



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Privacy Statement¹

Information on the protection of your personal data - processing of subscription data of the [Council website](#)

1. Who is responsible for the handling of your personal data at the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC)?

General Secretariat of the Council

Head of Unit of the Digital Communication Unit

Directorate-General Communication and Information (DG COMM)

Functional mailbox: webmaster.internet@consilium.europa.eu

2. Contact details of the GSC's Data Protection Officer

[Data protection officer](#)

data.protection@consilium.europa.eu

3. What categories of personal data do we handle?

The personal data we process via [our email and SMS subscription systems](#) includes:

- **Identification data:** first name, surname, e-mail address and mobile number
- **Socio-demographic details:** profession
- **Data about your interests and needs:** product preferences (subscription to meetings, press events or press releases), frequency of e-mail alert reception, language(s)
- **Subscription behaviour:** time of registration and delivery, opening of e-mail alert, clicking on links in e-mail alerts, use of favourite device(s) and email client(s)
- **Managing the relationship with our subscribers:** We may ask for your feedback about our products and services and use this to improve our offering. Additionally, we may propose other products or services and/or provide information that may be of interest to you.

¹ Your personal data is handled in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725

4. For what purpose do we handle your personal data?

We only use your personal data to:

- Send you e-mail alerts, respecting the preferences you have chosen
- Send you SMS alerts, respecting the preferences you have chosen
- Assist you with your subscription in case of troubleshooting
- Collect statistics about collective and individual behaviour in order to improve our subscription system (e.g. collective opening rates and click through rates of an email campaign)
- Ask you for feedback about our products and services to improve our offering
- Propose other services and products and/or provide information that may be of interest to you

Personal data is processed by DG COMM of the General Secretariat of the Council: the Digital Communication Unit with admin rights, the Media Relations Unit, the Media Operations Unit, the Outreach Unit, the Graphics and Publications Unit and the Information Services Unit.

5. What is the legal basis for the handling of your personal data?

The legal basis for handling your personal data is *consent*.

6. If the legal basis is consent, you can withdraw it by

As the legal basis is *consent*, you can withdraw it at any time by unsubscribing from the e-mail alert and SMS message subscription service. You can choose to unsubscribe via the [Council website](#) once you have logged in to your account.

7. If the legal basis is a contract, are you obliged to provide us with your personal data and what are the consequences of not doing so?

Not applicable

8. If we did not receive the personal data directly from you for this purpose, how did we obtain it?

Not applicable

9. Who will have access to your personal data?

Staff members from the following contractors and processors have access to your personal data on a need to know basis:

- *Measuremail BV*, in charge of handling email and SMS subscriptions
- *The Ring Ring Company NV*, in charge of sending SMS messages

10. Will your personal data be transferred to a third country or an international organisation? If so, what safeguards are in place, if any?

- *Measuremail* is not transferring data to third countries or international organisations. Data collected via Measuremail are transmitted to and stored by Equinix servers located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- *Ring Ring Company NV* is not storing any data that would allow identifying subscribers nor personal information other than phone numbers, non-personalised messages sent and processing timestamps. Within the SMS sending application are stored meta information that is meant for troubleshooting. This meta data is not accessible to anyone outside RingRing company, which is located in Belgium.

11. For how long will we keep your personal data?

Personal data is kept as long as you are subscribed to email alerts (and if applicable) SMS services. When you unsubscribe from the subscription services your e-mail address will be anonymised (e-mail address overwritten by a random code). Additionally, identification data (first name, surname and mobile number) and socio-demographic details (profession) will be removed, whilst data about interests and needs (product preferences, frequency of e-mail alert reception, language(s)) will be kept for statistical purposes.

Furthermore, in order to keep data accurate regarding e-mail addresses and mobile numbers of subscribers, the GSC regularly seeks to update these contact details. If you do not react to an invitation to update or rectify your contact details, your subscription will be cancelled.

12. Does the handling of your personal data involve automated decision-making, including profiling? What are the consequences for you?

Not applicable

13. What are your rights² and how can you exercise them?

You have the right of information and the right of access to your personal data.

You also have the right to correct and complete your data.

Under certain circumstances, you may have the right to obtain the erasure of your personal data, or the right to object to the handling of your personal data or to ask for it to be restricted.

You can exercise these rights by sending an e-mail to the person responsible for the handling of your personal data (see point 1), with a copy to the Data Protection Officer (point 2).

With your request, you must provide a copy of an identification document to confirm your identity (ID card or passport). This document should contain an identification number, country of issue, period of validity, your name, address and date of birth. Any other data contained in the copy of the identification document such as a photo or any personal characteristics may be blacked out.

(Not applicable to GSC staff)

14. You have the right to lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor edps@edps.europa.eu

Before you do so, it is recommended that you first try to obtain a remedy by contacting the person responsible for the handling of your personal data at the GSC (see point 1) and/or the Data Protection Officer (point 2).

² Articles 17 to 22 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725