

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.6.2026)

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) performs its operational activities, including debriefing interviews with migrants, under the command and control of the Member States concerned. In this respect, Frontex cannot be considered precluded from sharing data obtained from these interviews with the relevant national authorities. Moreover, when these interviews produce data potentially relevant for the fight against cross-border crime, Article 90 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896¹ explicitly mandates Frontex to share this operational personal data with the relevant national law enforcement authorities. The Commission is not aware of any recommendations or opinions of the European Data Protection Supervisor that would indicate that sharing operational personal data with national police authorities would be in breach of this Regulation, as long as the applicable data protection framework is respected.

The Commission intends to propose a revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 in 2026. The preparatory work is ongoing, including as regards the contributions that Frontex can provide to the Member States and relevant EU agencies in the fight against cross-border crime, including with regard to information exchange.

To counter migrant smuggling, the Commission engages regularly with the national authorities, both through European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling² set up by the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and via the EU Policy Cycle and the Operational Action Plan³ Migrant Smuggling where Member States, EU Agencies, partners and international organisations, such as the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), regularly engage in targeted operational activities.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624, OJ L 295, p. 1.

² <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/grip-migrant-smuggling-tightens-new-department-europol-to-step-fight>. From March 2026, the activities of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre were taken over by the European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling (ECAMS; <https://www.europol.europa.eu/about-europol/european-centre-against-migrant-smuggling-ecams>) and the European Serious and Organised Crime Centre (ESOCC; <https://www.europol.europa.eu/about-europol/european-serious-and-organised-crime-centre-esocc>).

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/law-enforcement-cooperation/empact-fighting-crime-together_en.