



Summary Record

Meeting of the Committee on common protocols and data formats for transferring PNR data – 21 February 2017 in Brussels

1. Opening of the meeting

Head of Unit Home D.1 acted as chair. She explained the background and purpose of the meeting, indicating that the committee was called to discuss and vote the draft implementing decision setting up a list of common data formats and transmission protocols to be used by air carriers when transferring PNR data to Member States pursuant to Directive 2016/681 (the PNR Directive). .

2. Adoption of the draft Agenda and of the draft Rules of Procedure for the Committee on common protocols and data formats for transferring PNR data

The draft agenda and the draft Rules of Procedure were adopted without comment.

3. Presentation by the Chair of the draft implementing decision on the common protocols and data formats to be used by air carriers when transferring PNR data to Passenger Information Units

The Chair recalled the way in which stakeholders were consulted prior to the presentation of the draft implementing decision and presented the reasons justifying the solution proposed in the draft implementing decision. The Chair also addressed the comments and the suggested changes to the draft implementing decision which had been presented by the members of the committee.

4. Discussion and vote on the draft Implementing Decision on the common protocols and data formats to be used by air carriers when transferring PNR data to passenger Information Units

A tour de table enabled the committee members to express their views on the draft implementing decision before them.

Whilst some Member States expressed concern over the inclusion of specific proprietary products in the annex to the implementing decision, they recognised the need to take a pragmatic approach that found a balance between the current state of industry and the needs of the Member States. Others expressed the view that Member States need to have the means to impose more flexible solutions than the ones currently used by the industry. The Commission agreed that having proprietary protocols listed in the annex should not be the only option; on the other hand to exclude the transmission protocols currently used by a majority of the industry would mean that air carriers would not be in a position to

comply with the implementing decision within the required one year of its adoption. This would impact on the viability of the EU PNR system.

The Commission reaffirmed the need to review the implementing decision four years after its adoption but also that this did not preclude an earlier review should there be a material change in the field of open standard protocols.

The tour de table discussion resulted in further slight amendments to the text of the Implementing Decision.

5. Vote taken: favourable opinion

6. Any Other Business

One member of the committee gave a presentation on the state of play of the IATA PNRGOV Working Group sub-group established to work on an open standard communications protocol. This presentation was welcomed by the committee members who were also encouraged to remain engaged in the work of the IATA PNRGOV Working Group more generally.