

*Europol Travel Intelligence Centre (ETIC):
State of play and activity report*

In line with the Europol Programming Document 2018-2020, Europol shall establish a dedicated capability within Europol to support Member States in the operational and strategic use of travel related information and intelligence stemming from Passenger name record (PNR), Advance Passenger Information (API) and ETIAS.

Effective use of travel data is necessary to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and serious crime. The internal security is thus enhanced, by gathering evidence and, where appropriate, finding associates of criminals and unravelling criminal networks. According to the EU relevant legislation on PNR (Directive (EU) 2016/681), each Member State has to set up a passenger information unit ('PIU'). Such units shall be responsible for collecting, storing, processing, transferring and exchanging PNR data, or the result of processing those data, to the national competent authorities and to the PIUs of other Member States, as well as to Europol. Article 10 of Directive (EU) 2016/681 provides clear conditions for access to PNR data by Europol.

The Europol Travel Intelligence Centre ('ETIC') will be set up in 2019, as a dedicated capability within the EU agency. ETIC will be able to deliver specific operational and strategic products and services, which will support Member States. Europol will ensure enhanced cooperation, alignment and compatibility with activities of the Commission, Frontex and eu-LISA in the area of travel intelligence.

In this context, Europol will provide investigations of Member States with the required support for the processing of travel data, while fully complying with the fundamental rights concerns, specifically the right to respect for private life and the right to the protection of personal data.

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