

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.3.2025)

The Commission has been committed to improving the flow of communication between the EU Agencies involved in the fight against serious cross-border crime, within the limits of their respective mandates. The announcement by the European Data Protection Supervisor concerns issues that were notified to Frontex already in an audit report from May 2023, and which Frontex took steps to immediately rectify. The existing rules do not preclude the competence of the two Agencies to exchange data, including operational personal data, and in fact this and other forms of interagency cooperation are already foreseen in their respective governing Regulations¹.

The Commission has encouraged better cooperation and data sharing between agencies and has urged Frontex and Europol to prioritize agreeing on a new Working Arrangement which is currently under discussions. Interagency cooperation, notably between Europol and Frontex, is also one of the main objectives of the Commission proposal on ‘enhancing police cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and on enhancing Europol’s support to preventing and combating such crimes and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794’² which is currently being discussed in the European Parliament.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol). OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53–114. Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard. OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, p. 1–131.

² COM(2023) 754 final.