

EN
E-002896/2026
Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.10.2026)

Directive (EU) 2016/681¹ (PNR Directive) regulates the processing of passenger name record (PNR) data pertaining to all passengers on any scheduled or non-scheduled flights, only for the purposes of fighting terrorism and serious crime. Such processing by national competent authorities must comply with a set of specific safeguards, as well as with the data protection principles of purpose limitation, necessity, proportionality, confidentiality, and security. This Directive, as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) in its Judgment in Case C-817/19, requires that any disclosure of PNR data by a Passenger Information Unit be reviewed against these safeguards and principles.

The Commission is not in a position to comment on the specific facts referred to by the Honourable Members, nor to verify, on the basis of public statements, whether the information concerned originated from PNR data or elsewhere, including whether it was lawfully disclosed. The assessment of individual instances of access to, disclosure of, or further processing of personal data falls within the competence of the relevant national authorities, including national supervisory authorities responsible for monitoring compliance with data protection rules.

The Commission monitors the implementation by the Member States of the PNR Directive, as interpreted by the CJEU. An evaluation of the Directive is currently ongoing², with a view to checking how the instrument is implemented at national level and assessing whether it remains fit-for-purpose to address current challenges as part of the EU's overall security system. Where appropriate, the Commission may make use of the instruments at its disposal in order to ensure compliance with EU law.

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/681/oj/eng>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14437-Passenger-name-record-PNR-data-evaluation-of-Directive_en.