



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## **PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

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

**Processing operation:** Young Voices for the Ocean: 2026 Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioners Costas Kadis and Glenn Micallef

**Data Controller:** European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – Unit A1 (DG MARE – Unit A1)

**Record reference:** DPR-EC-01063.1

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## **1. Introduction**

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the Commission’) is 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 (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

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.

Information in relation to processing operation **Young Voices for the Ocean: 2026 Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioners Costas Kadis and Glenn Micallef** undertaken by the European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – Unit A1 (hereafter DG MARE – Unit A1) and Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – Unit B3 (DG EAC – Unit B3) as well as its authorised contractor is presented below.

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

As part of the European Commission’s Political Priorities for 2024–2029, the Youth Policy Dialogues aim to provide young people with an opportunity to express their views on EU policy initiatives. These dialogues also help integrate youth perspectives into the EU’s political agenda through meaningful exchanges with Commissioners.

DG MARE – Unit A1 (hereinafter “the Data Controller”) collects and uses your personal data for the selection of 30 young participants for the **2026 Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioners Costas Kadis and Glenn Micallef**, as well as for the organisation of this Youth Policy Dialogue taking place on 19 March 2026 in Cyprus and all related online preparatory meetings happening in January and February 2026.

The Youth Policy Dialogue and all related online preparatory meetings will be organised by the European Commission, specifically by Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – Unit A1 (DG MARE – Unit A1) and Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – Unit B3 (DG EAC – Unit B3) with the support of its authorised contractor Cecoforma.

The dialogue on ocean matters will take place as closed-door discussions in three breakout groups of about 10 participants, each focusing on a specific subtopic: attracting youth to the blue economy, youth perspectives on the future of fisheries and aquaculture, and the preservation of underwater cultural heritage. During the breakout sessions, the two Commissioners will visit each group to engage directly and hear participants’ views. The dialogue will conclude with a plenary debrief, where the key insights from each group will be shared and discussed collectively. Participants could also join side educational activities related to the ocean.

The online preparatory meetings will involve all selected participants and European Commission staff, and will take place via Microsoft Teams.

For more information on the processing of personal data when using Microsoft Teams please refer to the relevant privacy statement under the processing operation “EC M365 environment” (reference number in the public DPO register: EC-DPR-04966).

Your personal data will be collected via [EUSurvey](#) when you submit your application to the call for expressions of interest. EUSurvey, the Commission's online questionnaire tool, requires applicants to log in via EU Login or a social media account. EU Login requires certain personal data such as your name, surname and email address. For more information, please refer to the privacy statements of EU Login and EUSurvey, as well as the processing operations "Identity & Access Management Service (IAMS)" (reference number in the public DPO register: DPR-EC-03187) and "EUSurvey" (reference number: DPR-EC-01488). Should you choose to log in via your social media account, please refer to the privacy statement of the relevant platform.

The data provided in your application will be processed to verify eligibility and to establish a pool of potential participants for the dialogue, consisting of 30 selected participants and 10 additional individuals on a reserve list.

If selected, your data will also be used to provide information about the event and the related online preparatory meetings. You will also be requested to provide additional personal data via the online tool used by the contractor Cecoforma's to process your registration to the event and arrange travel and accommodation for you to attend the event.

Panoramic, as well as individual, photographs and videos will be taken during the event and may be published on the European Commission websites and social media (see section 3 below, particularly on consent for individual pictures and videos).

Individual interviews featuring selected participants may also be produced for publication on the European Commission websites and social media, based on the explicit consent of the participants involved.

The personal data processed may be reused for the purpose of procedures before the EU Courts, national courts, the European Ombudsman, or the European Court of Auditor.

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 (Article 5(1)(a) Regulation (EU) 2018/1725). The processing of personal data linked to the organisation of the **Young Voices for the Ocean: 2026 Youth Policy Dialogue with European Commissioners Costas Kadis and Glenn Micallef** is necessary for the management and functioning of the Commission, as mandated by the Treaties. The Union law which is the basis for the processing based on Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is Article 11 of the Treaty of the European Union and Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- the data subject has given **consent** to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725), namely:
  - the selection of participants;
  - the publication of the names of selected participants on the European Commission websites and social media;
  - the sharing of participants' names with other selected participants;
  - the organisation and facilitation of participation in the event, including online preparatory meetings;

- the recording and publication of materials (photos, short videos, news articles, quotes, or discussion summaries) in which participants appear individually or with the Commissioners, to be posted on the European Commission websites and social media
- the recording and publication of individual interviews featuring selected participants that may also be published on European Commission websites and social media.

If you opt in, you give your explicit consent under Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 for the processing of your personal data for these specific purposes. Consent is provided through a clear affirmative action by ticking the relevant box(es) on the online registration form.

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

To carry out this processing operation, the Data Controller and authorised Commission contractors collect and process the following categories of personal data:

- For all participants: name and surname, age, gender, nationality, country of residence, occupation, and e-mail address. The provision of personal data is necessary to verify eligibility (i.e. participation is open to young people aged 18-30 currently residing in an EU Member State), to support the selection of a diverse and representative group of participants, and to contact selected participants.
- For selected participants (in addition to the above): date of birth, dietary requirements, mobility or special needs, a copy of an ID or passport, phone number, and social media accounts (if available). The provision of personal data is necessary to arrange travel and accommodation, in view of their participation to the event.

Please note that the Data Controller does not request nor expect that data subjects provide any special categories of data under Article 10(1) of Regulation 2018/1725 (that is “personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”) related to themselves or to third persons in the context of this video contest. Any spontaneous inclusion of these types of personal data is the responsibility of the data subject and by including any of these types of data the data subject is considered to provide his/her explicit consent to the processing, in accordance with Article 10(2)(a) of Regulation 2018/1725.

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

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing. Specifically, the personal data of non-selected participants will be kept or up to two months following the publication of the results of the call for expressions of interest, to allow for possible replacement of participants in case any of the initially selected individuals decline to take part.

The personal data of selected participants will be deleted no later than one year after the last action related to the youth policy dialogue (expected to take place on 31 March 2026). The pictures and videos taken during the event will be kept for the duration of 5 years

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

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the European Commission and of its authorised contractors. 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 Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the transposition of the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") in the EU Member States ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures in place. 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 the 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 limited to Commission staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and other authorised Commission staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements. Staff accessing your personal data work in the following services:

- Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – Unit A1 (DG MARE – Unit A1)
- Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – Unit B3 (DG EAC – B3)

If selected, your personal data will also be shared with the staff of the authorised Commission contractor supporting the organisation of the youth policy dialogue. Cecoforma will use your data to provide you with the relevant information about the event and related online preparatory meetings via e-mail, process your registration to the event and arrange your travel and accommodation to attend the event.

**Contractor:** Cecoforma SA,  
Rue Léon Frédéricq, 14  
4020, Liège  
Belgium

To arrange your travel and accommodation, Cecoforma will share your personal data with the following sub-processors:

**Travel agency:** Belgium Air Travel  
Boulevard Louis Schmidt 75,  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

**Registration platform:** Idloom-events  
Drève Richelle, 161  
1410 Waterloo  
Belgium

**Badge supplier:** Badgeman printing

Veldenstraat, 14  
2470 Retie  
Belgium

**Hotel:** Limanaki Beach Hotel  
1st October Street 18  
Ayia Napa, 5330, Cyprus

Panoramic, as well as individual, photographs and videos from the event (and for those consenting also to them, individual interviews) will be taken during the contest and published on the X, Instagram and Facebook accounts of DG MARE and DG EAC of the European Commission.

These platforms are covered by the EU-US Data Privacy Framework and therefore the Data controller will transfer your personal data based on an **adequacy Decision** of the Commission (Article 47 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), i.e. [Commission Implementing Decision EU 2023/1795 of 10 July 2023 pursuant to Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the adequate level of protection of personal data under the EU-US Data Privacy Framework \(notified under document C\(2023\)4745\) \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

## Cookies

Cookies are short text files stored on a user's device (such as a computer, tablet or phone) by a website. Cookies are used for the technical functioning of a website (functional cookies) or for gathering statistics (analytical cookies).

The processing of personal data for the meeting takes place via the Commission's online questionnaire tool EU Survey. The cookies employed by the Commission on the organiser's device for that purpose will be covered by the cookie policy of the Commission, which is available here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/cookies\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/cookies_en).

When you access the EU survey website, it will indicate in the specific privacy statement how long it will keep the browser history of your visit. This information will then be deleted. The collection, aggregation and anonymising operations are performed in the data centre of the European Commission under adequate security measures.

Cookies are stored by Europa Analytics, the corporate service which measures the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's websites on EUROPA. More information is available in the Record of Processing DPR-EC-00685 (Europa Analytics).

Enabling these cookies is not strictly necessary for the website to work but it will provide you with a better browsing experience. You can delete or block these cookies, but if you do that, some features of the meeting/event website may not work as intended.

The cookie-related information is not used to identify data subjects personally and the pattern data is fully under the Commission's control. These cookies are not used for any purpose other than those described here.

Should you wish to opt your personal data out of our anonymised, aggregated statistics, you can do so on our cookies page. In particular, you can control and/or delete those cookies as you wish.

### **Third party IT tools, including Social Media**

We use third party IT tools to inform about and promote the meeting through widely used communication channels, including the social media. For detailed information about the use of social media by the European Commission, see the Record of Processing DPR-EC-00073 (Social Media Use by the European Commission).

In order to protect your privacy, our use of third party IT tools to connect to those services does not set cookies when our website pages are loaded on your computer (or other devices), nor are you immediately redirected to those social media or other websites. Only in the event that you click on a button or “play” on a video to watch it, a cookie of the social media company concerned will be installed on your device. If you do not click on any social media buttons or videos, no cookies will be installed on your device by third parties.

In order to view such third-party content on our websites, a message will alert you that you need to accept those third parties’ specific Terms and Conditions, including their cookie policies, over which the Commission has no control.

We recommend that users carefully read the relevant privacy policies of the social media tools used. These explain each company’s policy of personal data collection and further processing, their use of data, users’ rights and the ways in which users can protect their privacy when using those services.

The use of a third-party IT tool does not in any way imply that the European Commission endorses them or their privacy policies. In the event that one or more third party IT tools are occasionally unavailable, we accept no responsibility for lack of service due to their downtime.

### **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 Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

You have consented to provide your personal data to the Data Controller for the present processing operation. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent. Please note that if you withdraw consent while the activities related to the video contest are ongoing, you understand that this will automatically terminate your participation.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. 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.

In accordance with Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, your request as a data subject will be handled within one month of receipt of the request. That period may be extended by two further months where necessary, considering the complexity and number of the requests.

In such case you will be informed of the extension of the time limit, together with the reasons for the delay.

## **9. Contact information**

### **- The Data Controller**

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, 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 Controller, DG MARE – Unit A1, [MARE-A1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-A1@ec.europa.eu).

### **- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer ([DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu)) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

### **- 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 Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 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 Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, 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-01063](#)