



## Editor's Foreword

*You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data.*<sup>1</sup>

IT, Internet, social networks, smartphone, cloud computing, big data – keywords that are combined in this Tilburg Law Review Special Issue with phrases and keywords such as ‘fight against terrorism’, ‘data protection’, ‘human rights’, and ‘surveillance’.

We live in a fast-developing world. In this world much can change with just one ‘click’. The threats and benefits of the era of ‘big data’ do not hide in the quantity of data that is surrounding us but rather in the use of these data. This has also given a new meaning to the word *terrorism*. The heavily debated concept of *terrorism* has become a stretched elastic band in the playground of legal interpretation.

The Tilburg Law Review serves as a forum for leading, peer-reviewed scholarship debating on issues of international and European law. Therefore, I am happy to present you the current and very topical Special Issue on ‘Privacy and National Security in the Digital Age’. What should prevail – personal data protection or prevention of terrorism? I hope that in this Tilburg Law Review Special Issue you will find more information that helps you to frame an answer to this question. Perhaps you will even discover more questions and research gaps concerning this fast-developing issue.

The topic of counter-terrorism, IT development, and data protection is a field that urges immediate scholarly discussion. Therefore, for the launching of this Special Issue, the Tilburg Law Review - in cooperation with Tilburg Law School and the Research Master in Law program - will host a seminar on the ‘Privacy and National Security in the Digital Age’. With this seminar we aim to foster the scholarly discussions in this field even more. The seminar will take place in Tilburg in March 2015. For more information please contact the Tilburg Law Review.

The current Tilburg Law Review Special Issue that you are holding in your hand (or reading digitally) is a fruit of teamwork of many people. Therefore, I would like to thank our guest-editor Federico Fabbrini, without whose drive

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Keys Moran

and dedication this Tilburg Law Review Special Issue on data protection and counter-terrorism would not have been possible. Furthermore, I highly appreciate the fast and passionate work of the Tilburg Law Review Editors and Board, and most of all, the work of the Managing Executive Editor of the Tilburg Law Review – Eva van Vugt.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue!

*Ave-Geidi Jallai*

Editor-in-Chief