



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-05674

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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-00906.1).

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); and
- b) to ensure the visibility of the EU EOMs.

Your personal data is processed by the Service Provider contracted by the Commission for a specific EU EOM. Your 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. communication activities) strictly on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Your health/fit to work certificate is reviewed only by a limited number of persons within the Service Provider and may be further consulted only in case of emergencies.

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

Your personal data is either retrieved from the System for selection and management of the Election Observers and Experts – Election Observation Roster, or directly requested from you in order to

ensure smooth implementation of the EU EOM.

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 you as a member of the EOM. These materials can be further used to enhance the visibility of the EU EOMs (e.g. published EU websites, tweeted on the EU related social media, used on the brochures etc.).

Your 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 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 democratisation 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(2014)7782.

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 of EOM members in line with Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)7782 of 29.10.2014. 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 in order to ensure that you will receive adequate medical care, if you are not physically capable of providing your consent.

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 Service provider on behalf of the European Commission, collects the following categories of personal data:

- 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 Certificate, including information on prior health conditions, allergies and medicine intake. A vaccination certification is collected in limited circumstances when requested by the authorities of the host country for issuing visa.
- Human Resources data: CV details
- Social data: Person to notify in case of emergency.

- Photos needed for visa, accreditation.
- Photos and videos taken during the mission.

Based on your consent, you may provide any other personal data for the facilitation of the EOM (e.g. photos and short resume about yourself 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 are deleted/destroyed after the end of the respective EOM, when the last payment to the service provider is completed.

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. 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 unauthorised third parties.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures in place. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

Additionally measures are taken to ensure security of your health data, such as signature of confidentiality clauses, transmission of health data solely via encrypted e-mails and shortened retention periods. Your health certificate is stored securely in the premises of the Service Provider. 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 authorised 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 organisational purposes.
- DG INTPA and EODS III project to give access to the E-day application.
- EEAS staff members responsible for visa facilitation.
- External Service Providers, 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 necessary information.
- The Service Provider may further transfer data that is strictly necessary to airline companies to purchase flight tickets, to insurance companies in order 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.

The data controller will transfer your personal data to the following recipients in a third country and to an international organisation 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 Organisation for Migration (IOM), which is currently one of the Service Providers 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). Transfers to the IOM are also necessary for the conclusion and performance of a contract concluded in the interest of the data subject, under article 50(1)(c). As an additional safeguard, FPI frames such transfers by including personal data protection clauses in the contract signed with the service provider 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 5

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.

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.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (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) 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-05674.