Subject: Use of privately held data of public interest

In order to support the achievement of societal objectives, ranging from evidence-based policymaking to statistical analysis, it may sometimes be necessary to access privately held data of public interest.

Industries such as tourism, transport and energy are just some of the sectors where business-to-government data sharing may produce benefits for European citizens.

Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on open data and the reuse of public-sector information tackles the issue only marginally. Nevertheless, Member States may decide to extend the requirements of the Directive to cover private undertakings, in particular those that provide services of general interest.

Against this backdrop and in view of the upcoming European Data Strategy:

1. does the Commission intend to enable the use of privately held data of public interest, following up on the research carried out by the Expert Group on Business-to-Government Data Sharing?

2. without prejudice to privacy and data protection, what initiatives does the Commission intend to undertake to encourage collaboration between public authorities and private undertakings with the aim of enabling this mode of data sharing, with particular reference to digital platforms?