



September 2014

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

During the last European Council meeting, President Van Rompuy made the following remark: *“In our countries, also, combatting radicalisation must be a top priority. We have agreed to accelerate measures to stop the flow of foreign fighters, including an EU passenger name record [PNR] system. We will review this in December.”*

The proposal for a Directive on the use of PNR in the EU¹ has been on the table of the EU legislators since February 2011. Failing to find an agreement on such an EU framework for the collection and processing of PNR data, Member States have now started developing their own national PNR systems, 14 of them being also supported by the EU-fund ISEC on the ‘Prevention of and Fight against Crime’². Most of these national PNR programmes should be implemented within the next two years.

Against this context, the Association of European Airlines (AEA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) would like to urge the newly elected Members of the European Parliament to resume their discussions on the EU PNR Directive with the objective to come to a rapid agreement on a common set of rules and standards for the EU Member States to implement their PNR regimes.

In the absence of such a Directive, airlines risk being confronted with the implementation of 28 different systems, even potentially coming from various entities within the same Member State. In the past months, airlines have indeed already been approached by numerous Member States’ authorities with various requests for accessing their departure control systems or for transferring passenger data. This will certainly be burdensome for the airlines but will also negatively impact the passengers, since the use and the protection of the data will vary according to the laws and regulations of each Member State.

¹ COM(2011) 32 Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime

² See following website: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/pdf/isec/isec-grants-awarded-2012_en.pdf
Countries : FI, FR, EE, AT, LV, SE, NL, RO, PT, ES, SI, HU, BG, LT



Members of the European Parliament should also be reminded that airlines are currently confronted with PNR data requests from more than 15 non-EU countries. A comprehensive EU PNR framework would constitute a first step towards providing clear standards and references for airlines on how to handle international requests on passenger data transfer.

AEA and IATA therefore call upon the LIBE Committee to include the EUPNR Directive on its agenda and actively seek a compromise for a swift adoption of an EU framework on PNR data transfer and processing.

We remain at your disposal for any further discussion and information on this matter,

Yours sincerely,

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