

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters achievements during the legislative term 2014-2019: the role of the European Parliament

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters is based on the principle of mutual recognition of judgments and judicial decisions, and includes measures to approximate the laws of the Member States in several areas. It includes minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the areas of particularly serious crime with a cross-border dimension: terrorism, trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and children, illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, money laundering, corruption, counterfeiting of means of payment, computer crime and organised crime.

Considerable progress was made in developing judicial cooperation in criminal matters in all these areas during the legislative term 2014-2019. Most importantly, the new Eurojust Regulation will take effect in December 2019 and the European Public Prosecutor's Office is expected to start operating from late 2020 or early 2021 onwards.

In Parliament, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee) is responsible for measures relating to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including terrorism, and substantive and procedural measures relating to the development of a more coherent Union approach to criminal law, in accordance with Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Main legislative instruments on judicial cooperation in criminal matters

1. EU Treaties

Under Articles 82 to 86 of the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** (TFEU), judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the Union shall be based on the principle of mutual recognition of judgments and judicial decisions and shall include the approximation of the laws and regulations of the Member States in several areas. Minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the areas of particularly serious crime with a cross-border dimension resulting from the nature or impact of such offences or from a special need to combat them on a common basis may be established. These areas of crime are the following: terrorism, trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and children, illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, money laundering, corruption, counterfeiting of means of payment, computer crime and organised crime.



Eurojust's mission is to support and strengthen coordination and cooperation between national investigating and prosecuting authorities in relation to serious crime affecting two or more Member States or requiring a prosecution on common bases, on the basis of operations conducted and information supplied by the Member States' authorities and by Europol.

The EPPO is responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment the perpetrators of, and accomplices in, offences against the Union's financial interests. The powers of the EPPO may be extended to include other serious crime having a cross-border dimension.

Title VI of the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** includes numerous rights and principles relating to criminal law.

2. International Conventions

2.1. Under the Council of Europe European [Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters](#) of 20 April 1959 and its two Additional Protocols, the Parties agree to afford each other the widest measure of mutual assistance with a view to gathering evidence and hearing witnesses, experts and prosecuted persons.

2.2. The Council of Europe [Convention on Cybercrime](#) of 23 November 2001 (Budapest Convention) aims to pursue a common criminal policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime, especially by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international cooperation. Its Additional Protocol of 28 January 2003 concerns the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.

On 5 February 2019 the European Commission adopted a [Recommendation for a Council Decision](#) authorising the participation in negotiations on a second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No 185). The Second Additional Protocol aims to strengthen international cooperation, including on obtaining access to electronic evidence, enhancing mutual legal assistance and undertaking joint investigations.

2.3. The Council of Europe [Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism](#) of 16 May 2005 aims to increase the effectiveness of existing international texts on the fight against terrorism.

The [Additional Protocol](#) to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism of 22 October 2015 supplements the convention with a series of articles aimed notably at addressing the problem of foreign terrorist fighters.

Following the consent of Parliament in its [legislative resolution of 18 April 2018](#), Council [Decision \(EU\) 2018/889](#) of 4 June 2018 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and Council [Decision \(EU\) 2018/890](#) of 4 June 2018 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, were adopted. These decisions conclude the convention and the protocol on behalf of the EU. Both the convention and the protocol apply in the EU from 1 October 2018.

Main EU legislative acts on judicial cooperation in criminal matters

1. Adoption procedures

Under the TFEU, most measures concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters are adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure and are subject to judicial review by the Court of Justice. Nevertheless, even leaving to one side the specific features of the Area of Freedom, Security and

Justice (opt-outs for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark (Protocols 21 and 22 annexed to the TFEU) and a privileged role for national parliaments (Protocols 1 and 2)), judicial cooperation in criminal matters, together with police cooperation, has not been entirely integrated into the EU framework and retains some of its original features from before the Treaty of Lisbon:

- The Commission shares its power of initiative with the Member States, provided they represent a quarter of the members of the Council (Article 76 TFEU);
- Parliament is merely consulted on specific measures for judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which are then adopted unanimously by the Council. In the absence of unanimity in the Council, then it is still possible for nine or more Member States to work together on the basis of enhanced cooperation.

2. Main legislative acts adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure

2.1. Development of common minimum standards in criminal proceedings

Several legislative acts aimed at developing common minimum standards in criminal proceedings were already adopted during the previous legislature:

- [Directive 2010/64/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the **right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings**;
- [Directive 2012/13/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 **on the right to information in criminal proceedings**;
- [Directive 2013/48/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 **on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty**.

The current legislature continued the development by adopting the following legislative acts:

- [Directive \(EU\) 2016/343](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 **on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings**. Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 1 April 2018.;
- [Directive \(EU\) 2016/800](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on **procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings**. Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 11 June 2019;
- [Directive \(EU\) 2016/1919](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on **legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings**. Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 5 May 2019.

2.2. Fight against terrorism

Following the terrorist attacks in several Member States, the following legislative acts were adopted to strengthen the fight against terrorism:

- [Directive \(EU\) 2016/681](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the **use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention,**

detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime.

Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 25 May 2018.;

- Directive (EU) [2017/541](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on **combating terrorism** and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA. Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 8 September 2018.

In addition, Parliament adopted the following resolutions with several recommendations on how to improve the fight against terrorism:

- [resolution of 25 November 2015](#) on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations;
- [resolution of 12 December 2018](#) on findings and recommendations of the Special Committee on Terrorism.

2.3. Fight against corruption, cybercrime, drug trafficking, fraud and money laundering

Several legislative acts were adopted during the previous legislature:

- [Directive 2013/40/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 August 2013 on **attacks against information systems** and replacing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA (so-called cybercrime directive);
- [Directive 2014/42/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 **on the freezing and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime in the European Union**;
- [Directive 2014/57/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on **criminal sanctions for market abuse** (market abuse directive);
- [Directive 2014/62/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 **on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law**, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2000/383/JHA.

Current legislature continued to strengthen the fight against corruption, drug trafficking, fraud and money laundering by adopting the following legislative acts:

- [Directive \(EU\) 2017/1371](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 **on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law**. Member States are required to incorporate the directive into national law by 6 July 2019;
- [Directive \(EU\) 2017/2103](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 amending Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA **in order to include new psychoactive substances in the definition of 'drug'** and repealing Council Decision 2005/387/JHA. Member States were required to incorporate the directive into national law by 23 November 2018;
- [Directive \(EU\) 2018/1673](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on **combating money laundering by criminal law**. Member States are required to incorporate the directive into national law by 3 December 2020;
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1805](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the **mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders** will apply from 19 December 2020;

- [Directive \(EU\) 2019/713](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on **combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment** and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/413/JHA. Member States are required to incorporate the directive into national law by 31 May 2021.

In addition, Parliament adopted the following resolutions with several recommendations on how to improve the fight against corruption and cybercrime:

- its [resolution of 25 October 2016](#) on the fight against corruption and follow-up of the CRIM resolution;
- its [resolution of 3 October 2017](#) on the fight against cybercrime;
- its [resolution of 28 March 2019](#) on the situation of the rule of law and the fight against corruption in the EU, specifically in Malta and Slovakia.

2.4. Improvement of exchange of information between Member States and EU agencies

Directive to establish European Investigation Order was adopted during the previous legislature:

- [Directive 2014/41/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the **European Investigation Order in criminal matters**.

The current legislature continued to improve the exchange of information by adopting the following legislative acts:

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1726](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the **European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)**, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011. This regulation has partially applied since 11 December 2018;
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1862](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the **establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters**, amending and repealing Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU. This regulation will apply from 28 December 2021;
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/816](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 **establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN) to supplement the European Criminal Records Information System** and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1726. This regulation has partially applied since 11 June 2019;
- [Directive \(EU\) 2019/884](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 amending Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA, as regards the **exchange of information on third-country nationals and as regards the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)**, and replacing Council Decision 2009/316/JHA. Member States are required to incorporate the directive into national law by 28 June 2022;
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/818](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on **establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration** and

amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) 2018/1862 and (EU) 2019/816. This regulation has partially applied from 11 June 2019.

2.5. Protection of victims

Several legislative acts aimed at improving the protection of victims were adopted during the previous legislature:

- [Directive 2011/36/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 **on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims**, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA;
- [Directive 2011/92/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 **on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography**, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA;
- [Directive 2011/99/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 **on the European protection order**;
- [Directive 2012/29/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 **establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime**, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.

Parliament adopted the following resolutions on the implementation of these Directives during the current legislative term with several recommendations on how to improve the protection of victims:

- [resolution of 14 December 2017](#) on the implementation of Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography;
- [resolution of 19 April 2018](#) on the implementation of Directive 2011/99/EU on the European Protection Order;
- [resolution of 30 May 2018](#) on the implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

2.6. Although the legal bases do not cover judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the following legal act also contributes to the cooperation in that area¹:

- As legal bases, Article 33 (customs cooperation) and Article 114 (internal market) of the TFEU; [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1672](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on **controls on cash entering or leaving the Union** and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1889/2005 will apply from 3 June 2021.

3. Main legislative acts currently being discussed under the ordinary legislative procedure

3.1. Further strengthening of judicial cooperation in criminal matters is in the pipeline via the following main legislative acts currently under discussion:

- Parliament adopted its [legislative resolution of 13 March 2019](#) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the Internal Security Fund**. The negotiations are scheduled to take place during the next

¹ Please see the briefing entitled '[Personal data protection](#) achievements during the legislative term 2014-2019: the role of the European Parliament' for information on related data protection legislation.

parliamentary term. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory for more details on the ongoing work on this file;

- Parliament adopted its [position at first reading on 17 April 2019](#) with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2019/... of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the Justice programme**. The negotiations are scheduled to continue during the next parliamentary term. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory for more details on the ongoing work on this file;
- Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **on European Production and Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal matters**. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory. This proposal is connected to the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council **laying down harmonised rules on the appointment of legal representatives for the purpose of gathering evidence in criminal proceedings**. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory. Parliament started its work on those files during the current parliamentary term and will continue it during the next parliamentary term;
- Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the conditions for accessing the other EU information systems** and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 and Regulation (EU) yyyy/xxx [ECRIS-TCN]. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory for more details on the ongoing work on this file.

3.2. Although the legal basis does not cover judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the following legal act also contributes to the cooperation in that area:

- As legal basis, Article 133 (use of the euro) of the TFEU: Parliament adopted its [legislative resolution of 13 February 2019](#) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the 'Pericles IV programme')**. The negotiations are scheduled to take place during the next parliamentary term. Please see the [procedure file](#) stored in the Legislative Observatory for more details on the ongoing work on this file.

4. Main legislative acts adopted by the Council

Main judicial cooperation in criminal matters measures previously adopted by the Council:

- [Council Act of 29 May 2000](#) establishing, in accordance with Article 34 of the Treaty on European Union, the **Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters** between the Member States of the European Union;
- Council Framework [Decision 2002/465/JHA](#) of 13 June 2002 on **joint investigation teams**;
- Council Framework [Decision 2002/584/JHA](#) of 13 June 2002 on the **European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States**;
- Council Framework [Decision 2008/841/JHA](#) of 24 October 2008 on the **fight against organised crime**;
- Council [Decision 2008/976/JHA](#) of 16 December 2008 on the **European Judicial Network**.

The EU's main international agreements on judicial cooperation in criminal matters

1. EU-US, EU-Iceland and Norway, and EU-Japan agreements on mutual legal assistance

The [Agreement on mutual legal assistance between the European Union and the United States of America](#) was signed on 25 June 2003 and entered into force on 1 February 2010. A first joint review of the agreement took place in 2016. It concluded that the agreement adds value to the EU-US Mutual Legal Assistance relationship and generally works well. Further efforts will be made to improve this cooperation.

The [Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway](#) on the application of certain provisions of the Convention of 29 May 2000 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union and the 2001 Protocol thereto was signed on 19 December 2003 and entered into force on 1 January 2013.

The [Agreement between the European Union and Japan](#) on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters was signed on 20 November 2009 and entered into force on 2 January 2011.

2. EU-US and EU-Iceland and Norway agreements on extradition

The [Agreement on extradition](#) between the European Union and the United States of America was signed on 25 June 2003 and published on 19 July 2003.

The [Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway](#) on the surrender procedure between the Member States of the European Union and Iceland and Norway - Declarations was signed on 28 June 2006 and published on 21 October 2006.

3. EU-US, EU-Australia and EU-Canada passenger name record (PNR) agreements²

The EU has signed bilateral passenger name record (PNR) agreements with the United States, Australia and Canada. PNR data includes information provided by passengers when booking or checking in for flights, and data collected by air carriers for their own commercial purposes, and can be used by law enforcement authorities to fight serious crime and terrorism. The transfer of PNR data from the EU to third countries can only be done through a bilateral agreement that provides for a high level of personal data protection.

4. Negotiations for an EU-US agreement on cross-border access to electronic evidence

On 5 February 2019 the Commission adopted a [Recommendation for a Council Decision](#) authorising the opening of negotiations in view of an agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on cross-border access to electronic evidence for judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

² Please see the briefing entitled '[Personal data protection achievements](#) during the legislative term 2014-2019: the role of the European Parliament' for more details on these international agreements and Parliament's role in negotiating them.

Resolutions addressing judicial cooperation in criminal matters

In addition to the resolutions mentioned above, a number of resolutions of Parliament in a variety of policy areas have addressed judicial cooperation in criminal matters by recommending the appropriate judicial cooperation policy responses. The most relevant resolutions are:

- [resolution of 9 July 2015](#) on the European Agenda on Security;
- [resolution of 29 October 2015](#) on the follow-up to the European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2014 on the electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens;
- [resolution of 5 October 2016](#) on the European Public Prosecutor's Office and Eurojust;
- [resolution of 5 October 2017](#) on prison systems and conditions;
- [resolution of 25 October 2018](#) on the use of Facebook users' data by Cambridge Analytica and the impact on data protection.

Agencies for judicial cooperation in criminal matters and other related bodies

1. European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)

1.1. [Eurojust](#) stimulates and improves the coordination of investigations and prosecutions and the cooperation between the competent authorities in the Member States, particularly by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance requests and the implementation of extradition requests. Eurojust supports in any way possible the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

At the request of a Member State, Eurojust may assist investigations and prosecutions concerning that particular Member State and a non-Member State if a cooperation agreement has been concluded or if an essential interest in providing such assistance is demonstrated.

Eurojust's competence covers the same types of crimes and offences for which Europol has competence, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting, money laundering, computer crime, crime against property or public goods including fraud and corruption, criminal offences affecting the Union's financial interests, environmental crime and participation in a criminal organisation. For other types of offences, Eurojust may assist in investigations and prosecutions at the request of a Member State.

Eurojust's current legal framework is [Council Decision 2009/426/JHA](#) of 16 December 2008 on the strengthening of Eurojust and amending Decision 2002/187/JHA setting up Eurojust with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious crime. It entered into force on 4 June 2009. From 12 December 2019 [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1727](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA will apply. The new Eurojust Regulation establishes a new governance system, clarifies the relationship between Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office, prescribes a new data protection regime, adopts new rules for Eurojust's external relations and strengthens the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments in the democratic oversight of Eurojust's activities. It also revises both the list of crime types for which Eurojust is competent to act and the actions the agency can take. The Regulation provides the possibility for Eurojust to act on its own initiative as well as on the request of the Member States and that of the EPPO, and to be more proactive in handling cases or sharing information.

Eurojust publishes [annual reports](#). It is based in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

1.2. Parliament adopted several resolutions under the consultation procedure approving Eurojust's Cooperation Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, including:

- [legislative resolution of 2 February 2016](#) on the draft Council implementing decision approving the conclusion by Eurojust of the Agreement on Cooperation between Eurojust and Montenegro;
- [legislative resolution of 5 July 2017](#) on the draft Council implementing decision approving the conclusion by Eurojust of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice and Eurojust.

2. European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)

Council [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1939](#) of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') has applied since 20 November 2017. Parliament gave its consent to the draft Council regulation in its [legislative resolution of 5 October 2017](#).

The EPPO will assume the investigative and prosecutorial tasks conferred on it on a date to be determined by a decision of the Commission on a proposal of the European Chief Prosecutor once the EPPO is set up. The date to be set by the Commission will not be earlier than three years after the date of entry into force of the EPPO Regulation.

Parliament and the Council will appoint by common accord the European Chief Prosecutor for a non-renewable term of seven years.

The EPPO, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2020 or early 2021, will be an independent office in charge of investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice crimes against the EU budget, such as fraud, corruption or cross-border VAT fraud in excess of EUR 10 million.

Most of the Member States have joined the EPPO and the few that currently do not participate could join at any time. The EPPO's central office will be based in Luxembourg, along with the Chief Prosecutor and a College of Prosecutors from all participating Member States. They will head the day-to-day criminal investigations carried out by the delegated prosecutors in all participating Member States.

Tools to support evidence-based policies

1. Meetings with experts

Parliament has held numerous meetings, hearings, interparliamentary committee meetings and conferences addressing various aspects of judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The main meetings on this topic, as outlined below, gave MEPs the opportunity to hear experts and hold discussions on the key issues:

- Hearing on [Judicial cooperation in criminal matters](#) on 11 November 2014;
- Hearing on [The fight against terrorism and the challenges for EU internal security](#) on 14 April 2015;
- Hearing on [Investigation of alleged transportation and illegal detention of prisoners in European countries by the CIA](#) on 13 October 2015;
- Hearing on [The control of the acquisition and possession of weapons](#) on 15 February 2016;

- Hearing on [Fight against organised crime and corruption: stepping up the EU response](#) on 16 February 2016;p
- Hearing on [The European Public Prosecutor's Office \(EPPO\) and EUROJUST](#) on 24 May 2016;
- Hearing on [Preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism](#) on 29 November 2016;
- Hearing on [Prison Systems and Conditions in the EU](#) on 9 February 2017;
- Workshop on [The training of judges and legal practitioners](#) on 12 April 2017;
- Hearing on [Child sexual abuse and exploitation online and offline: time to act](#) on 25 April 2017;
- Hearing on [The current challenges of fighting terrorism and serious crime](#) on 30 May 2017;
- Hearing on the [European Protection Order](#) on 12 October 2017;
- Hearing on [Victims' Rights](#) on 11 January 2018;
- Hearing on [Electronic evidence in criminal matters](#) on 27 November 2018.

2. Ad hoc delegations

Parliament has organised various ad hoc delegations with the aim of obtaining first-hand information from the relevant countries or organisations. In the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, this has proved a very useful tool that enables the LIBE Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of judicial cooperation in practice. During the current legislative term, the LIBE Committee organised ad hoc delegations to Eurojust as well as to the US (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018).

3. Supporting analyses

Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs and the European Parliamentary Research Service have commissioned several analyses at the request of the LIBE Committee to support the work of Parliament in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The main studies produced during the current parliamentary term are as follows:

- [The law enforcement challenges of cybercrime: are we really playing catch-up?](#), published in October 2015;
- [Combatting child sexual abuse online](#), published in October 2015;
- [Towards a European Public Prosecutor's Office \(EPPO\)](#), published in November 2016;
- [The European Union's Policies on Counter-Terrorism: Relevance, Coherence and Effectiveness](#), published in January 2017;
- [Legal Frameworks for Hacking by Law Enforcement: Identification, Evaluation and Comparison of Practices](#), published in March 2017;
- [Combating sexual abuse of children Directive 2011/93/EU: European Implementation Assessment](#), Published in April 2017;
- [How can the EU and the Member States better help victims of terrorism?](#), published in September 2017;
- [European Protection Order Directive 2011/99/EU: European Implementation Assessment](#), published in September 2017;
- [EU and Member States' policies and laws on persons suspected of terrorism-related crimes](#), published in December 2017;
- [The Victims' Rights Directive 2012/29/EU: European Implementation Assessment](#), published in December 2017;

- [Virtual currencies and terrorist financing: assessing the risks and evaluating responses](#), published in May 2018;
- [The Cost of Non-Europe in the fight against terrorism](#), published in May 2018;
- [The EU-UK relationship beyond Brexit: options for Police Cooperation and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters](#), published in July 2018;
- [The future EU-UK relationship: options in the field of the protection of personal data for general processing activities and for processing for law enforcement purposes](#), published in August 2018;
- [Criminal procedural laws across the European Union – A comparative analysis of selected main differences and the impact they have over the development of EU legislation](#), published in August 2018;
- [An assessment of the Commission’s proposals on electronic evidence](#), published in September 2018.

Conclusions

Parliament has played a key role in shaping the EU’s legislation in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, by making fighting crime and corruption into a political priority. Parliament has been working on the judicial cooperation in criminal matters on an equal footing with the Council, under the ordinary legislative procedure. That applies to almost all areas of EU criminal law with a few exceptions, including notably the consent procedure for establishing the EPPO.

The main instrument for judicial cooperation in criminal matters is the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust). As part of the reform of Eurojust, Parliament has actively advocated greater parliamentary scrutiny and improved data protection rules.

The development of the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which started during the previous legislative term, advanced considerably during the current legislative term. Specific measures have been adopted to fight terrorism, transnational crime, corruption, fraud and money laundering and to ensure that the rights of victims, suspects and prisoners are protected across the Union. Several measures aiming at improved information exchange were also adopted.

Policies for judicial cooperation in criminal matters are still developing, with attention focused on countering pan-EU threats and crime more effectively. Although an almost complete overhaul of the criminal procedural law has taken place during the current legislative term, substantial effort will be required during the next parliamentary term to further strengthen cooperation, notably via the information exchange measures. The role of Parliament will probably also see further shift away from new legislation and towards monitoring the implementation of the legislation.

In sum, considerable progress has been made in developing judicial cooperation in criminal matters during the legislative term 2014-2019.

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