

EDPS Formal comments on the draft Commission Implementing Decision on the automated search and exchange of vehicle registration data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2024/982 on the automated search and exchange of data for police cooperation, and amending Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA and Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) No 2019/817 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the Prüm II Regulation)

THE EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data ('EUDPR')¹, and in particular Article 42(1) thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING FORMAL COMMENTS:

1. Introduction and background

1. On 2 December 2025, the European Commission issued a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the automated search and exchange of vehicle registration data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2024/982 on the automated search and exchange of data for police cooperation, and amending Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA and Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) No 2019/817 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the Prüm II Regulation) ('the draft Implementing Decision').
2. Regulation (EU) 2024/982 establishes a framework for automated search and exchange of certain categories of data for cross-border police cooperation between Member States, including vehicle registration data, for the purpose of preventing, detecting and investigating criminal offences.
3. The draft Implementing Decision aims to specify the technical rules for automated search and exchange of vehicle registration data, which will be carried out via the European Vehicle and Driving Licence Information System (EUCARIS).
4. The draft Implementing Decision is adopted pursuant to Article 17(3) and Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2024/982.

¹ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

5. The EDPS recalls that he issued Opinion 4/2022 on the Proposal for a Regulation on automated data exchange for police cooperation², where he commented, among others, on the envisaged exchange of vehicle registration data via EUCARIS.
6. The present formal comments of the EDPS are issued in response to a consultation by the European Commission of 2 December 2025, pursuant to Article 42(1) of EUDPR. The EDPS welcomes the reference to this consultation in Recital 8 of the draft Implementing Decision.
7. These formal comments do not preclude any additional comments by the EDPS in the future, in particular if further issues are identified or new information becomes available, for example as a result of the adoption of other related implementing or delegated acts³.
8. Furthermore, these formal comments are without prejudice to any future action that may be taken by the EDPS in the exercise of his powers pursuant to Article 58 of the EUDPR and are limited to the provisions of the draft Implementing Decision that are relevant from a data protection perspective.

2. Comments

9. According to Article 16(3)(a)(ii) of Regulation (EU) 2024/982, one of the search criteria as regards vehicle registration data is ‘the *family name or names* of the natural person’. The EDPS notes that while Section 3.1. of the Annex of the draft Implementing Decision refers to ‘*family name(s)*’, other parts of the document, e.g. Section 2.2.2., refer for the same purpose to ‘*surname(s)*’. In the interest of legal certainty, the EDPS recommends using throughout the draft Implementing Decision the term laid down in the Prüm II Regulation, i.e. ‘family name(s)’.

Brussels, 26 January 2026

(e-signed)

Wojciech Rafał WIEWIÓROWSKI

² EDPS Opinion 4/2022 on the Proposal for a Regulation on automated data exchange for police cooperation, issued on 2 March 2022, available at https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2022-03/22-03-07_opinion-4-2022_prum_en.pdf.

³ In case of other implementing or delegated acts with an impact on the protection of individuals’ rights and freedoms with regard to the processing of personal data, the EDPS would like to remind that he needs to be consulted on those acts as well. The same applies in case of future amendments that would introduce new or modify existing provisions that directly or indirectly concern the processing of personal data.