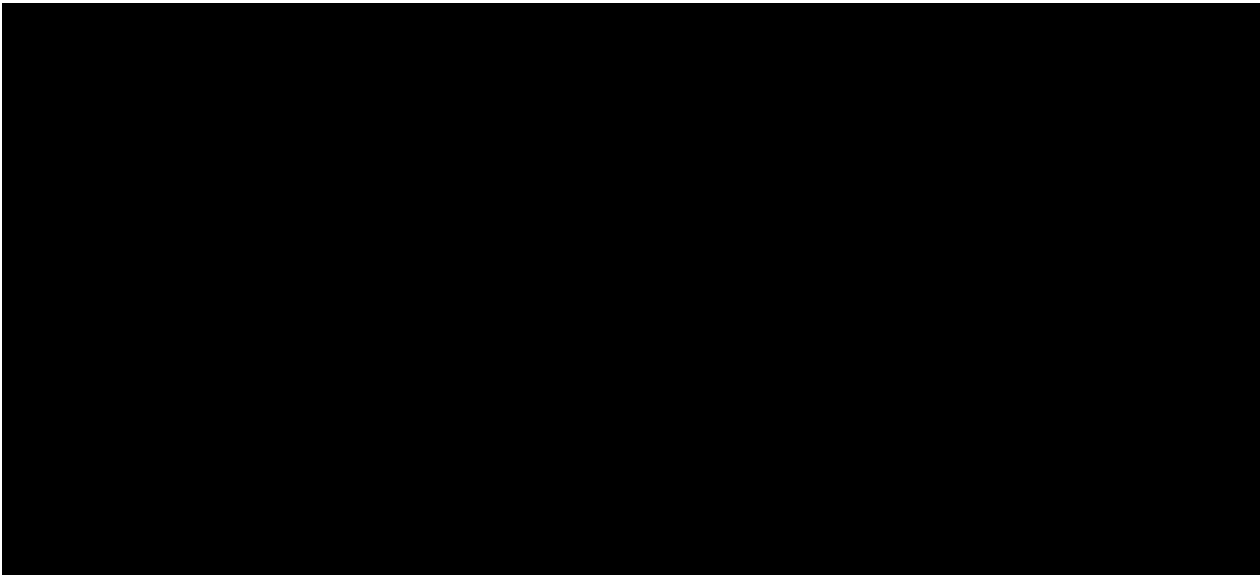
**Coordinators phone call
20 December 2 pm.
Draft annual working plans for 2019**

1. Welcome

The Secretariat of the EDPB welcomed the participants and suggested to work on the basis of the info note it has prepared.

2. Discussion points





— Cryptocurrencies

