



'Over the ten years of its existence, Prüm has proven to be a very useful tool in European law enforcement cooperation that has helped to solve many serious crimes in the EU.'

Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union (2018)

Online Module: Executive Summary

This online learning module is about the Prüm Decision (Council Decision 2008/615/JHA), which was adopted in 2008 by the Council of the European Union. It also covers a related legal instrument, the Prüm Implementing Decision (Council Decision 2008/616/JHA), which was adopted at the same time. Collectively these two decisions are known by the term 'Prüm Decisions'.

The main objective of the Prüm Decision is to improve cross-border cooperation between national authorities in the Member States responsible for the prevention and investigation of criminal offences.

To this end, it lays down an EU-level legal framework for cross-border exchange of law enforcement information and other forms of cooperation. It provides, in particular, the legal basis for a decentralised online network for automated data exchange.

This legal framework specifies the conditions and procedures in four areas of cross-border cooperation:

- automated searching of DNA profiles, dactyloscopic data (fingerprints and palm prints) and certain national vehicle registration data (VRD);
- supply of non-personal and personal data for the prevention of criminal offences and in maintaining public order in relation to major events with a cross-border;
- supply of personal data and information in order to prevent terrorist offences;
- joint patrols and other joint operations in order to maintain public order and security and to prevent criminal offences.

The module aims to give users a broad understanding of the background and operation of the Prüm Decision. Its target audience is police and other law enforcement officers, border guards, customs officers and judiciary staff, who cooperate with colleagues from other EU Member States, particularly in the area of information exchange.

The module consists of an introduction, nine topic chapters, a list of abbreviations and a glossary of Prüm-related terms. In the My Progress section, users can assess their levels of understanding of each of the topics by considering a selection of true/false statements.

The individual chapters are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Cross-Border Cooperation:** This is an introductory chapter looking at the need for cross-border cooperation, and how the Prüm Decision furthers it. It also describes how Member States become Prüm-operational and the alternative means of cross-border cooperation.
3. **Historical Development of the Prüm Decision:** This chapter describes the creation and development of the Prüm Decision, and explains the differences between the Prüm Treaty and the Prüm Decision.
4. **DNA Data Exchange:** This chapter is the first of three on data exchange. It covers DNA data: the current state of play, the steps that need to be taken in order for the Member States to exchange data, and the challenges faced.
5. **Dactyloscopic Data Exchange:** This second chapter on data exchange is concerned with dactyloscopic (fingerprint and palm print) data: the current state of play, the steps that need to be taken in order for the Member States to exchange data, and the challenges faced.
6. **Vehicle Registration Data Exchange:** This third chapter on data exchange covers vehicle registration data (VRD) data: the current state of play, the steps that need to be taken in order for the Member States to exchange data, and the challenges faced.
7. **Other Uses of the Prüm Decision:** This chapter examines how the Prüm Decision facilitates the supplying of information to prevent terrorist offences, joint operations and assistance with mass gatherings, disasters and serious accidents.
8. **Data Protection:** This chapter discusses issues related to the exchange of personal data under the provisions of the Prüm Decision.
9. **Support and Delivery at the EU Level:** This chapter describes the assistance provided to the Member States by the legislative and executive bodies of the EU for the implementation and running of the measures of the Prüm Decision.
10. **Prüm in Practice:** This chapter presents some real case scenarios that illustrate how the provisions of the Prüm Decision work in practice.