Question for written answer E-000110/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Evaluation of the API Directive

Council Directive 2004/82/EC of 29 April 2004 on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data (API Directive) was last evaluated in 2020.

That evaluation highlighted a number of issues:

– the limited collection of API data for in-bound extra-Schengen flights limits the potential effects of the use of API data;

– the API dataset imposes certain limitations on the analytical value of the data. For instance, seating information and data with regard to luggage, which most carriers already collect, could add value to the analysis in combating illegal migration and/or customs control;

– the differences between implementing countries in the use of API data, including to combat terrorism, also show that the Directive can be made even more effective;

– API data are most useful if they are verified. Incorrect or incomplete data can lead to a waste of resources[1].

How has the Commission followed up on this evaluation and what measures are planned in the future?

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[1]   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=SWD:2020:174:FIN