



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Committee on Legal Affairs

DRAFT AGENDA

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING

European Parliament - National Parliaments

**The Stockholm Programme:
State of play regarding police and
judicial cooperation in civil and criminal
matters**

Thursday, 20 June 2013, 9.00 – 18.30

European Parliament, Brussels

Room József Antall (JAN) 2Q2

Organised with the support of the Directorate for Relations with national Parliaments

1. General introduction

A number of important initiatives in the field of police and judicial cooperation are provided for in the "The Stockholm Programme - an open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens" endorsed by the European Council on 10-11 December 2009 for the period 2010 to 2014. The Treaty of Lisbon has given national Parliaments a special role in these fields, for example in the evaluation of Eurojust's activities (Article 85 paragraph 1 TFEU) and in the scrutiny of Europol's activities (Article 88 paragraph 2 TFEU).

Against this background, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament decided to invite Members of national Parliaments to an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on ***the Stockholm Programme: State of play regarding police and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.***

This meeting is intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views between national Parliaments and the European Parliament on these matters. Its timing will allow the use of the conclusions and insights of the meeting for the upcoming legislative procedures on Europol and Eurojust as well as for the evaluation of the Stockholm Programme which the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on Legal Affairs and on Constitutional Affairs are jointly carrying out.

Background documents

[The Stockholm Programme - an open and secure Europe Serving and protecting citizens](#)

[European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2009 on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – An area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen – Stockholm programme](#)

[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\(2013\)173\)](#)

[Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the procedures for the scrutiny of Europol's activities by the European Parliament, together with the national parliaments \(COM\(2010\)776\)](#)

[General report on Europol activities](#)

[Eurojust Annual Report 2012](#)

[Eurojust Decision](#)

[Proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes \(COM\(2011\)126\)](#)

[Proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions regarding property consequences of registered partnerships \(COM\(2011\)127\)](#)

[Council Regulation no 1259/2010 of 20 December 2010 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of law applicable to divorce and legal separation](#)

[European Parliament Resolution of 14 March 2012 on Judicial Training](#)

[Which Legal basis for Family Law? The way forward - Note](#)

[Which Legal Basis for Family Law? The way forward. Executive Summaries](#)

Order of business

Thursday, 20 June 2013

09.00 - 09.05 **Opening by Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

09.05 - 09.15 **Opening by David STANTON**, Chair of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality of the Irish Houses of the *Oireachtas*

09.15 - 10.35 **SESSION I - Police cooperation**

Enhancing Europol and strengthening its cooperation with national law enforcement authorities under proper parliamentary oversight

The fight against cross-border serious and organised crime can only be carried out effectively in the EU through close cooperation between national judicial and law enforcement authorities. Amongst the different cooperation and information exchange mechanisms, Europol plays a central role as an information hub. In March 2013, the European Commission proposed a new legal framework for Europol (COM(2013)173), making the agency more flexible in processing information, with more rigorous data protection requirements, and placed it under the clear parliamentary oversight of the European Parliament together with national Parliaments.

Possible topics during this session could include:

- Is the current level of EU police cooperation (and its data protection safeguards) satisfactory, and if not, how should it be enhanced?
- Is the recently proposed Europol Regulation (including the proposed merger between Europol and CEPOL) a positive development, and what could be improved in the proposal?
- How, in practice, should the European Parliament and national Parliaments exercise their joint parliamentary oversight of Europol and national law enforcement authorities?

Moderator: **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

Speakers:

09.15 - 09.25 **Agustín DIAZ DE MERA**, MEP, Rapporteur for the Europol proposal

09.25 - 09.35 **Lord HANNAY OF CHISWICK**, Chair of the EU Sub-Committee F - Home Affairs, Health and Education of the UK House of Lords

- 09.35 - 09.45 **Dietrich NEUMANN**, Head of business corporate services Europol
- 09.45 - 09.55 **Peter HUSTINX**, European Data Protection Supervisor
- 09.55 - 10.35 Debate with national Parliamentarians and MEPs

10.35 - 11.00	Françoise LE BAIL , Director-General for Justice in the European Commission, followed by questions and answers
11.00 - 11.25	Cecilia MALMSTRÖM , EU Home Affairs Commissioner, followed by questions and answers

11.25 - 12.30	SESSION II - Judicial cooperation in criminal matters <i>Developing a criminal justice area under the Lisbon Treaty with regard to Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office</i>
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If fighting cross-border crime can only be undertaken effectively in the EU through close cooperation between national law enforcement authorities, this cooperation needs to be enhanced and, at the same time, coupled with measures aiming at protecting fundamental rights. Eurojust and the future European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) have a central role in this respect.

The European Commission has announced the presentation of the proposals for two regulations, on Eurojust and the EPPO, which are scheduled to be published in the near future.

Possible topics for discussion could include:

- What could be improved in the judicial cooperation framework?
- What are the priority issues to be considered in the future proposals on Eurojust and the EPPO?
- How, in practice, should the European Parliament and national Parliaments carry out their joint parliamentary evaluation of Eurojust ?

Moderator: **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

Speakers:

- 11.25 - 11.35 **Ms Marietta KARAMANLI**, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly
- 11.35 - 11.45 **Carlos ZEYEN**, Vice-President of Eurojust
- 11.45 - 11.55 **Giovanni KESSLER**, Director General of OLAF
- 11.55 - 12.05 **Holger MATT**, Chair of the European Criminal Bar Association

12.05 - 12.30 Debate with national Parliamentarians and MEPs
12.30 Lunch break; sandwich lunch provided outside the meeting room

15.00 - 16.30	SESSION III - Judicial cooperation in civil matters
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In recent years, the European Union has made great progress in passing legislation to resolve problems that arise in cross-border civil law relations, covering contracts, judgments, family law and other areas. The Stockholm Programme provided for a number of initiatives which relate to family law. However, in view of the unanimity requirement in Council for such legislation, family law legislation has often been the most difficult to agree on. Citizens who move across borders would greatly benefit from such legislation.

In this session, Members of the European Parliament involved in such matters will report on their experience with ongoing and recent legislation.

Discussions could focus on:

- The extent to which the European Union should pass legislation to cover cross-border issues in the field of family law, and the advisability of using the tools provided by the Treaties such as enhanced cooperation and the "passerelle" clause. The question also arises as to whether the Stockholm Programme was too ambitious in view of the EU's current legal framework.

Moderator: **Tadeusz ZWIEFKA**, MEP, Rapporteur on enhanced cooperation in the area of the law applicable to divorce and legal separation

Speakers:

15.10 - 15.20 **Alexandra THEIN**, MEP, Rapporteur on the two proposals on jurisdiction, applicable law and recognition and enforcement of decisions regarding matrimonial property regimes and registered partnerships
The current state of play of negotiations

15.20 - 15.30 **Kurt LECHNER**, Former Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Rapporteur for the Successions Regulation
The experience of negotiations on a sensitive file

15.30 - 15.40 Keynote speech by a Member of a national Parliament

15.40 - 15.50 **Aude FIORINI**, University of Dundee
The legal basis for family law

15.50 - 16.40 Debate with national Parliamentarians and MEPs

16.40 - 18.30	SESSION IV - Tools for the effective development of a European judicial culture
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The European Parliament has, in the past, noted that a real European judicial culture is necessary if citizens are to be given the full benefits of their rights under the Treaties. One of the most important elements in this regard is training, particularly in the legal field. The European Parliament and the Commission have launched a pilot programme covering best practices in the field of legal training.

Furthermore, the European Commission has recently published the new EU Justice Scoreboard, COM(2013) 160, which compares the civil and administrative justice systems of the Member States and notes where there is room for improvement.

Discussions could focus on:

- the best means of ensuring awareness of Treaty rights amongst citizens and legal professionals;
- how to maintain the highest standards in the justice systems of the Member States.

Moderator: **Luigi BERLINGUER**, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Speakers:

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| 16.40 - 16.50 | Keynote speech by a Member of a national Parliament |
| 16.50 - 17.05 | Ruud WINTER , Senior Coordinating Vice-President of the Administrative High Court for Trade and Industry in the Netherlands
Building networks for training in European law |
| 17.05 - 17.20 | Luis PEREIRA , Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network
Progress made in providing training to the judiciary |
| 17.20 - 17.35 | Emmanuel CRABIT , Head of Unit DG Justice
The EU Justice Scoreboard |
| 17.35 - 18.30 | Debate with national Parliamentarians and MEPs |

ANNEX

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETING

This meeting is open to the public. However, for security reasons, participants who do not have a European Parliament access badge must obtain a pass in advance. Those wishing to obtain such a pass should contact the secretariat (libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu) **before 10 June 2013 at noon**. It is essential to provide us with your **LAST NAME, First name, date of birth, nationality, type of ID (passport, identity card, driving licence, etc.), number of ID, address and company/institution/organisation**. Without this information, the Security Service will not provide entry passes.¹

All participants from national Parliaments (Members, officials and Brussels-based representatives) need to complete the online registration form for the event at the following web address:

http://www.opinio.europarl.europa.eu/opinio/s?s=icm_libe_juri

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE

- During the discussion, so as to make it possible for the highest number of parliamentarians to intervene, speaking time of speakers will be limited to **ten minutes** and speaking time of other participants to **two minutes** per contribution or question.
- Members are kindly asked to fill in the sheet requesting speaking time (indicating their name and parliament) which will be distributed in the meeting room.
- Speakers wishing to supplement their speeches may do so in writing by submitting a document (preferably in English or French) in advance to the secretariat (email:libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu). These documents will be circulated during the meeting.
- Meeting documents will be progressively added to the Events section of the LIBE Committee pages:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE> and to the WebNP event webpage: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/webnp/cms/lang/en/pid/1863>

THE MEETING IS BROADCASTED LIVE AND RECORDED

LIBE Committee pages:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE>

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¹ The processing of personal data is subject to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of 18 December 2001 (OJ.L 8 12.1.2001, p. 1)