



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HOME

International Affairs Unit

Brussels, 22 June 2012

**Meeting with H.E. Mr Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui
Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates**

**Briefing for the Director General
Mr Stefano MANSERVISI**

Briefing dossier written by [REDACTED] (DG HOME [REDACTED]), with contributions from A1, A3, B3, EEAS

Participants from DG HOME:

Mr Stefano Manservisi
Note taker: 02/B3
Assistant: [REDACTED]

DGs visitor(s)/interlocutor(s) :

Mr Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui,
Ambassador
[REDACTED]
Deputy Head of Mission +1

DG HOME

Table des matières

- 1. Visa**
- 2. Radicalisation**
- 3. PNR**
- 4. Defensive on Europol**
- 5. Biography**
- 6. Background: country fiche**

Introduction

Ambassador Almazouri will be accompanied by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Deputy Chief of Mission, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Counsellor.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On our side, the meeting could be the opportunity [REDACTED] [REDACTED] d to inform about the new requirements which will follow the upcoming adoption of the **EU PNR proposal**.

1. Visa Cooperation

Pages 4 to 11 have been deleted.

2. Radicalisation – GCTF Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Pages 12 to 16 have been deleted.

3. EU PNR

Objective

→ Introduce the EU PNR proposal. Indicate that, once it is adopted, UAE carriers will be required to transmit PNR data to EU MS authorities.

Scene setter

Once the EU PNR proposal is adopted carriers operating flights from and to UAE (as well as other third countries) will be required to transmit the PNR of their passengers to the relevant MS law enforcement authorities. It is therefore important to inform UAE of this prospect and obtain a reaction from them on whether there would be any obstacles to their carriers transmitting the data.

Line to take

- On 2/2/2011 the Commission adopted a new proposal for a Directive on the use of PNR data to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and serious crime.
- This means that all carriers operating flights in and out of the EU will have to send the PNR data of their passengers to the relevant MS law enforcement authorities.
- The data will have to be sent twice in advance of the flight's departure and it will have to be sent electronically, using specific messaging formats (those of ICAO) and using the 'push' method.
- The data will be used for fighting terrorism and serious crime, and it will be retained for 5 years, but will be depersonalised after 30 days
- Strong data protection guarantees will be provided and all passengers, irrespective of nationality, will have their rights fully protected.
- Carriers who do not comply with this will face sanctions.
- Our decision making process on this proposal proceeded well in Council but still needs to go through the European Parliament. It could come into force during 2013. After that, there will be a 2-3 year transposition period for MS.

Background information

Description of the file:

The Commission proposal for a Framework Decision on the use of passenger name records (PNR) for law enforcement was adopted in November 2007 under the Nice Treaty. It received strong support at the informal meetings of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in January, July and November 2008. Great progress was achieved during discussions in the relevant Council working group and consensus was reached on the majority of items.

The Stockholm programme called upon the Commission to present an EU PNR proposal to prevent, detect and investigate terrorism and serious crime. On 2/2/2011 the Commission adopted a new proposal for a Directive on the use of PNR data to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and serious crime. A new Impact Assessment was also adopted for this proposal.

The main aspects of the proposal are the following:

- purpose limitation: terrorist offences and serious crime
- geographical scope: international flights – review on intra-EU flights to be done 2 years after the adoption of the instrument
- sensitive data: absolute prohibition to their use
- period of data retention: 30 days in full use and 5 years in a depersonalised database. Re-personalisation of the data permitted if there is a specific investigation
- data protection: the right of access, rectification, erasure, compensation, redress, data security and confidentiality of processing are taken from the Framework Decision of Data Protection. Oversight will be exercised by the national supervisory authority established by the Framework Decision of Data Protection.
- transfers to third countries: permitted but under very strict conditions
- transfers to private entities: absolute prohibition

The Council adopted a common approach on the file on 26 April 2012. The common approach is very close to the original commission proposal with 2 main changes: (i) voluntary inclusion of targeted intra-EU flights, (ii) extension of the fully personalised period of retention from 30 days to 2 years.

Even though the EP started working on the file, discussions have been suspended indefinitely pending the resolution of a dispute between the council and the EP on the Schengen Evaluation proposals. In any case, the discussions in the EP pointed towards a substantial narrowing of all aspects of the proposal.

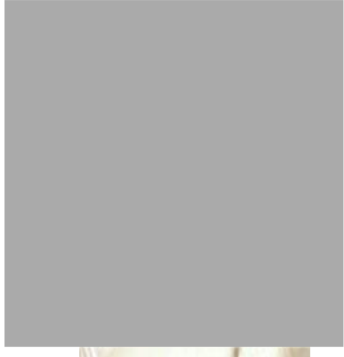
4. Defensive on Europol

In case asked about cooperation with Europol:

- You might be aware that at its last meeting Europol's Management Board approved Germany's proposal to draw up a business case to allow the Management Board to decide whether or not to include the United Arab Emirates as an additional partner to the Council list .
- The purpose of this Business Case is to provide additional information to the Management Board by assessing the threat to EU internal security and Europol's operational interest in establishing a cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates.
- COM awaits the outcome of the above mentioned processes. The United Arab Emirates need also to be aware of the need to demonstrate that they possess an adequate data protection regime so as to allow for the possibility of one day either Europol or the Commission to conclude an agreement with them.

Contact point: [REDACTED], A.3 – tel. [REDACTED]
Director: Reinhard Priebe

BIO
Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui



His Excellency Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui currently holds the position of Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg as well as Head of Mission to the European Union.

[Redacted text block containing multiple paragraphs of information, all obscured by grey bars.]

BACKGROUND: COUNTRY FICHE

Head of State: President Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan	Human Development Index: 32/169 (UNDP 2010)
Form of state: Federation of 7 emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Ras al-Khaimah, Umm al-Qaiwain and Fujairah. Independence (from UK) in 1971.	Democracy Index: 148 out of 167 (EIU 2010)
Minister of Foreign Affairs: Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan	Corruption Perception index: 28/178 (TI 2010)
Capital: Abu Dhabi city	2010 GDP: €160 bln; GDP per capita: €32,700 [Eurostat 2009]
Population: around 6 million (est. 2010) out of which only 20% UAE citizens (estimate)	Real GDP growth 2010-2011: 3.2% (IMF estim.)
Oil: 4 ^h largest world oil exporter (2009).	Literacy rate: 78%
Life expectancy at birth: 76.5 years	EU-UAE Trade 2010: Exports to UAE €27.7 mio; imports from UAE €5.6 mio [Eurostat]
Sunni/Shia ratio of Muslim population: 85/15 (est.)	Parliament: Unicameral Federal National Council of 20 appointed and 20 elected members representing the separate emirates; it has a consultative role only. Latest elections 24.09.2011

Political

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are a federation of seven emirates (monarchies) of which Abu Dhabi is the most powerful: this is why the ruler of Abu Dhabi is also the President of the UAE. Dubai ranks second which is why its ruler is the UAE Prime Minister. The Parliament has no real powers. Half of its 40 members are elected, but only by a small electorate selected by the government. Elections were held on 24 September but only a fraction (28%) of the some 130,000 voters cast their ballots.

The UAE has escaped unrest so far, not least as the very small local population enjoys one of the world's highest GDP/capita. However, since the eruption of Arab Spring unrest in the wider region, the UAE authorities have shown signs of nervousness, tightening their grip on associations and human rights defenders, five of which were sentenced to up to three years in prison on 27 November but granted presidential pardon immediately afterwards (probably also thanks to strong international pressure on their case).

Less than 20 percent of the population are native citizens, the rest being foreign workers, mostly from the Indian subcontinent. Their work and life conditions are often dreadful; domestic legislation and international conventions on migrant workers' protection exist but are rarely enforced.

UAE views on key foreign policy issues

UAE has recently shown willingness to participate in contentious causes on the side of the West: it is a strong US ally and in Afghanistan the only Arab country undertaking full-scale operations. It was the only Muslim country to participate in the **Kosovo** peacekeeping force KFOR. UAE joined the coalition which carried out military operations in Libya on 24 March 2011. UAE contribution consisted of six F-16 Falcon and six Mirage 2000 fighter jets.

In **Bahrain**, UAE joined Saudi Arabia in spearheading the military GCC mission in support of the government. Abu Dhabi is generally closely aligned with Riyadh.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran have enjoyed strong bilateral relations for many years. In 2011, ties got strained by the UAE's increased cooperation with the international community in enforcing sanctions imposed against Iran. Relations were also hampered by the Islamic Republic's alleged support of Shi'a protestors in Bahrain and the UAE's denunciation of Iran's activities. Both countries are members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and have cooperated extensively both inside and outside these multilateral forums. Though the two countries have been in a low-level dispute for many years over the ownership of three islands in the Persian Gulf—the Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa— they nevertheless enjoy close relations based largely on mutually beneficial economic relations.

Economy

Oil in Abu Dhabi and Dubai was historically the cornerstone of UAE's economic development. Nowadays only Abu Dhabi has considerable oil resources which are also the pillar of its political power inside the UAE. Dubai successfully diversified into a trade, financial, logistical and tourism hub. However, Dubai's high-fly ambitions were dampened by the 2009 financial crisis and the need for a bail-out from Abu Dhabi. The UAE federal budget is mainly financed by Abu Dhabi.

EU – UAE relations

Formal relations between the EU and UAE take place in the context of the 1988 EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Cooperation Agreement. UAE is currently holding the 1-year rotating presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (until December 2011). On 20 April 2011 UAE hosted the annual EU-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Abu Dhabi, attended and co-chaired by HRVP C. Ashton.

Contact: [REDACTED], EEAS Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq Division
Tel [REDACTED]

Annex:

22nd EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting
Luxembourg, 25 June 2012

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
 - 2. EU and the GCC: key developments and challenges**
 - 3. Global Issues**
 - 4. Developments in the broader region**
 - 5. Any other business**
-