

Criticism of New EU Plan for International Border Data-Sharing System



News

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Ten civil society organisations submitted their criticism of the new Commission initiative “Security-related information sharing – reciprocal access for frontline officers in the EU and key partner countries”. Among the dangers cited: aiding political repression and underpinning human rights violations.

The objective of the Commission's proposed plan is to create a single European channel for frontline officers in all Member States to have systematic and immediate access to security-related information from partner countries (provided by all Member States). This new system of information exchange would exist alongside existing channels (bilateral or multilateral agreements between Member States, EU and partner countries, Europol cooperation agreements, Schengen Information System (SIS) alerts based on information from partner countries, Interpol systems, the Prüm framework, etc.). Its aim is to create a tailor-made EU system for sharing "critical and actionable data" between frontline officers (e.g. border guards, police forces) in the EU and key partner countries. The Commission launched a public consultation on the plan in January 2023. The adoption of a legislative initiative is planned for the fourth quarter of 2023.

The ten civil society organisations argued that the Commission has failed to demonstrate why the new initiative to share information between EU and non-EU States is necessary, especially since a number of existing initiatives have already been criticised for jeopardising asylum procedures and the safety of third-country nationals seeking protection from corrupt regimes in EU Member States. The organisations therefore urgently asked that the Commission not go ahead with the initiative.

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