

**Speaker:** *Jop Van Der Auwera*

**Presentation title:** The screening carried out by the Belgian Passenger Information Unit: looking for a needle in a haystack on the basis of data matching, risk profiling and retrospective searches

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In the fight against terrorism and serious crime, the EU issued Directive 2016/681 on the processing of PNR- and API-data in 2016. In addition to regulating the processing of passengers' personal data, the Directive demands a creation of a Passenger Information Unit (PIU) in each Member State, which is responsible for data processing. The presentation mainly focuses on the criminological perspective behind the preventive techniques used by the Belgian PIU. First, the composition, goals and tasks of the Belgian PIU will be explained. Second, the processing of PNR- and API-data will be discussed, focusing mainly on the prior assessment of passengers (a priori) - including the use of databases and the formation of risk profiles - and the 'retrospective searches' (a posteriori). Finally, the above will lead to an evaluation of the desired balance between the demand for an effective tool for law enforcement authorities on the one hand and the protection of the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject on the other hand.