

**Priority question for written answer P-000840/2022
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: US Customs and Border Protection gaining access to EU biometric databases

The US administration plans to subject travellers entering on the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to new biometric data requirements. Under a 'comprehensive secure travel partnership', VWP partners will give the relevant US border security authorities access to EU databases containing fingerprints and/or facial images. In return, the authorities of those countries will also be allowed to access US databases.

1. What organisational and legal issues does the Council think Member States could encounter as a result of the comprehensive secure travel partnership, and what conclusion has it come to after examining these?
2. As things stand, which EU databases (such as the common biometric database) or networked information systems (such as the Prüm Decision or 'Prüm II') would the US authorities be allowed to access to consult biometric data under the comprehensive secure travel partnership, and to what extent would the 'hit/no hit' principle apply?
3. Which US databases would EU authorities gain access to under the comprehensive secure travel partnership?