1. In the beginning of 2020, when the Council adopted its decision to authorise the launch of negotiations, Japan had indicated a pressing need to acquire Passenger Name Record data from EU air carriers in order to address an anticipated increase of security risks connected with the expected high number of overseas visitors in view of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in their country. In the meantime, the coronavirus pandemic led to a postponement of the Olympics and Paralympics, which ultimately took place in 2021 without overseas spectators. Formal negotiations with Japan have not started yet.

2. and 3. While Japanese counterparts have reiterated Japan’s interest in receiving Passenger Name Record data from EU air carriers for combating serious crime and terrorism, they have also expressed concerns as regards the operational implications of certain EU legal requirements for transfers to third countries. The Commission will keep the European Parliament and the Council updated of any further developments.