

 27/03/2015
Brussels
ARES (2015)

Dear Chairman,

Dear Mr Moraes,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March concerning Mexico's request for PNR data. The PNR issue with Mexico is a top priority for the Commission.

The Commission has been and continues to remain in regular and close contact with the Mexican authorities to seek a solution to the issue of PNR data transfers. The Mexican authorities have on several occasions postponed the implementation of their PNR legislation with regard to European airlines. However, Mexico has made it clear that it will not postpone the current deadline of 1 April 2015 unless the EU sends a signal at political level that it is ready to engage in formal discussions on a legal basis for the transfer of PNR data to Mexico.

This issue was also raised in Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 12 March and since then some ministers have asked the Commission to take appropriate action.

After a thorough evaluation of the situation and considering the concerns and interests of all parties, I have arranged a telephone meeting with the responsible authorities in Mexico to discuss the way forward and find solutions to postpone the application of sanctions.

I intend to very quickly propose to the College to recommend to the Council to take a decision authorising the opening of negotiations on an EU – Mexico PNR agreement. This would allow the Council to take such decision swiftly, ideally in the June JHA Council. In parallel, I will ask the Mexican authorities to suspend the application of any sanctions on European airlines that are currently planned to be applicable as of 1 April.

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