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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The so-called Prüm International initiative aims at strengthening information exchange for law enforcement purposes with key trusted non-EU countries. The Commission will explore the measures available under EU law for such exchanges, as indicated also in the call for evidence¹.

Directive (EU) 2016/680² applies to exchange of data between competent authorities of Member States for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or execution of criminal penalties. The Directive also provides for specific measures concerning the transfer of personal data to third countries, particularly the existence of an adequacy decision with the third country (Article 36) or appropriate safeguards (Article 37).

With the Prüm International initiative, the Commission will aim to ensure that the information exchange for law enforcement purposes with key trusted non-EU countries will meet high EU standards on data security and fundamental rights, including data protection, with clear purpose limitation and national oversight over operational decisions.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17213-Police-cooperation-EU-rules-on-the-automated-search-and-exchange-of-biometric-data-with-non-EU-countries_en.

² 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, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/oj>.