

PRESENTATION

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Head of the Data Protection Office of the European Police Office (Europol).

The European Police Office has a comprehensive, robust and tested data protection system in place which is widely recognised as safeguarding the highest standards in the law enforcement sector. Europol incorporated in its framework the principles of the Convention 108 and the recommendation on the use of personal data in the police sector issued by the Council of Europe.

Europol's rules are tailor-made to the specific mandate and tasks. The Europol Council Decision contains detailed provisions on data protection, which are further developed by Council Acts related to the Rules applicable to Analysis Work Files, Rules for relations with Third Parties, Rules on Confidentiality and conditions related to the processing of data for the purpose of determining relevance to Europol's tasks.

These rules aim at ensuring the protection of privacy of persons whose data are processed in Europol's systems. Particular attention is given to the processing of personal data on vulnerable data subjects who are suspects in criminal investigations, victims and witnesses.

At the same time compliance with data protection requirements leads also to an enhanced quality of operational information for ongoing investigations and later use in judicial proceedings.

In general terms Europol's data protection framework is build on the following five pillars:

- Tailor-made data protection rules;
- Data access rights for citizens with over 200 requests by individuals per year;
- Internal support and monitoring by the Data Protection Officer, who is independent in his judgment;
- External specialized supervision by the Joint Supervisory Authority;
- Data Security safeguards applied to personal data processing.

Also in the time post-Lisbon the described rules continue to ensure the utmost respect for the protection of privacy in Europol's activities to prevent and combat organised crime and terrorism.