

**Question for written answer E-002896/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Yoncheva (ECR), Taner Kabilov (ECR)

Subject: Alleged unlawful disclosure and misuse of PNR data in Bulgaria

Directive (EU) 2016/681 provides that passenger name record (PNR) data may be processed solely for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime.

According to public statements by the Bulgarian Minister of Interior¹, information concerning the international travel of identifiable persons enjoying immunity was disclosed. This raises concerns that data originating from Bulgaria's Passenger Information Unit or the PNR system may have been accessed, used or disclosed outside the purposes and procedural safeguards established by Directive (EU) 2016/681 and EU data protection law, particularly in the light of the strict limitations imposed by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the use and retention of PNR data.

1. Does the Commission consider the public disclosure of PNR-derived travel data concerning identifiable persons enjoying immunity to be compatible with EU data protection law?
2. Does the Commission consider that, if such information was disclosed without a legal basis, this would constitute a breach of the principles of purpose limitation, confidentiality and security of processing?
3. Will the Commission assess Bulgaria's compliance with Directive (EU) 2016/681, including with regard to access logging, oversight of access to and use of PNR data, and safeguards against unlawful disclosure, and, where appropriate, take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with EU law?

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¹ <https://www.bta.bg/bg/news/bulgaria/national-news/1159753-ustanoveno-e-savmestno-patuvane-s-vazdushen-prevozvach-na-delyan-peeovski-i-desis>.