

Protection of your personal data

Within the scope of the use of mailing lists and other communication activities by DG RTD

Processing operation: *RTD communication*¹

Data Controller: *DG Research and Innovation*

1. Introduction

This privacy statement explains why and how we collect, handle and ensure protection of your personal data, and what rights you may exercise in relation to it (*rights of information, access, rectification, right to be forgotten, right to object etc.*).

The European Institutions are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. As this service/application collects and further processes personal data, Regulation (EC) 2018/1725² (*hereinafter "the Regulation"*) is applicable.

This statement concerns the communication activities of the Controller, the Directorate-General Research and Innovation (*DG RTD*), besides the organisation of meetings/events and of consultations/surveys, which fall in the scope of communication but are documented separately ([DPO-233-8-5](#)).

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

DG RTD (*referred to hereafter as Data Controller*) collects and uses your personal information to inform you about its activities.

Most of the processing operations are necessary for the performance of our tasks in the public interest (*Article 5.1 (a) of the Regulation*), while for others (*for the subscription to the "news of the day" newsletter, and uploading of the "Events calendar"*) we rely on your explicit consent (*Article 5.1 (d)*).

The processing does not fall under Article 40 of the Regulation, therefore the European Data Protection Supervisor (*EDPS*) has not been consulted.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data?

The legal basis at stake is:

- For most processing operations the article 5.1 (a) of the Regulation²: "*Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Union institution or body*";

¹ Out of the scope of: 1/ management of advisory and other expert groups; 2/ comitology; 3/ organisation of meetings/events; 4/ management of consultations/surveys by DG RTD, which are documented in dedicated records.

² [Regulation 2018/1725](#) of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (*OJ L 295 of 21 November 2018*).

- For the ones referred to in chapter 2 hereof the article 5.1 (d): "*The data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes*".

The basis for the processing referred to hereof 1 has been laid down in the following Union law relating to the EU Research policy making, ensuring dissemination or exploitation of research project results and the transparency obligation of the EU institutions towards European citizens:

- Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 81–103);
- Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104–173);
- Council Decision No 2013/743/EU of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decisions 2006/971/EC, 2006/972/EC, 2006/973/EC, 2006/974/EC and 2006/975/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 965–1041).

4. Which data do we collect and further process?

The personal data collected and further processed are the ones necessary for the category of communication activity:

- Identification details (*title, gender, name, first name*);
- Contact details (*email, address, phone and fax numbers*);
- Image (*for publication on social media, twitter, etc.*), limited to high rank officials of Member States/Associated Countries (*ministers, general directors, directors*);
- Field of expertise (*for journalists and science communicators*).

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

Your data are kept for renewable retention periods of 5 years until you unsubscribe from our mailing lists.

For publications, personal data will be retained for renewable periods of 5 years.

The starting point of the retention periods is the date of receipt of the first communication email/message/media alert.

Every 5 years, an email is sent to data subjects, reminding them of their right to unsubscribe from the corresponding communication at any time, and that the processing at stake will be renewed for additional 5 years if they do not unsubscribe.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All data in electronic format (*e-mails, documents, uploaded batches of data, etc.*) are stored either on the servers of the European Commission or of its contractors; the operations of which abide by the Commission Decision (*EU, Euratom*) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

The Commission's contractors are bound by specific contractual clauses on data protection and on confidentiality for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and on top of that, by the confidentiality obligations deriving from General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)³, when applicable.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your data is provided only to authorised staff and contractors of the Controller (*our processors*), according to the "need to know" principle.

Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, by additional confidentiality agreements, whilst contractors are bound by dedicated clauses.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

According to the Regulation, you are entitled to access your personal data, to rectify and/or block it in case the data is inaccurate, to erase data concerning you (*the right to be forgotten*), or to restrict processing of your data. You can exercise your rights by contacting the data Controller, or in case of conflict the European Commission Data Protection Officer, and if necessary the European Data Protection Supervisor by using the contact information given at point 8 below.

9. Contact information

If you have comments or questions, any concerns or a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, you may contact the following:

- *Web team DG RTD*
- *Email: RTD-WEB-TEAM@ec.europa.eu*

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission: DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS): edps@edps.europa.eu

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer publishes the register of all operations processing personal data. You can access the register on the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

³ [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016).