

Question for written answer E-001840/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Making a copy of proof of identity documents as a condition of concluding a service contract

Identity theft, i.e. the deliberate use of another person's data, usually for financial gain, is a crime involving serious harm to the victim. Unfortunately, despite the seriousness of the problem, the practice of making copies of proof of identity documents is still common in many EU Member States.

This problem is particularly serious in the services sector. Making copies of proof of identity documents has become common practice in Europe and is often a condition of concluding a service contract in the first place. When concluding a contract, the service provider makes a copy of the customer's proof of identity document (ID card, passport, driving licence, etc.). Moreover, the copies of these documents or the electronic scans thereof are most often sent electronically, which adds to the risk that they may be intercepted by unauthorised persons. This scandalous practice is common and the customer cannot control it in any way, because if they refuse to provide a photocopy or a scan of their proof of identity, the employer often refuses to provide the service.

Can the European Commission say whether the practice of making copies of proof of identity documents is compliant with the new EU rules on the protection of personal data and, in particular, with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If not, what measures will the Commission take to prevent this dangerous practice effectively?