



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Budgets*

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**2014/0217(COD)**

22.1.2015

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Union agency for law enforcement training (Cepol), repealing and replacing Council Decision 2005/681/JHA (COM(2014)0465 – C8-0110/2014 – 2014/0217(COD))

Rapporteur: Jens Geier

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## **SHORT JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission has proposed a new CEPOL Regulation and to repeal and replace Council Decision 2005/681/JHA. This proposal is the follow-up to the unsuccessful attempt to merge Europol and CEPOL which had been rejected by both Parliament and Council.

The Committee on Budgets recalls however its principal position as expressed in its opinion to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol) and repealing Decisions 2009/371/JHA and 2005/681/JHA (COM(2013)0173), supporting a merger of Europol and CEPOL. The Committee on Budgets is still convinced that a merger would have been the most beneficial option for both agencies as it would have allowed for both savings in administrative expenditure and in new synergies between the operational departments.

The Committee on Budgets would like to recall as well that it opposed the relocation of the agency to Budapest as decided in Regulation (EU) No 543/2014 of 15 May 2014. The Committee on Budgets believes that CEPOL and Europol should both be located in The Hague. Having both agencies at the same site could eventually lead to at least some savings and would certainly create spill-over effects through increased contacts between operational and training staff. It could furthermore be envisaged that both agencies agree on sharing certain resources or that Europol provides certain services to CEPOL, especially with regard to purely administrative tasks (such as finance, personnel, IT, logistics or security services). Such cooperation can obviously be easier achieved when both agencies are located in the same city.

The Committee on Budgets strongly deplores the fact that Article 1 (2) of the above mentioned Regulation on the relocation of CEPOL is now being interpreted by the Commission solely as an invitation to present the present proposal for a new CEPOL regulation. That paragraph added a new Article 21a with a review clause on the relocation and instructs the Commission to submit by 30 November 2015 a report on the effectiveness of the decision to move CEPOL to Budapest. "That report shall, if appropriate, be accompanied by a legislative proposal to amend this Decision following a thorough cost-benefit analysis and impact assessment." This thorough cost-benefit analysis and impact assessment never took place as the present Commission proposal has been adopted on 16 July 2014 but the relocation of CEPOL only happening thereafter with the official inauguration of the new headquarter taking place on 6 November.

The Committee on Budgets insists therefore that a similar Article needs to be added to the present proposal as it believes that Europol and CEPOL should be located in the same city as relevant savings could be achieved in a midterm perspective if both agencies were to share a certain number of administrative services. These savings could then be used to increase both agencies' operational expenditure.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home

Affairs, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

## **Amendment 1**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 12**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(12) CEPOL should ensure that its training integrates relevant developments in research and encourage the creation of stronger partnerships between universities and law enforcement training institutes in the Member States.

##### *Amendment*

(12) CEPOL should ensure that its training integrates relevant developments in research and encourage the creation of stronger partnerships between universities and law enforcement training institutes in the Member States ***as well as other European Union law enforcement agencies in order to create spill-over effects by means of enhanced cooperation.***

## **Amendment 2**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 15**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(15) For the purpose of fulfilling its mission and to the extent required for the performance of its tasks, CEPOL should be able to cooperate with other European Union Agencies and relevant bodies, the competent authorities of third countries and the international organisations competent in matters covered by this Regulation in the framework of working arrangements concluded in accordance with this Regulation or in the framework of working arrangements concluded with national training institutes of third countries on the basis of Article 8 of the Council Decision 2005/681/JHA,

##### *Amendment*

(15) For the purpose of fulfilling its mission and to the extent required for the performance of its tasks, CEPOL should be able to cooperate with other European Union Agencies and relevant bodies, the competent authorities of third countries and the international organisations competent in matters covered by this Regulation in the framework of working arrangements concluded in accordance with this Regulation or in the framework of working arrangements concluded with national training institutes of third countries on the basis of Article 8 of the Council Decision 2005/681/JHA; ***calls on the Commission to provide an overall analysis of administrative cooperation between European Union agencies and where such cooperation could create synergies***

*in the future,*

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The seat of CEPOL shall be in Budapest, Hungary.

*Amendment*

3. The **provisional** seat of CEPOL shall be in Budapest, Hungary.

### **Amendment 4**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**3a. By 30 November 2016, the Commission shall present a thorough cost-benefit analysis and an impact assessment on the provisional seat as compared to The Hague as an alternative scenario and, if appropriate, a legislative proposal to amend paragraph 3 accordingly.**

## PROCEDURE

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| <b>Title</b>  | EU agency for law enforcement training (Cepol)   |
| <b>References</b>   | COM(2014)0465 – C8-0110/2014 – 2014/0217(COD)  |
| <b>Committee responsible</b><br>Date announced in plenary | LIBE<br>15.9.2014  |
| <b>Opinion by</b><br>Date announced in plenary            | BUDG<br>15.9.2014  |
| <b>Rapporteur</b><br>Date appointed                       | Jens Geier<br>24.9.2014  |
| <b>Date adopted</b>                                       | 20.1.2015  |
| <b>Result of final vote</b>                               | + : 17<br>- : 12<br>0 : 4  |
| <b>Members present for the final vote</b>                 | Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denanot, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Clare Moody, Siegfried Mureșan, Victor Negrescu, Liadh Ní Riada, Pina Picierno, Patricija Šulin, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Marco Valli, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni |
| <b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>             | Tamás Deutsch, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Georgios Kyrtos, Andrey Novakov, Stanisław Ożóg, Andrej Plenković, Ivan Štefanec   |