

Changes to planned European Passenger Name Record (PNR) system discussed by MEPs

A new draft text on an EU system for the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, tabled by lead MEP Timothy Kirkhope (ECR, UK), was discussed in the civil liberties committee on Thursday morning.

An evaluation of the necessity and proportionality of the proposal in the face of current security threats, its scope (list of offences covered and the inclusion or exclusion of intra-EU flights), retention periods, the connection with the on-going data protection reform, as well as the consequences of the EU Court of Justice judgement annulling the 2006 data retention directive, were among the issues discussed by MEPs.

The 2011 Commission proposal would require more systematic collection, use and retention of PNR data on passengers taking "international" flights (those entering the EU from, or leaving it for, a third country), and would therefore have an impact on the rights to privacy and data protection.

The changes proposed by Timothy Kirkhope in the revised draft report include:

- the scope of the proposal is narrowed to cover terror offences and serious "transnational" crime (the list of specific offences includes, for instance, trafficking in human beings, child pornography, trafficking in weapons, munitions and explosives);
- sensitive data to be permanently deleted no later than 30 days from the last receipt of PNR containing such data by competent authorities. Other data will continue to be masked after 30 days;
- the inclusion of intra-EU flights (not initially included by the Commission, but the Council of the European Union favours the inclusion of internal EU flights);
- 100% coverage of flights (the Commission text proposed to reach 100% coverage of international flights in gradual steps);
- access to the PNR data continues to be allowed for five years for terrorism, but is reduced to four years for serious crime;
- each EU member state should appoint a data protection supervisory officer;
- persons who operate security controls, who access and analyse the PNR data, and operate the data logs, must be security cleared, and security trained;

- references are made in the text to the EU Court of Justice judgment on data retention and to the current EU data protection rules;
- the period for member states to transpose the directive is extended from two to three years (given the specific technological and structural demands of setting up an EU PNR system for each member state).

The wrap-up of the live Twitter coverage of the debate [@EP_Justice](#) is available [here](#).

Next steps

The deadline for MEPs to table amendments to Mr Kirkhope's text is 18.00 on 25 March.

In the chair: Claude Moraes (S&D, UK)

Useful information

[Revised draft report on EU PNR by Timothy Kirkhope \(ECR, UK\)](#)

[Profile of Timothy Kirkhope](#)

[Video extracts from the debate on EU PNR](#)

[The video recording of the debate in committee will be soon available here \(click on 26.02.2015\)](#)

[EU Passenger Name Record \(PNR\) proposal: what's at stake](#)

[Procedure file](#)


[Press release - Passenger Name Record and data protection talks should go hand in hand, MEPs say \(11.02.2015\)](#)


[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)


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The draft rules would require more systematic collection, use and retention of PNR data to fight terrorism

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@TimKirkhopeMEP says #EUPNR text tries to address concerns by MEPs: #dataprotection, rules transfer of data, masking, more controls.
 9:11 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@TimKirkhopeMEP refers to #ECJ ruling on #dataretention: revised draft report includes explicit reference to it and to #EUdataP rules.
 9:14 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 Revised draft report is a "starting point" for discussions, says @TimKirkhopeMEP. Defends necessity of #EUPNR system to close gaps.
 9:16 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 #EUPNR: The objective is to listen to other MEPs, work towards agreement. Deadline for amendments - extended period is needed - 25 March 6pm
 9:18 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@AxelVossMdEP says #EUPNR draft report has improved as regards proportionality. #Security threat is greater and we need to respond to it.
 9:31 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@BirgitSippelMEP: attempt to satisfy us made #EUPNR draft. But concerns remain on #dataretention, use of data, offences, intra-EU flights.
 9:38 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@SophieintVeld: Necessity&proport test #EUPNR experts essential. If we cannot oblige MS to share data how will we achieve greater security?
 9:45 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@ErnstCornelia refers to ruling #dataretention. Draft report does "cosmetic changes" to #EUPNR text that has been rejected. Cannot support.
 9:52 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@JanAlbrecht against obligation to retain more #PNR data. Better sharing btw MS needed. If this is about blanket retention of data I'm out.
 9:58 AM - 26 Feb 2015

LIBE Committee Press @EP_Justice
 .@KristinaWinberg in favour of inclusion of intra-EU flights in #EUPNR directive. Other means of transport should also be considered.
 10:00 AM - 26 Feb 2015



Video interview of Timothy Kirkhope (30.01.2015)
<http://www.europartv.europa.eu/en/player.aspx?pid=0a209bd5-e0b5-414d-9e89-a430009dee05>