

## Information

08 November 2007

### European airline body dismayed at proposal for EU-PNR system

On 6 November, the Justice, Liberty and Security DG of the European Commission proposed a new plan under which all airlines flying to or from the EU would be required to share 19 pieces of personal data on their passengers to agencies in charge of assessing travellers' "terrorist risk". This so-called "EU PNR" (Passenger Name Record) would be comparable to the system set up by the United States after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Said Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, Secretary General of the Association of European Airlines: "Commissioner Frattini's proposed decentralised system means that our carriers will have to comply with 27 different national data collection systems. We are talking about an operational and technical nightmare – and the Commission totally ignores the financial implications for the airline industry, which we haven't even started assessing yet."

"It is not for us to decide whether such a system would actually enhance security in Europe," he continued. "But we do know how to transport passengers safely, and how to conduct our operations accordingly. So we are hugely disappointed that none of our concerns were taken into account by DG Justice, Liberty and Security."

The carriers represented by the Association of European Airlines have repeatedly expressed the crucial need for a single point of contact between European carriers and the authorities who will conduct the analysis of our passengers' profiles. They are also asking for the system to be applied to all transport modes, so as to avoid discrimination and competitive distortions.

"Commissioner Frattini's services really need to analyse the practical consequences of their proposal on both European carriers and their passengers," Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus concluded. "He will find that the industry is more than willing to lend him its expertise and help him design a system that delivers tangible benefits for security, without creating a bureaucratic and operational nightmare for the airline industry and its passengers."

For further information, please contact:  
Françoise Humbert - General Manager Communications  
Phone: +32(0) 2 639 89 93 - Email: [francoise.humbert@aea.be](mailto:francoise.humbert@aea.be) - [www.aea.be](http://www.aea.be)

Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 31 European established service and scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 343 million passengers and 6 million tons of cargo each year, operating 2,540 aircraft serving 605 destinations in 161 countries with 11,030 flights a day. They provide around 375,000 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €75 billion.

- Adria Airways
- Aer Lingus
- Air France
- Air Malta
- Air One
- Alitalia
- Austrian
- bmi
- British Airways
- Brussels Airlines
- Cargolux
- Croatia Airlines
- CSA
- Cyprus Airways
- Finnair
- Iberia
- Icelandair
- Jat Airways
- KLM
- LOT
- Lufthansa
- Luxair
- Malev
- Olympic Airlines
- SAS
- Spanair
- SWISS
- TAP Portugal
- TAROM
- Turkish Airlines
- Virgin Atlantic Airways