

## EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)

Since its creation in 2002, Eurojust has become a central player in judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Considering the expected rise in international criminal activity in the coming years, there is a need to reinforce its role and enhance its efficiency in tackling cross-border criminality. Article 85 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) provides for such a possibility. During its October I plenary session, the Parliament is expected to vote on a proposal for a regulation that aims to modernise the Agency's legal framework and streamline its functioning and structure.

### Background

The increased internationalisation of crime, the sophistication of the methods used by criminals and their diversification into multi-crime activities make it difficult for individual Member States to detect and tackle cross-border crime. In an EU with 28 different jurisdictions, [Eurojust](#) facilitates cross-border investigations and prosecutions of serious crimes, such as fraud, drug trafficking and money laundering. The Agency has also stepped up its activities in fighting terrorism, cybercrime, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Between 2002 and 2017, Eurojust has seen a tenfold increase in its [casework](#) – from 202 to 2 550 cases per year, and this figure is expected to rise to [7 000](#) in 2027.

### European Commission proposal

In July 2013, the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) for a regulation on Eurojust with the objective of creating a new governance model for the Agency, as well as streamlining its functioning and structure. The new rules are also meant to contribute to improving its operational effectiveness. The main changes relate to the distinction between the operational and management functions of Eurojust's College of national members, the setting up of an Executive Board, and new provisions on annual and multiannual programming. The proposed regulation also aims at increasing Eurojust's democratic legitimacy, as the European Parliament and national parliaments would be more involved in evaluating the Agency's activities. At the same time as the Eurojust proposal, in July 2013, the Commission adopted a proposal, based on Article 86 TFEU, for a regulation on the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which is to have close links with Eurojust.

### European Parliament position

The Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) adopted its [report](#) on the proposal on 19 October 2017, shortly after it gave its consent to enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the EPPO. The legislative process of the Eurojust regulation had long been blocked by Parliament because of a lack of progress on the EPPO regulation in the Council. After provisions on the relationship between the two EU bodies had been developed and the proposed data protection provisions were brought into line with the recent legal framework on data protection for EU institutions, the two co-legislators reached a political agreement. The [agreed text from 19 June 2018](#) – backed by the LIBE Committee on 10 July 2018 – furthermore clarifies the functions of the Administrative Director and provides for the representation of the Commission in the College and in the Executive Board. It now needs to be formally approved by the Parliament as a whole (expected during its October I plenary session) and by the Council, before it can enter into force.

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