



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data

**Processing operation: Implementation of the European Union Election Observation Missions (EOMs)**

**Data Controller:** Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Unit FPI.6

**Record reference:** DRC-EC-04674.5

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## 1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the Commission’) is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy.

The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, the Data Protection Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The information in relation to the processing operation “Implementation of EU Election Observation Missions” undertaken by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), Unit FPI.6, is presented below.

Please note that a separate privacy statement covers the processing undertaken in relation to the “System for selection and management of the Election Observers and Experts – Election Observation Roster” (DPR-EC-00906).

## 2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operation: FPI.6 Unit collects and uses your personal data:

a) for the implementation of logistics, security, financial, organisational, operational and administrative aspects of the EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs);

Personal data of EU EOM members is processed by the Implementing Partner contracted by the Commission for a specific EU EOM. Personal data is used to:

- purchase flights (thus, they may be transferred to the airline companies);
- acquire visas (thus, they may be transferred to the relevant Embassies);
- acquire accreditations to observe (thus, they may be transferred to host country authorities);
- set up your insurance coverage (thus, they may be transferred to insurance companies);
- prepare the deployment plans; or
- any other purpose directly linked to the implementation of the EU EOM (e.g. security purposes) strictly on a 'need-to-know' basis.

EU EOM members health/fit to work certificate is reviewed only by a limited number of persons within the Implementing Partner and may be further consulted only in case of emergencies. Access to this personal data is strictly limited on a need-to-know basis and safeguarded through several reinforced information security measures, all based on the principles of confidentiality and duty of care.

EU EOM members CV is reviewed in the Election Observation Roster by the Observer Coordinator and/or his/her Deputies for the preparation of the deployment plans.

Personal data is either retrieved from the Election Observation Roster for selection and management of the Election Observers and Experts, or directly requested from the EU EOM members to ensure smooth implementation of the EU EOM.

b) to ensure the visibility of the EU EOMs.

EU EOMs operate under high visibility in the host country and within the EU. During the EOM, photos, videos or any other visibility materials may be produced displaying images of members of the EOM. These materials can be further used to enhance the visibility of the EU EOMs (e.g. published EU websites (accessible to the public free of charge online), tweeted on the EU related social media, used on the brochures etc.).

In addition, it processes images and audiovisual (Photos and videos) taken during the electoral mission. EU EOM members may provide any other personal data (e.g. photos and short resume about themselves to be published in the Observers' mission specific manual), based on their consent.

Other data subjects may occasionally appear on panoramic photographs or audiovisual content which render individual persons unidentifiable. In addition, EU EOMs may need to create audiovisual content which includes identifiable data subjects other than public figures. In such cases, the data subjects are informed about the processing and their consent is obtained.

Personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

### 3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because:

1) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Union institution [Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725].

Under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (REGULATION (EU) No 2021/947), election observation contributes to increasing transparency and trust in the electoral process as part of the wider promotion of, and support to, democratic processes. The observation of elections continues to be an important component of the EU's policy of promoting human rights and democratization throughout the world.

FPI is in charge of managing European Election Observation Missions, based on the Communication from the Commission on EU Election Assistance and Observation, COM(2000)191 and Commission Decisions on "Arrangements for the Implementation of EU Election Observation Missions", C(2004)206 and C(2024)5172.

We also process special categories of data, indicated in section 4 because it is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest on the basis of Union law, which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard your fundamental rights and interests [Article 10(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725]. Specifically, we process your medical data included in the health certificate you provided before your deployment. The Commission has the duty of care over EOM members in line with Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)5172 of 26.7.2024. Processing of limited health data is necessary to ensure that you are able to work under challenging conditions in insecure environments. Additionally, processing of health data might be necessary to protect your vital interests in accordance with Article 10(2) (c) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, only to ensure that you will receive adequate medical care, if you are not physically capable of providing your consent.

2) you have given consent to the processing of your personal data for one or more specific purposes (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725)

Consent is obtained via model release forms for audio and video recording, web streaming during meetings, events and conferences. All natural identifiable persons appearing in a photo, video or audio recording, as far as practically feasible and necessary under the conditions of the recording location, are asked for the signing of a model release form, granting the EU the right to use the recording in compliance with the current image rights and data protection legislation.

#### 4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out this processing operation, the European Commission - FPI.6 Unit or the Implementing Partner on behalf of the European Commission, process the following categories of personal data from EU EOM members:

- Identification data: Name, postal address, professional and private e-mail addresses, phone numbers, date and place of birth, ID Card / Passport n°, country of residence, EU login.
- Financial data: Bank account reference (IBAN and BIC codes), amounts of income/allocations and expenses.
- Medical data: Health/Fit-to-work certificate, including information on prior health conditions, allergies, and medicine intake.
- Human Resources data: CV details.
- Social data: Person to notify in case of emergency.
- Photos needed for visa, accreditation.
- Location data (if the security upgrade of the relevant EOM requires so).
- Other personal data related to the acquisition of any accreditations to observe, as requested by the authorities of the host country or territory for issuing the visa. The information required by the hosting country or territory will be opportunely provided to the observers as part of the Call for Candidatures and the Letter of Assignment.

Based on your consent, you may provide any other personal data for the facilitation of the EOM (e.g. photos and short resume about EU EOM members to be published in the Observers' mission specific manual).

#### 5. How long do we keep your personal data?

FPI.6 Unit only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing.

The personal data in connection with the EOMs will be kept for seven years after the closure of the service contract implementing the election observation mission based on Article 75 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 – OJ L193/30.07.2018, p.1). As an exception, health data and, where applicable, location data are deleted/destroyed after the end of the respective EOM.

Audiovisual material may be archived for permanent preservation, for historical purposes to document, preserve and make the history and audiovisual heritage of the European Commission and the European publicly available.

#### 6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the European Commission and of its contractors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

The Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR' Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Core Team members and Observers also sign a Letter of Assignment that includes confidentiality clauses to certify that the information received during EU EOM (including the information contained in the roster) will not be revealed to unauthorized third parties.

To protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place several technical and organizational measures in place. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorized access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organizational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorized persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

Additionally, measures are taken to ensure security of your location and health data, such as encryption of data at rest, signature of confidentiality clauses, transmission solely via encrypted e-mails and shortened retention periods.

Your health certificate is stored securely in the premises of the Implementing Partner. The health certificates are not consulted after their storage and are not transferred to the countries where EOMs take place, unless your vital interests are at risk.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data is provided to the Commission staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and to authorized staff according strictly to the "need-to-know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Recipients of your personal data are the following:

- EU EOM members deployed in the same EOM may receive your professional e-mail address and phone numbers for organizational purposes.
- DG INTPA and EODS III project to give access to the E-day application.
- EEAS staff members responsible for visa facilitation.
- External Implementing Partners, contracted by FPI for the management of EOMs, who will receive a list with names and private contact details of successful candidates extracted from the Roster, to enable contact and the launch of their assignment. They further contact directly the EOMs' members and request for the implementation of logistics, security, financial, organizational, operational and administrative aspects of the EU EOMs.
- The Implementing Partner may further transfer data that is strictly necessary to airline companies to purchase flight tickets, to insurance companies to provide you with insurance coverage during your electoral missions, to the relevant embassies for issuing visas, to host country national authorities to receive accreditation to observe or other entities, only when it is strictly necessary for the implementation of the EOMs.

During the EOM, several visibility materials displaying your image may be produced (e.g. photos, videos). This material may be published on EU websites, tweeted on EU-related social media, used on brochures. Social media providers have access to the audiovisual content distributed by the Commission. The audiovisual content and related data distributed via the abovementioned

platforms is made available to their members without restriction to a specific geographical area.

The data controller will transfer your personal data to the following recipients in a third country and to an international organization in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725:

- Public authorities in the respective third country in which the EOM takes place for visa acquisition and accreditation for observation purposes.
- Airlines for booking international flights.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is currently one of the Implementing Partners under the EOM framework contract.

We will transfer your personal data based on derogations under article 50(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 because such transfers are necessary for reasons of important public interest. Transfer of data is necessary for the implementation of the EOMs, in line with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (REGULATION (EU) No 2021/947). As an additional safeguard, FPI frames such transfers by including personal data protection clauses in the contract signed with the implementing partner as well with safeguard clauses to the rest of the third-country based recipients.

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of the Regulation, public authorities (e.g. European Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

The information we collect shall not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

#### 8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, which is lawfully carried out pursuant to Article 5(1)(a) on grounds relating to your particular situation and, pursuant to Article 5(1)(d), whether, you have consented to provide your personal data for visibility purposes, you can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you withdrew your consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

## 9. Contact information

### - The Data Controller

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controller, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Unit FPI.6, [FPI-6@ec.europa.eu](mailto:FPI-6@ec.europa.eu).

### - The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer ([DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu)) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

### - The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor ([edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

## 10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: DRC-EC-04674.5.