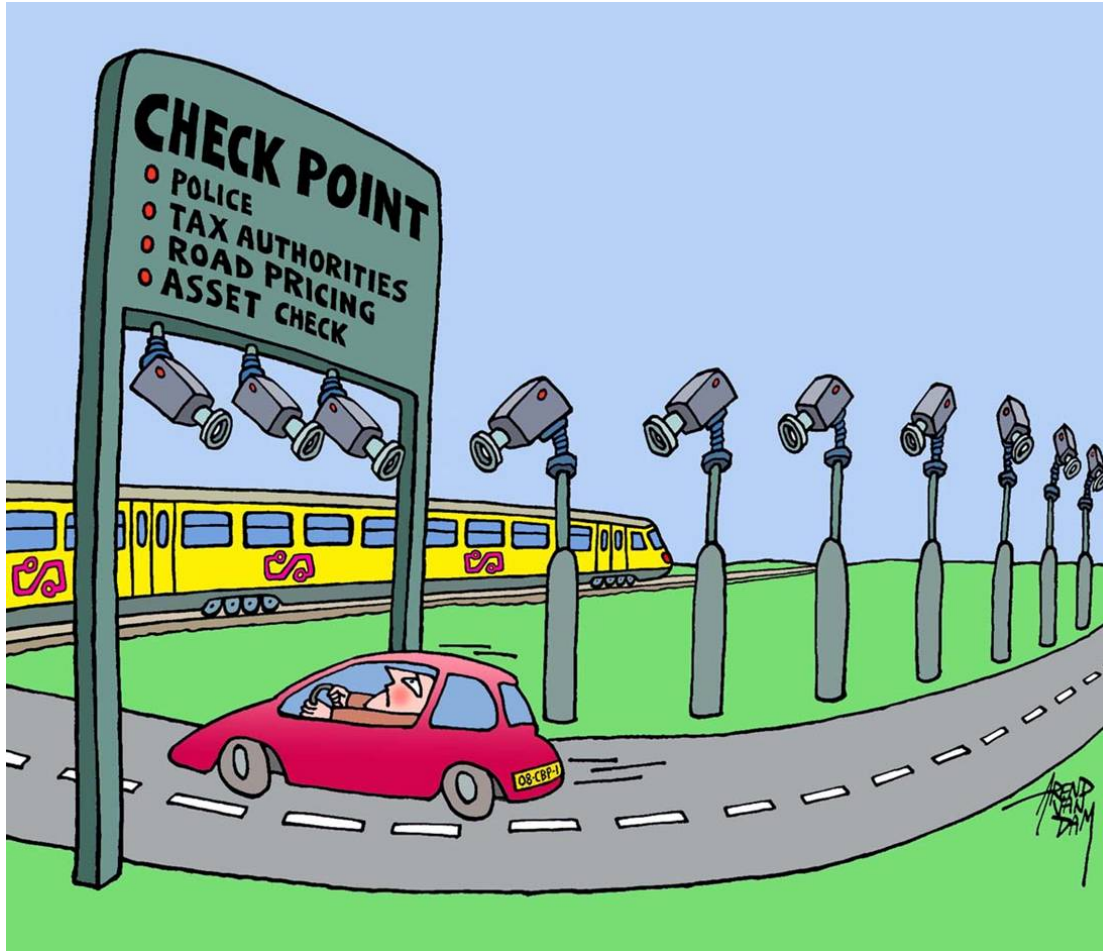# Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

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Expert Dutch DPA

Police and Justice matters

- Introductory remarks
- Cases: police forces using ANPR
- DPA questionnaire
- Guidelines
- Future

ANPR concept

- to automatically recognise and compare number plates
- comparison with a file that contains a selection of number plates
- hit: direct action = immediate follow-up
- increase the effectiveness of police action

Development of ANPR in NL

- before 2005: to measure the average speed
- after 2005: pilot projects

- idea of creating a virtual castle moat to intercept "evildoing" and to stop crime

- storing all scanned number plates for 4 months

- collection of data of government bodies in police files

- searching for patterns based on all scanned number plates

- collecting number plates of mopeds

Cases

- Police forces facilitating tax authority
- Police force using ANPR permanently

Police force facilitating tax authority

Facts:

- tax authority data used by the police for ANPR purposes

- different laws applicable for police data and tax authority data

- not obligatory for the police to notify subjects when police data is being processed

Results of the investigation:

- drivers were not notified

- the tax authority data was not processed for police purposes

- the data would be stored in police files, maximum of 10 years

Conclusion:

- two different kinds of data were processed together in police files, without police purposes

- tax authority data was stored in police files
- the Dutch DPA found the processing unlawful

- ordered the police force to stop

- the police force did not carry on with the processing

Police force using ANPR permanently

Facts:

- fixed camera's above the road

- permanent registration

- purpose: to solve criminal offences (mobile banditism)

- drivers are not being informed

- retention period of 7 days

No investigation by the Dutch DPA

A lot of publicity

Decision to make a statement by creating Guidelines

DPA questionnaire

Purpose:

- comparison of the use of ANPR in other EU Member States

- to form an opinion on the use of ANPR by the police

Questions asked

Results:

- 12 member states

- mainly for enforcement purposes

- hit/no hit-system

- fixed and mobile camera's used

- no new legislation created

Guidelines

Reason to create guidelines:

- lack of clarity concerning legislation

- no uniform use of ANPR by the Dutch police forces

Purpose:

- compliance

- for the benefit of the DPA: to set a framework for investigation

Content of the Guidelines

a) Data selection

b) Processing scanned number plates

c) Cooperation between the police and other government bodies
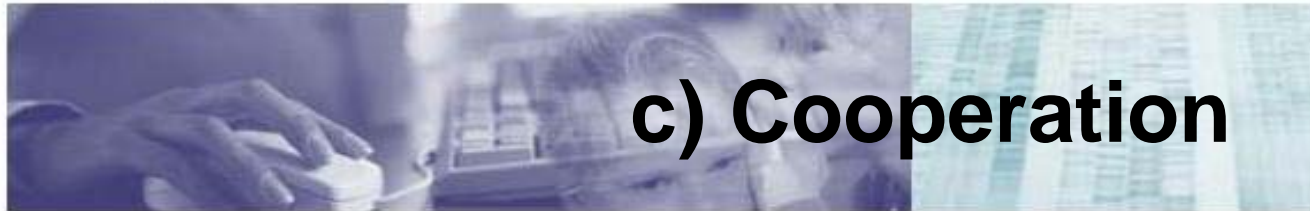
a) Data selection

- A selection of number plates

  - vehicles or persons alerted

  - specific and current suspicion

  - or in the interest of public order

- Determined by purpose of the specific police task

- Immediate action necessary

- Quality of data is crucial

b) Processing scanned number plates

- Hits:

  - retention as long as necessary for the purpose

  - further processing for other purposes only if this is provided for by law

- No hits: to distroy immediately !

- Patterns: only on the basis of aggregated data

c) Cooperation

- Police data vs government body data for public-law duties
- Different laws: data must be processed in strict separation

  - government body has own grounds for scanning number plates, police is only involved in relation to the ANPR equipment

  - police provides scanned number plates corresponding to the law on police data

- No hits must be destroyed immediately

Future

- Guidelines:

  - incorporate consultation results, if necessary

  - publish the final guidelines

- Investigation:

  - end of the year: possible investigation of the use of ANPR by several police forces, based on the guidelines

Questions?

Thank you for your attention !