

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

In line with the Europol Programming Document 2019-2021, Europol shall establish in 2019 a dedicated capability, the Europol Travel Intelligence Centre (**ETIC**), as part of the Horizontal Operational Services within Europol. The aim is 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 EU Travel Information and Authorisation System (**ETIAS**).

Europol will deliver services and products to Member States in the area of travel intelligence. The aim is to ensure enhanced cooperation, alignment and compatibility with the activities of the Commission and with other EU bodies such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (**Frontex**) and the European Agency for the Operational Management of largescale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (**Eu-LISA**).

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 PNR Directive (EU) 2016/681, each Member State must 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. In this context, Europol will provide support for the processing of travel data in the framework of the Member States' investigations, while fully observing respect for fundamental rights, including the right to private life and the right to the protection of personal data.

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