

EN

E-000688/2024

Answer given by Mr Reynders  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(30.7.2024)

As the Commission pointed out in its answers to written questions P-000708/24 and P-000815/24, Member States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation — GDPR)<sup>1</sup> and to take the necessary steps for enforcement. Enforcement of the GDPR lies with the EU-27 independent national data protection authorities and courts, who investigate complaints, provide advice on data protection issues and determine when the GDPR has been breached.

The Commission understands that the Greek data protection authority investigated this matter and has imposed fines for the violation of several GDPR rules<sup>2</sup>. As a general rule, the Commission does not comment on ongoing investigations.

The European Data Protection Board is responsible to ensure consistent application of the GDPR. In the run up to the 2019 European Parliament elections, it issued a statement on the use of personal data in the course of political campaigns<sup>3</sup>, which complements the Commission guidance on the application of EU data protection law in the electoral context<sup>4</sup>.

The Commission Recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections 2023/2829, issued as part of the Defence of Democracy package<sup>5</sup> on 12 December 2023, acknowledges particular and far-reaching Member States' responsibilities to foster broad and inclusive democratic participation and to promote free, fair and resilient elections in the EU.

The Commission works closely with all Member States' competent authorities to promote free and fair elections in the EU and support the exchange of best practices on elections, including in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1–88.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2024-05/16\\_2024%20anonym\\_0.pdf](https://www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2024-05/16_2024%20anonym_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Statement 2/2019 on the use of personal data in the course of political campaigns:

[https://www.edpb.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/file1/edpb-2019-03-13-statement-on-elections\\_en.pdf](https://www.edpb.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/file1/edpb-2019-03-13-statement-on-elections_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> COM(2018) 638 final.

<sup>5</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/publications/documents-defence-democracy\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/documents-defence-democracy_en)

<sup>6</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship-and-democracy/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship-and-democracy/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en)