Facebook's big "Privacy-Vote" becomes a farce.
Only 0.006288% of worldwide users take part within 48 hours.

As widely reported Facebook has published a voting mechanism on its page this Friday that allows users to vote on the changes that Facebook proposed 4 weeks ago. Facebook has a regulation that is binding itself to have a vote whenever more than 7.000 users comment on a particular change. The campaign "www.our-policy.org" managed to do so and raised about 40.000 comments in one week that demanded specific changes.

Polling station well hidden. Instead of having a transparent vote about the demanded changes Facebook is now having a pro-forma vote on its platform. Because the vote would only be binding if 30% of the worldwide users take part the mechanism is very well hidden on the platform, making sure that most users don't even know about it.
"After 48 hours only 56,655 of the 901 million users have taken part in the vote, that's just 0.006288%", says Max Schrems, speaker of europe-v-facebook.org. "Facebook is again fooling its users: First they give you that whole speech about user participation, and then they hide the polling station, just to be sure. It seems their motto is that democracy is only allowed if the results are right. Zuckerberg seems to have taken democracy lessons in China."

Between a Rock and a hard Place. In this respect it seems also interesting, that users are not allowed to vote on the demanded changes, but only between the old and the new privacy policy. *"This is a choice between a rock and a hard place. Both are clearly violating European privacy laws, but we still suggest to vote for the old policy, since the new one gives Facebook even more power over our data."* Until now about 75% have voted for the old policy.

Simply comply with law. The new privacy policy proposed by Facebook would have worsened many issues and did not comply with the demands of the responsible European data protection commission in Ireland. Correspondingly, the Irish Data Protection Commissioner has raised its concerns over the policy, the German Data Protection Agency has reacted similarity (link). For europe-v-facebook.org it seems clear: *"Facebook should stop bugging users with these absurd moves and should simply comply with the laws."*

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MORE INFORMATION: General media information, pictures and contact details can be found on our webpage: http://www.europe-v-facebook.org/EN/Media/media.html