

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0020/05

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ewa Klamt, Charlotte Cederschiöld and Carlos Coelho, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
to the Commission

Subject: Exchange of passenger data records with the USA

Following the expression of concern by the EP that the exchange of air passenger data (PNR) with the USA is not subject to sufficiently stringent data protection safeguards and given that, two years after the EP raised this issue, no satisfactory solution has been found, it is important for the EP to be fully informed about the current situation in discussions between the Commission and the US authorities.

1. How much progress has been made in establishing the 'push system' requested by the EP?
2. Are passengers flying to the US correctly informed about the transfer of their data? How does this work in practice for all airlines and for tickets sold over the internet?
3. Does the Commission have any or sufficient means of verifying compliance in the US with the data protection commitments given, with particular regard to filters on sensitive data? Is the processing of data by the US authorities fully in line with the rules?
4. Has the annual high-level verification meeting between the EU and US administrations taken place, and how many cases of reported or actual misinformation/mishandling have been discussed? Are problems easily solved at these annual meetings? Has any of the data already transferred to the US been corrected?
5. Have there been any leaks or transfer of data to third countries?
6. Are discussions on the CAPPS II under way? If so, to what extent could these discussions have an effect on internal European passengers? Are the European data protection authorities (the supervisor and the Article 29 committee) involved?
7. Is the Commission negotiating with any third countries on this issue? If so, what is the current state of play?
8. Following the proposed new US rules that aim to insert a non-encrypted RFID chip in the new e-passport, and bearing in mind that the USA is requiring all 27 countries whose citizens do not need visas to visit America to begin issuing e-passports, what safeguards should be put in place in order to reduce the risks to privacy and security of our citizens?

Tabled: 01.03.2005

Forwarded: 03.03.2005

Deadline for reply: 10.03.2005