

## Written contribution to JPSG Reporting on Multiannual Programming Document 2021-2023

In accordance with Article 32 of the Financial Regulation applicable to Europol, the agency should send to the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council the Europol's draft Programming Document no later than 31 January each year. In addition and according to Article 58 of the Europol Regulation, the Management Board adopts a provisional draft estimate of Europol's revenue and expenditure for the following financial year and sends it to the Commission within the same timeframe. The Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) is also consulted on Europol's multiannual programming (Section II of the Programming Document).

According to the above, Europol submitted the Provisional Draft Europol Programming Document (incl. the Provisional Draft Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure 2021) to the Management Board (MB), who adopted the document via written procedure in January 2020.

In the context of the written procedure, the Commission expressed an overall negative opinion regarding the human and financial resources section of the programming document 2021-2023. In view of the position of the Commission and the ongoing negotiations for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the MB Chair invited Europol to engage in an active dialogue with relevant Commission services, with a view to presenting a final draft estimate of revenue and expenditure 2021 (including overall human resource estimates), to be considered by the MB at its March meeting.

The final draft estimate for 2021 (€185 M and an establishment plan of 678 posts) was adopted on 10-11 March 2020 and an updated version was provided to the Institutions and to the JPSG in accordance with Article 32(9) of the FR, for consultation<sup>1</sup>.

The multiannual programming document provides strategic information on the following:

- **Multi-annual priorities – based on the Europol Strategy 2020+.** The priorities will guide the work of the Agency in the years 2021-2023 to:
  - Be the EU criminal information hub making full use of data from an extensive network of partners;
  - Deliver agile operational support;
  - Be a platform for European policing solutions;
  - Be at the forefront of innovation and research for law enforcement;
  - Be the model EU law enforcement organisation with robust performance, good governance and accountability, promoting diversity and staff engagement.
  
- **Human and financial resources - exceptionally only for 2021, given the ongoing negotiations of the MFF 2021-2027.** Europol's role in the security landscape of the EU has been recognised over the last few years and, as a result,

---

<sup>1</sup> Comments were received by the Cypriot delegation.

## Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

Europol was entrusted with a number of entirely new functions. Although some resources were provided to perform these new tasks, Europol has depended heavily on the internal re- allocation of operational staff and on the shifting of posts from support functions to the Operations Directorate.

2021 marks the first year of the new multiannual financial framework of the EU (2021-2027) and Europol's role in the Security Union remains important with renewed focus placed on financial investigations and asset recovery, innovation, interoperability, decryption, travel intelligence and countering terrorist content online. In order to perform the tasks assigned to it, Europol needs to be reinforced with an appropriate level of human and financial resources.

In the current Programming Document (2021-2023), Europol has therefore taken the Final Budget 2020 as the baseline for its programming. In the absence of a multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and given the increasing workload, complexity of tasks Europol puts forward a request for adequate resources to deliver on its multi-annual strategy. In particular, the requested new posts would allow for an increase in activities to enable the continuation of Member States support at an acceptable level, would boost operational ICT and would allow the Agency to keep up with increasing operational demand from Member States. Additionally, the requested new posts reflect the needs for the establishment of EFEC, the Analysis Unit, and support to High Value Targets investigations through Operational Task Forces, reinforcing a future Information Management Function and making progress in the area of Travel Intelligence.

- **External relations priorities – in the form of the new External Strategy 2021-2024.** The External Strategy will guide Europol's cooperation with external partners and fulfil the Agency's objectives set by its Regulation, namely to support the competent authorities of the Member States and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating serious crime, terrorism and other forms of crime affecting a common interest covered by a Union Policy.

Europol attracts external partners due to its unique and well-functioning environment for cooperation also due to Europol's culture of Liaison Officers in HQ. Europol will continue to cultivate this environment, which represents a potential for further growth of new interested external partners.

One of the main goals of Europol's external relations will be to establish an excellent operational partnership with the United Kingdom. From a geographical point of view, Europol will pay particular attention to further developing cooperation with the EU neighborhood countries.

Additionally, Europol finds it very important to keep strong transatlantic cooperation with the US and Canada. Cooperation that, together with Australia and, hopefully soon, with the UK and New Zealand, represents a key asset in tackling global threats such as cybercrime and terrorism.

In relation to the COVID-19 crisis and the consequences on crime, cooperation with Asia, China in particular, is necessary. Europol will engage with Asian partners according to the guidance of the EU and the MB.

Related to the growing demand for drugs in the EU, Europol will enhance the cooperation with Latin American countries.