



2017/2169(DEC)

7.2.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Police Office (Europol) for the financial year 2016
(2017/2169(DEC))

Rapporteur: Kostas Chrysogonos

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Regrets that the Europol's review 2016-2017 was only published on Europol's website on 23 January 2018, five days after the deadline for tabling amendments to this report; calls on Europol to publish its annual reviews in time for future discharge procedures in order to allow the discharge authority to perform its work in a fully informed manner;
2. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' conclusions that the annual accounts of Europol present fairly its financial position on 31 December 2016 and that its transactions are legal and regular;
3. Notes the relatively high level of carry-overs of committed appropriations for Title II (administrative expenditure) at EUR 3 500 000, i.e. 39 %; acknowledges the fact that it is due to the nature of the administrative arrangements between Europol and its host state regarding building works; notes that Europol received an Internal Security Fund emergency assistance grant of EUR 1 500 000 in 2016 with a view to deploying experts (guest officers) to hotspots to conduct secondary security checks, expenditure was audited and assessed as eligible in accordance with the grant agreement;
4. Notes the 12 % staff and 8,3% budget increases of Europol in 2016 following the decision to entrust Europol with new tasks; welcomes the high implementation rates for commitments (99,8 %) and payment appropriations (91,0 %);
5. Acknowledges the ever-increasing demand for Europol's services from Member States; regrets, in that context, the fact that the tight ICT resources available have resulted in a re-prioritisation of core systems development activities, project delays and have also triggered an exploration of further outsourcing possibilities with the increased risks that that implies;
6. Welcomes the steps taken by Europol to address in a timely fashion the single critical recommendation and the majority of the twenty-six very important recommendations identified as part of the internal audits conducted on operational support provided by the European Cybercrime Centre to Member States as well as on the implementation by Europol of internal control standards; recommends prioritisation in solving them; calls on Europol to take the necessary action to address the remaining five recommendations that are still pending; welcomes the adoption and implementation of the Europol anti-fraud strategy for the period 2017-2018;
7. Highlights that Europol's new legal framework provides for additional measures in terms of providing the discharge authority with dedicated information about its work, including sensitive operational matters, by adopting a more flexible and modern data management system; welcomes the pro-active communication of a Europol ethics package to its staff, consisting of an updated version of the Europol's code of conduct, as well as guidelines to all staff on the handling of gift terms, conflicts of interest management and whistleblowing arrangements which provide additional safeguards to

Europol's operation; notes that whistleblowing rules are available to Europol staff on Europol's intranet; recognises the adoption of the Europol's management board rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in respect of its members; welcomes, that the publication of declarations of interest by the members of Europol's management board on the Europol's website was recently completed;

8. Welcomes the publication of the Europol's consolidated activity annual report for 2016; regrets, however, that, despite previous recommendations, the publication by Europol of the Court of Auditors' Report is still pending; reiterates the importance of transparency in upholding citizens' trust in the Union and its institutions;

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.2.2018
Result of final vote	+: 46 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Asim Ademov, Heinz K. Becker, Malin Björk, Michał Boni, Caterina Chinnici, Frank Engel, Cornelia Ernst, Raymond Finch, Lorenzo Fontana, Kinga Gál, Ana Gomes, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Dietmar Köster, Barbara Kudrycka, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, Péter Niedermüller, Ivari Padar, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Sergei Stanishev, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Udo Voigt, Josef Weidenholzer, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský, Auke Zijlstra
Substitutes present for the final vote	Kostas Chrysogonos, Carlos Coelho, Maria Grapini, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Marek Jurek, Andrejs Mamikins, Angelika Mlinar, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Jaromír Štětina
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Jonathan Bullock, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

46	+
ALDE	Nathalie Griesbeck, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Angelika Mlinar, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz
ECR	Marek Jurek, Branislav Škripek, Helga Stevens
GUE/NGL	Malin Björk, Kostas Chrysogonos, Cornelia Ernst, Marie-Christine Vergiat
PPE	Asim Ademov, Georges Bach, Heinz K. Becker, Michał Boni, Carlos Coelho, Frank Engel, Kinga Gál, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Barbara Kudrycka, Roberta Metsola, Csaba Sógor, Jaromír Štětina, Traian Ungureanu, Francis Zammit Dimech, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Caterina Chinnici, Ana Gomes, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Dietmar Köster, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Andrejs Mamikins, Claude Moraes, Péter Niedermüller, Ivari Padar, Soraya Post, Birgit Sippel, Sergei Stanishev, Josef Weidenholzer
VERTS/ALE	Julia Reda, Judith Sargentini

5	-
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock, Raymond Finch
ENF	Lorenzo Fontana, Auke Zijlstra
NI	Udo Voigt

1	0
EFDD	Kristina Winberg

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention