

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002017/25  
to the Commission  
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)  
(21 May 2025)**

**Subject:** Unlawful, inaccurate and outdated information in police databases and the consequences for European police cooperation

On 26 April 2025, Follow the Money reported that Dutch police databases contain large amounts of unlawful, inaccurate and outdated (biometric) data, collected and stored in insecure digital and physical locations over decades.<sup>(1)</sup> Despite numerous warnings from competent authorities (including the Personal Data Authority) and the Council of State<sup>(2)</sup>, the Minister of Justice and Security has not yet ordered the removal of the data.<sup>(3)</sup> As large amounts of data are increasingly analysed automatically, this can lead to errors in investigations and to discrimination and stigmatisation of innocent people.

1. Is the Commission aware of these practices on the part of the Dutch police and of the fact that, despite warnings from competent authorities and experts, the data in question has not been removed?
2. Does the Commission share the concern that this situation raises the likelihood that, in the context of European police cooperation, one Member State's police forces may use unlawful and inaccurate data taken from another Member State's police database<sup>(4)</sup>?
3. What action will the Commission take vis-à-vis the Dutch Government if it fails to heed the warnings from the relevant authorities and have its police databases cleaned up, with a view to ensuring that Dutch police data can be used safely in the context of European police cooperation?

Submitted: 21.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission  
(28 July 2025)**

National authorities, like the Dutch Personal Data Authority, hold the primary responsibility for compliance with EU law, including the General Data Protection Regulation<sup>(1)</sup> and the Law Enforcement Directive<sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission is responsible for ensuring the application of EU law and can take action only in case of systemic implementation issues, not individual cases.

The Commission takes note of the concerns referred to about the accuracy and legality of data in Dutch police databases and the potential impact on European police cooperation.

As part of the broader ProtectEU Internal Security strategy<sup>(3)</sup>, which aims to enhance security and ensure the effective implementation of EU law enforcement cooperation, the Commission will continue to support efforts that strengthen data protection, interoperability, and mutual trust between Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/politie-data-over-burgers-woo-stukken>.

<sup>2</sup> The Personal Data Authority concluded that the collection of personal data by the police is not in line with the Dutch law transposing Directive 2016/680 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.raadvanstate.nl/adviezen/@146778/w16-24-00313-ii/>.

<sup>4</sup> Prim II Regulation; Directive on the exchange of information between the law enforcement authorities; Council Recommendation on operational law enforcement cooperation.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1-88.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89-131.

<sup>(3)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy, COM/2025/148 final.