

Overview of MB activities October – December 2018

MB meeting 3 October 2018

Main decisions adopted

The MB adopted decisions concerning the election of the future MB Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, as well as the chairpersons of its Working Group on Corporate Matters and on Information Management. The MB also adopted a Decision on the appraisal, probationary period and management trial period of the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors; a new model Declaration of Interests for MB members and alternate members following a recommendation of the European Parliament in the context of its Discharge Decision on the implementation of the Europol 2016 budget; the framework for learning and development; the accession of Europol to the Inter-institutional Agreement of 25 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission concerning internal investigations by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF); Europol's implementing rules on grants; and working arrangements with the European Parliament pursuant to Article 52(3) of the Europol Regulation, as well as with Japan, the European Monitoring centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia, and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

Main issues discussed

The MB heard a presentation from the representative of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) before the MB, Mr Tsvetan Tsvetanov, on the outcome of the 24-25 September 2018 JPSG meeting and on the Group's expectations concerning cooperation with the MB. The Board discussed the modalities for such cooperation and agreed to finalise its position through written procedure. As the outcome of the written procedure, the MB has agreed to invite the JPSG representative to attend two MB meetings per year, namely one MB meeting per semester under the auspices of the respective EU Presidency. The attendance of the JPSG representative would concern items for which the JPSG opinion was deemed relevant to the MB discussions. Matters such as Europol's programming document or budgetary aspects related to the fulfilment of Europol's activities could be examples of such items. The MB also agreed that before the JPSG representative attended his first MB meeting, he would be invited to sign a declaration of confidentiality.

Other issues discussed regarded: a draft MB Decision concerning the engagement and use of temporary staff at Europol; the revision of the policy for granting contracts of indefinite duration; the status of the proposed Europol Budget 2019; issues pertaining to information management; and reports submitted by the Agency's Internal Audit Function. The MB heard an update on the situation concerning the deployment of Europol Liaison Officers in the Western Balkans and took note of the state of play of cooperation with Denmark.

MB meeting 13-14 December 2018

Main decisions adopted

The MB adopted decisions concerning the rights and obligations of liaison officers in relation to Europol; the new Europol internal control framework; the accreditation of the Europol Information System and the Identity and Access Management; staff members' outside activities. It adopted the Europol Final Budget 2019 and the Internal Audit Capability Work Programme for 2019. Further, the MB reviewed the list of the Agency's priority partners as part of the Europol external strategy.

Main issues discussed

The MB endorsed the Europol Strategy 2020+ and discussed: the preliminary draft Europol Programming Document 2020-2022; the ICT priorities for 2019; other key programmes and information management initiatives supported by Europol. The MB also discussed a number of operational matters related to the fight against serious organised crime; travel intelligence and the impact of the future EU Interoperability on Europol and its operational support to competent authorities in the Member States; a proposal from the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) regarding cultural crime; and the improvement of criminal asset recovery in the EU. Further, the MB was updated on the priorities of the incoming Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and on the situation concerning the deployment of Europol Liaison Officers in the Western Balkans. Europol and the Commission also gave an overview of the ongoing Brexit negotiations and provided a preliminary analysis on the potential impact of different possible scenarios.

In his capacity as representative of the JPSG before the MB, Mr Tsvetan Tsvetanov took part as an observer in MB discussions pertaining to the Europol Strategy 2020+, the preliminary draft Europol Programming Document 2020-2022, the Europol Final Budget 2019, and written questions addressed by the JPSG to Europol in accordance with the JPSG Rules of Procedure.