

To the attention of:

Mr. Claude Moraes

JPSG Co-Chair

Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

Ms. Angela Lueger

JPSG Co-Chair

Chair of the Committee on Internal Affairs of the Austrian National Council

Delegations to the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group

28th December 2018

Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear JPSG Co-Chairs,

Dear Chairs and Members of Delegations to the JPSG,

Dear Colleagues,

In compliance with Article 5 of the JPSG Rules of Procedure and Article 14 of the Europol Regulation, I was invited in the capacity of JPSG Representative to attend the meeting of the Europol Management Board (MB) on 13th December in Vienna, Austria.

The invitation was also in line with the results from the **written consultation procedure among MB members** on the involvement of the JPSG Representative in their meetings. The outcome of the MB written procedure was announced in a letter to the JPSG Co-Chairs by MB Chairman Mr. Priit Parkna from 24th October and foresees that the JPSG representative will attend two MB meetings per year, namely one MB meeting per semester under the auspices of the respective EU Presidency and the attendance will concern items for which the JPSG opinion is considered relevant to the MB discussions.

Accordingly, my attendance was limited to the agenda items related to the future Europol Strategy, the draft Programming Document 2020-2022, the Europol budget for 2019, and the written questions to Europol submitted by the JPSG.

The Executive Director Ms. Catherine De Bolle presented the main highlights from the new **Europol Strategy**. The document is based on the feedback received from the national level as a result of the Director's round of visits to the Member States. The strategic document aims to enhance the efficiency of the Agency by closely reflecting the needs of Member States. In the debates that followed Ms. De Bolle's presentation, it was highlighted that the expectation is that Europol's efforts and responsibilities are to be growing in counteracting and preventing terrorism, cybercrimes, financial crimes, and trafficking in narcotic substances. It was noted that more should be done for avoiding duplication in efforts on the national level and increasing the exchange of information among member states on strategic planning, with a view to identifying overlapping initiatives that can benefit from scale.

In respect to the Europol **budget for 2019**, it was noted that there has been a net increase of 16 357 500 euro from the amount in the first budget proposal – budgetary corrections in the amount of 8 000 000 euro announced in a letter by the European Commission from 16th October and 8 357 500 euro negotiated increase that was reflected in the second budget proposal. The new budget for Europol adopted by the European Parliament on 12th December amounts to 137 146 565 euro and includes 15 new posts. The total revenue for the Agency for 2019 is 138 305 458 euro.

The debate on the **Europol preliminary draft Programming document 2020-2022** focused on the strategic priorities and goals and the overall roadmap for the activities of the Agency. The document is to be adopted by the Europol MB by 30th November 2019 and, in accordance with Article 12 (1) of the Europol Regulation, the JPSG will be consulted on the multiannual programming, which is part of the Programming Document, in the course of 2019.

Europol reported to the MB on **the written questions received from the JPSG** and the responses that were provided by the Agency. At the time of the meeting, only one set of questions from the German Bundestag had been considered. No comment was made on the substance of the questions. It was only underlined both by Europol and myself that this procedure adds yet another trust- and transparency-building mechanism in the interaction between the JPSG and Europol.

In my interventions during the meeting, I noted that Europol can rely on support from the JPSG and highlighted that parliamentarians can have a tangible added value for the work of the Agency. I encouraged MB members to establish ongoing communication with the respective members of their national delegations to the JPSG and use it as a channel for sharing information on the difficulties and challenges they face. I also highlighted that the goals set by the Agency can only be achieved with joint efforts and operational and political support from all stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the term in office of the new Chairman of the Europol MB from Romania Mr. Victor Wili Apreutesei will start on January 1st, 2019.

I remain at your disposal for any further questions.

Kindest Regards,



Tsvetan Tsvetanov

JPSG Representative to the Europol Management Board

Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to the JPSG

Chairman of the Committee on Internal Security and Public Order
in the 44-th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria