



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

## **PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

**This privacy statement provides information about  
the processing and the protection of your personal data.**

**Processing operation:** EU Local Councillors Network

**Data Controller:** European Commission and European Committee of the Regions

**Record reference:** For the European Commission: DPR-EC-32988, for the European Committee of the Regions: RD I-1.

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## **1. Introduction**

The European Commission (hereinafter “EC”) and the European Committee of the Regions (hereinafter “CoR”) are committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 (hereinafter “EUDPR”).

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, the Data Protection Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Your personal data may be collected and processed for the joint governance and the joint management of the EU Local Councillors Network (hereinafter “the Network”). The Network is the outcome of the merge of two existing networks, on the one hand the network of the EC called "Building Europe with Local Councillors" (hereinafter "BELC") and on the other hand the network of the CoR called "European Network of Regional and Local Councillors" (hereinafter the "CoR network").

The EC and the CoR are responsible, as joint controllers, for the processing of your personal data. Their shared responsibilities are defined in detail in the respective Joint Controllership Arrangement (JCA).

For the EC, the responsible service (delegated controller) is Directorate-General for Communication, Unit C.2.

For the CoR, the responsible service (delegated controller) is Directorate D for Communication, Unit DI.

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

Your personal data will be jointly processed by the joint controllers in order to:

- to implement the merging process of the two initial networks into the Network;
- to allow for a joint governance and management of the Network;
- to manage jointly the members’ application process, namely to register applicants to the Network and approve their membership via a single application and membership process;
- to provide services and information to the Network members (e.g. inviting members to priority visits, informing members on the EU policies, provision of welcome webinars and trainings on EU topics, access to communication toolkit, assisting members for full access to the available tools and platforms, etc.);
- to communicate with the Network members and allow deliverables aligned to members’ preferences (e.g. designing the programme of events/study visits/networking opportunities, sending EU-topics related news);
- to support the members' own social media activities.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making, including profiling.

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

We process your personal data, because:

- 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;

The legal basis for the processing of personal data is Article 5.1.a of the EUDPR, according to which "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".

The network is managed by the Directorate-General Communication, unit C2 and the CoR unit DI, under the Administrative Agreement between the Parties signed on 12 December 2024. The Administrative Agreement was concluded in the framework of the revised Protocol on cooperation between the EC and CoR signed on 20 March 2024, in particular chapter V.

Supporting communication activities of the project is a task resulting from the Commission's prerogatives at institutional level. Personal data processing linked to the network is necessary for the management and functioning of the EC, as mandated by the treaties, and more specifically Article 13 TEU, and in accordance with Article 1 and Article 11 TEU.

Furthermore, the network of Local Councillors is a flagship EU project and a tool to maximise outreach and engagement at local level, as outlined in DG COMM annual work programme 2025.

- the data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes;

For certain parts of the processing, data subjects have given consent for:

- receiving communication from the EC and CoR after becoming members of the Network;
- being contacted by other members of the Network;
- appearing on the public Network map, as well as in the section designed to promote the members' activities, accessible on the Network website;
- attending events and webinars;
- being photographed (closeups) during events and webinars;
- receiving newsletters, network plate and roll-up.

#### **4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?**

The following categories of personal data are collected and needed to become a Network member:

- Surname, Last name;
- Gender;
- Date of birth;
- Country and locality represented (with postcode included);
- Title (in their language);
- Affiliation to national and EU political families;
- End date of their mandate as elected representatives in a government, parliament or assembly of a region, city, town, province, municipality or village;
- Contact details (e-mail address, telephone number);
- Language(s);
- EU topics of interest.

Other personal data of Network members, such as closeup photographs, may be collected based on the consent of the member. In case of specific events organised in relation to the Network, members will be informed about the way their data will be processed through dedicated privacy statements.

The following categories of personal data are collected from the liaison officer:

- First name and last name;
- Job title;
- Contact details (e-mail address, telephone number);
- Languages.

#### **5. How long do we keep your personal data?**

The EC and CoR shall not retain or process personal data longer than necessary to carry out the purposes of processing, outlined in this Privacy Statement.

If a person ceases to be a member of the Network (e.g. by the end of the mandate or by requesting to be deleted from the Network), the EC and CoR and their processors will take reasonable steps to remove the relevant information from the interactive online platform and the website without undue delay and within 1 (one) month after notification of the end of the mandate or request to be deleted from the network.

Limited personal data, such as membership (name, type/duration of mandate, affiliation to national and EU political families, country and public authority represented) and selected audio-visual content may be archived for permanent preservation in a database owned by the joint controllers, for historical purposes and in the public interest to document, preserve and make available the history and audio-visual heritage of the European Union, in line with the relevant provisions of the EUDPR.

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

All personal data in electronic format are stored on the servers of the EC, CoR and their processors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

The EC and CoR's processors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of personal data on behalf of the EC and CoR, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the 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 (GDPR).

In order to protect your personal data, the EC and CoR have put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

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

Access to your personal data is provided to the EC and the contractor assigned to the project, and CoR staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and to authorised staff

according to the “need to know” principle. This includes staff in the EC Representations, and the CoR political groups, for the validation of the application to join the network and the communication-related activities. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

The processors who have access to the personal data are:

- For EC: NETCOMPANY - INTRASOFT S.A
- For CoR: Microsoft

The following personal data is publicly available on the Network website and is also accessible to the Network members on the online networking platform: first name, last name, country, region and local authority.

Additionally, EUROPE DIRECT centres have access to the mailing lists, paper and electronic files that may include personal data of the network members to be compiled on a “need-to-know” basis by Directorate-General Communication, EC Representations and the contractor.

Your personal data is not transferred to non-EU Member States or to international organisations.

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

You have specific rights as a data subject under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of the EUDPR. As regards this processing operation, you can exercise the following rights:

- the right to access your personal data (Article 17 EUDPR);
- the right to rectification in the case that your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete (Article 18 EUDPR);
- the right to erasure of your personal data (Article 19 EUDPR);
- where applicable, the right to restrict the processing of your personal data (Article 20 EUDPR);
- the right to data portability (Article 22 EUDPR);
- and the right to object to the processing of your personal data, which is lawfully carried out pursuant to Article 5(1)(a).

You can also withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controllers. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controllers, or in case of conflict their Data Protection Officers. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

## **9. Contact information**

### **- The Data Controllers**

If you would like to exercise your rights under the EUDPR, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controllers:

- For EC: Directorate-General for Communication, Unit C.2 ([COMM-C2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-C2@ec.europa.eu))
- For CoR: Directorate D for Communication, Unit DI ([EU-Councillors@cor.europa.eu](mailto:EU-Councillors@cor.europa.eu))

- **The Data Protection Officers (DPO)**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer of EC ([DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu)) or the Data Protection Officer of CoR ([data.protection@cor.europa.eu](mailto:data.protection@cor.europa.eu)) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under the EUDPR.

- **The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor ([edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)) if you consider that your rights under the EUDPR have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

**10. Where to find more detailed information?**

The EC Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the EC, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: DPR-EC-32988

The CoR DPO RD I-1