

Principle Decision No. 2026/2035 of the Personal Data Protection Board

12/10/2026

Principle Decision No. 2026/2035 of the Personal Data Protection Board (the “Board”) dated 16 September 2026 (the “Decision”) was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Türkiye on 8 October 2026.

The Decision states that the monitoring by employers of corporate e-mail accounts belonging to them is subject to certain conditions with regard to the protection of employees’ personal data and the freedom of communication.

Accordingly, prior to any monitoring activity, employers must clearly inform employees of the purpose, scope and method of the monitoring, as well as the circumstances in which the content of communications may be accessed. The Board has characterised the review of e-mail content as a more severe interference with employees’ rights than the monitoring of traffic data and log records. Accordingly, content monitoring may be resorted to only where there is a concrete suspicion, the monitoring is necessary and the same purpose cannot be achieved through less intrusive means. The decision emphasized that an employer is not legally entitled to access all data that it can technically access, and that monitoring must be purpose-related, limited in scope, and proportionate. Practices contrary to the principles set out in the Decision may, depending on the nature of the specific case, result in administrative action under Law No. 6698 on the Protection of Personal Data.

The relevant Board decision:

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