

# DAILY BULLETIN

JUNE 1, 2004

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## U.S., EU SIGN PASSENGER DATA COLLECTION AGREEMENT

Pact contains specific guidance on use and retention of data

The United States and the European Union have signed an agreement allowing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to collect air passenger data on those flying European airlines to or from the United States, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced May 28.

The agreement sets forth how the data is to be processed, used, and retained, according to a statement by DHS. It also stipulates that the data collected may be used only to prevent and combat terrorism, serious transnational crimes, and flight from warrants or custody for such crimes.

The new agreement will be in effect for three and a half years, and the data collected may only be retained for that length of time "unless associated with an enforcement action."

Following is a Department of Homeland Security press release:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C.  
May 28, 2004  
Press Release

## DHS AND EU SIGN AGREEMENT TO ALLOW COLLECTION OF PASSENGER DATA

(Washington, DC) May 28, 2004 - Today, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Irish Ambassador Noel Fahey (representing the Presidency of the European Union), and European Union Ambassador Günter Burghardt, (representing the European Commission) signed an agreement that will allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to collect airline Passenger Name Record (PNR) information relating to flights between the United States and the European Union. Although air carriers have been providing PNR data since March 2003 under an interim arrangement, this agreement will establish the legal basis for such information to be collected and transferred consistent with U.S. and European Union (EU) laws.

The agreement will be in effect for three-and-a-half years once it is implemented, with renegotiations to start within one year of the agreement's expiration date. The comprehensive arrangement concluded with the EU, which includes this agreement as well as a more specific set of Undertakings setting forth in detail how CBP will process and handle PNR data, contains specific guidance on the use and retention of the PNR data, to include:

- Data will be retained by CBP for three and a half years, unless associated with an enforcement action.
- Only 34 PNR data elements will be accessed by CBP, to the extent collected in the air carriers' reservation and departure control systems.
- CBP will filter and delete "sensitive data," as mutually identified by CBP and the European Commission.
- PNR data will be used by CBP strictly for purposes of preventing and combating:
  - 1) terrorism and related crimes;
  - 2) other serious crimes, including organized crime, that are transnational in nature; and
  - 3) flight from warrants or custody for the crimes described above.

"The U.S. and the EU are equally committed to not only improving the safety of air passengers and the security of our borders, but also to protecting the privacy of air passengers consistent with both U.S. and European laws," said Secretary Ridge. "Today's signing is the result of more than a year of negotiations between the United States and the European Commission, and is a sign of our united commitment to combat terrorism."

Without an agreement, air carriers were placed in a situation where they could either face fines for violating EU privacy laws or penalties for failing to provide passenger data to CBP. Through the interim arrangement, both the U.S. and the EU had agreed not to take enforcement action while negotiations were underway. Today's formal agreement removes air carriers from that situation and strikes a balance between facilitating legitimate travel while contributing to the security of the U.S. and EU member states.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON CAFTA UNLIKELY BEFORE U.S. NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Views differ on the prospects for passage of CAFTA  
By Scott Miller  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A congressional vote on the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) signed on May 28 is unlikely to take place before the November elections in the United States, according to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick.

At a May 27 press conference in Washington announcing the conclusion of a free-trade agreement between the United States and Bahrain, Zoellick said that, given time constraints and opposition to the accord, the Bush administration will probably wait until after the November elections to pursue a vote on the agreement between the United States and the Central American nations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica.

Zoellick suggested that a congressional session following the elections may present an opportunity to approve the agreement before the end of 2004, but he acknowledged that remarks by Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts -- who has vowed to veto and renegotiate CAFTA, if elected -- complicate efforts to court the support of congressional Democrats.

At the same time, a number of congressional Democrats are accusing the Bush administration of not engaging Congress in crafting CAFTA, and they are calling for modifications of the agreement.

In a May 27 statement, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, Representative Charles Rangel (Democrat of New York); the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, Representative Sander Levin (Democrat of Michigan); and Trade Subcommittee member Representative Xavier Becerra (Democrat of California) questioned the administration's commitment to trade with Central America.

"With the CAFTA agreement to be signed tomorrow, the Bush administration shows it is not serious about increasing trade with Central America. If it were serious, it would have reached out to Congress -- to Democrats and Republicans -- and put together a bipartisan agreement," the legislators' statement said. "Instead, the Bush administration lost a major opportunity."

The congressional Democrats urged the U.S. trade representative to modify CAFTA provisions relating to labor standards and to access to low-cost generic medicines. They warned that the agreement, as currently constructed, is unlikely to be approved.

"Thanks to the Bush Administration, the CAFTA is on a midnight train to nowhere -- in an election year or any year," the legislators said.

Despite opposition to the CAFTA among some Democrats as well as some Republicans from sugar- and textile-producing districts, Representative Kevin Brady (Republican of Texas), charged with spearheading congressional support for CAFTA, predicted that the agreement will be approved.

"When the Central America Free Trade Agreement comes before Congress, I am confident that it will have the votes to pass," Brady said in a May 27 press release.

For its part, the United States' largest industrial trade association, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), has pledged to work to secure congressional approval of the agreement at the earliest opportunity.

Frank Vargo, NAM's vice president for international economic affairs, hailed CAFTA as "the highest-quality trade agreement yet." In a May 28 press release, he said: "The outstanding rules in this cutting-edge agreement can serve as mileposts for future trade accords in the Americas, including the U.S.-Andean Free Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Americas."

## STATE'S PIFER AT CSCE HEARING DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ambassador Steven Pifer

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Steven Pifer updated members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission on the state of democracy, human rights, civil society, and rule of law in Russia, as well as U.S. policy.

In remarks to the Commission May 20, Pifer urged patience. "Russia's political system and civil society have come a long way since the Soviet era," he said. "But building a modern democratic state is not an easy process, and the Russian path has had its share of setbacks."

In sketching the U.S. policy context, he noted a convergence of U.S. and Russian interests on such issues as the global war on terrorism and countering proliferation while citing "important differences" on such issues as Iran's nuclear program and Moldova.

He reviewed the mixed picture presented by Russian political reform, judicial reform, media freedom, civil society, freedom of religion, and Chechnya.

The United States is devoting significant assistance resources to democracy and human rights programs in Russia, Pifer said, citing as one example the \$33 million being spent in the current fiscal year to support democracy in Russia.

He concluded his statement by expressing the American belief "that a democratic political system will be best for the Russians and will improve the prospects for building a strong and enduring partnership between our two countries."

While Russia's political system is a question for Russians to decide, Pifer said, "the U.S. Government will continue to support Russian efforts to promote human rights and democratization by pressing for greater steps towards democratic institutions and by providing assistance to strengthen democracy and civil society."

The U.S. States Helsinki Commission, an independent federal agency, monitors progress in implementing provisions of the Helsinki Accords. The commission, created in 1976, includes nine Senators, nine Representatives, and one official each from the Departments of State, Defense and Commerce.

## WHITE HOUSE WELCOMES SIGNING OF SUDAN PEACE ACCORDS

Displaced in Darfur must return home safely to contribute to rebuilding

The White House welcomed the signing of the Sudan peace accords May 27, saying peace will enable the troubled nation to “embark on a new course of stability, prosperity, and reconciliation.”

Following is the text of the White House statement:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
(Nashville, Tennessee)  
May 27, 2004

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

#### Sudan Peace Agreement

The United States welcomes the announcement that the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have completed an agreement for peace in Sudan. The signing of the final three protocols begins the closure of the longest running civil war in sub-Saharan Africa. The United States has worked closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and others, during this long peace process. President Bush and his Special Envoy Senator Danforth continue to be keenly interested in its success to end the suffering of the people of the South. At the same time, this peace also presents a unique opportunity for a united Sudan to cast aside the baggage of its troubled past and embark on a new course of stability, prosperity, and reconciliation.

We applaud the perseverance of the two sides in the months of long and difficult negotiations. With this agreement in hand, we fully expect negotiators to work now with greater flexibility, speed, and dedication to complete the terms of implementation. We call upon the leadership of both sides to prepare their people in earnest for the commitments agreed in all of the protocols, which are the keys to lasting peace and preserving the unity of Sudan.

Few countries have suffered as Sudan. We urge the Government of Sudan to use the positive momentum created by the peace agreement to reverse the tragic human

rights and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Darfur. Further action is required in order for the benefits of peace to reach all Sudanese and for Sudan to enjoy full cooperation with the international community. The displaced population in Darfur must be able to safely return to their homes so that they can contribute to the rebuilding of their country.

## USAID AWARDS \$6 MILLION FOR MEDICAL INJECTION SAFETY IN AFRICA

Funds provided under President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded \$6 million May 26 to enhance medical injection safety programs in six African countries. The funds, which are part of the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), are intended to help reduce the transmission of HIV in developing countries.

Following is the text of the USAID news release:

United States Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523  
Press Office  
<http://www.usaid.gov/>  
Press: (202) 712-4320  
Public Information: (202) 712-4810

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 26, 2004

WASHINGTON, DC -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today awarded \$6 million in funds to enhance medical injection safety programs to reduce the transmission of HIV in developing countries, sometimes the result of unsafe and unnecessary medical injections. The awards will support projects operating in six African countries -- Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia -- as part of the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

The World Health Organization estimates that more than 16 billion medical injections are administered in devel-

oping countries every year. Injections, however, are not always given in a safe manner and can expose the client, the provider, and the community to avoidable health risks. Of particular concern is the re-use of syringes and needles in the absence of sterilization, leading to transmission of blood-borne diseases including hepatitis B, hepatitis C infections, and HIV.

“The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is focused on achieving the goals of treating at least two million HIV-infected persons with anti-retroviral therapy, preventing seven million new infections and caring for 10 million persons infected with or affected by HIV,” said USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. “Through all of our efforts, treating and caring for individuals in a safe, effective manner is a top priority.”

USAID partner organizations Chemonics International and John Snow, Inc., and University Research Corporation have each received awards to improve medical injection safety through provider training, logistics management, reduction of unnecessary injections, and improved health care waste disposal. To support these improvement initiatives, the partners will conduct assessments of injection and supply management practices, support the development of national policies, and establish monitoring and evaluation systems to accurately determine progress.

Specifically, Chemonics International is implementing a \$1.3 million injection safety project in Zambia; John Snow, Inc., is applying \$3.9 million in funds toward work in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda; and the University Research Co., LLC started work on their \$800,000 injection safety project in Namibia.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years.

For press inquiries, please contact the USAID Press Office at 202-712-4320.

Transmitted by the USAID Public Information, Production and Online Services group, contact number 202-712-0000.

## TOBACCO LINKED TO POVERTY, U.N. HEALTH AGENCY REPORTS

“A vicious cycle” of poverty, tobacco cited in report on World No Tobacco Day

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the cultivation and consumption of tobacco create a cycle of poverty, pushing the ravages of smoking beyond health concerns. The U.N. health agency is promoting this theme in its campaign for World No Tobacco Day 2004 on May 31.

In a May 28 press release, WHO says the poorest people tend to smoke the most and bear the greatest health and economic burdens in many societies. Beyond consequences borne by the individual, national economies also suffer through the loss of foreign exchange in the import of tobacco, the loss of tax revenue due to smuggling and damages to the environment caused by cultivation, according to the WHO findings.

Recognition of No Tobacco Day comes in 2004 as WHO attempts to build greater momentum for adoption of the U.N. Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The document urges nations to adopt stronger regulatory regimes on tobacco and promote more prevention programs. There are currently 118 signatories to the agreement; the United States signed earlier this month. The treaty, the first to ever address a health concern, is open to signatories until June 29, 2004. The agreement would go into effect when 40 nations have ratified it; currently 16 nations have done so.

The latest information on the FCTC is available at [http://www.who.int/tobacco/areas/framework/signing\\_ceremony/countrylist/en/](http://www.who.int/tobacco/areas/framework/signing_ceremony/countrylist/en/)

Information on World No Tobacco Day is available at <http://www.who.int/tobacco/areas/communications/events/wntd/2004/en/>

The following is the text of the WHO press release:

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The World Health Organization says that tobacco is bad economics all around

31 May - World No Tobacco Day 2004: the vicious circle of tobacco and poverty

28 MAY 2004 | GENEVA -- The World Health Organization (WHO) launches this year's campaign for World No Tobacco Day with the slogan: Tobacco and Poverty: a vicious circle, stressing the enormous economic costs of tobacco use and cultivation to families, communities and countries.

The slogan 'a vicious circle' explains the inextricable link that exists between tobacco and poverty, and how the use of tobacco, especially by poorer people who consume this product the most, can cause harmful consequences to their already precarious economies and income.

"There has been a tremendous progress on tobacco control thanks to the efforts made by many governments and civil society," said Dr LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of WHO. "But the efforts must continue: every 6.5 seconds one person dies and many others fall ill or suffer diseases and disability due to tobacco use. The world cannot accept such easily preventable human and economic losses."

Studies across all the regions in the world show that it is the poorest people who tend to smoke the most in both developing and developed countries, and who bear most of the disease burden.

People with less education also tend to consume more tobacco. A recent study in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, concludes that smoking prevalence among people with four or less years of studies is 26%, compared with a 17% for those with 9 or more years of schooling. The trend is similar for income levels.

Many studies also show that poorer people spend a higher percentage of their household income on tobacco products, to the detriment of other basic needs such as food, healthcare or education. In Bangladesh, for example, 10.5 million people currently malnourished would have an adequate diet if two-thirds of the money spent on tobacco in the country was spent on food instead. Tobacco can also have an adverse impact on countries' economies. The major study that tried to measure the economic costs of tobacco at a global level was made by Barnum in 1994, and estimated that it results in an annual global net loss of US\$ 200 thousand million, a third of this loss being in developing countries. The World Bank estimates that high-income countries spend currently between 6% and 15% of their total health-care costs to treat tobacco-related diseases.

Some specific data are also available for developing countries. In Egypt annual costs of treating diseases caused by tobacco use have been estimated at US\$ 545.5 million in a 2003 report and in China health costs of smoking were estimated at US\$ 6.5 billion per year (in the mid-1990s). Other costs to the economies include loss of foreign exchange (as the majority of countries are net importers of tobacco), loss of tax revenue due to smuggling and damages to the environment caused by tobacco cultivation.

WHO also highlights in this year's campaign that an overwhelming majority of small tobacco farmers, especially in developing countries, live in poverty. "A big part of the health and economic costs related to tobacco are endured by small farmers and their families that grow the tobacco crop. Precarious labour conditions, including the use of child labour and exposure to highly toxic products, and a highly negative impact on the environment make tobacco an issue inextricably linked to poverty and other development issues," said Dr Catherine le Galès-Camus, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO.

Approaching the end of the signature period of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) --open only until 29 June 2004--, this year's World No Tobacco Day campaign is also geared to demystify the economic benefits of tobacco by offering at the same time a solution to those countries that depend more heavily on this product. The WHO FCTC, adopted unanimously by all WHO Member States in May last year, sets out the provisions and minimum standards that State Parties to the Treaty will have to respect in their tobacco control programmes.

"We are very optimistic about the progress on the number of signatures and ratifications of the WHO FCTC," said Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Director, Tobacco Free Initiative at WHO, referring to the current 118 signatures (including the EC) and 16 ratifications of the Treaty. "It shows the confidence governments of the world have in the Convention, and their commitment to deal with what has become a worldwide health and economic threat."

Today, WHO notes that the tobacco epidemic is still expanding, especially in developing countries where, currently, 84% of the smokers live. Tobacco use kills 4.9 million people each year, and this toll it is expected to double in the next 20 years. At current rates, the total number of tobacco users is expected to rise to 1.7 billion

by 2025 from 1.3 billion now.

To celebrate World No Tobacco Day, the Ministry of Health of Brazil and WHO are launching a two-day celebratory event in Brasília, Brazil, while thousands of other activities and celebrations are taking place around the world.

Notes to editors

The WHO FCTC has, as of 26 May 2004, 118 signatories (including the European Community) and 16 ratifications or equivalent.

The WHO FCTC has provisions that set international standards on tobacco price and tax increases, tobacco advertising and sponsorship, labelling, illicit trade and second-hand smoke. The Treaty will enter into force and become law for the countries that are parties to it 90 days after the 40th ratification.

The WHO FCTC is deposited in the United Nations Headquarters in New York and is open for signature until 29 June 2004. After that, countries wishing to become party to the Treaty can do so by means of accession. For signatories to the Treaty, there is no deadline for ratification.

#### RELATED LINKS

- Updated status of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- Events calendar
- World No Tobacco Day 2004 materials
- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

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**Please Note:** Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch). Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."