

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

The evaluation of Eurojust activities

Expert and research publications



This [Thematic Digest](#) contains a list of publications from the European Parliament's expertise and research capacities within the Directorates-General for Internal Policies (IPOL), External Policy (EXPO) and Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), relevant to the topics of debate of the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on [the evaluation of Eurojust activities](#), organised by the [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#).



Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU: Migration and gender issues

Study edited and coordinated by Alina Dinu, September 2020

Almost 10 years after its adoption, the Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU remains a valuable tool in combating human trafficking in the EU. However, the evaluation carried out in this study, which also takes the role and concrete actions on the matter of EU agencies like Europol and Eurojust into consideration, points out the need to continue efforts to ensure the application of its provisions in all the directive's main aspects. The persisting grey areas and obstacles are significant enough to put the full achievement of the directive's objectives at risk.

Understanding the EU response to organised crime

Briefing by Katrien Luyten with Sofija Voronova, August 2020

This briefing explains how serious and organised crime has become more interconnected, international and digital, while Member States – which remain responsible for operational activities in police and judicial cooperation – increasingly rely on cross-border and EU-level cooperation through the growing involvement of specialised and reinforced EU agencies, such as Europol and Eurojust, to support their law enforcement authorities on the ground.

European Arrest Warrant: European Implementation Assessment

Study by Wouter van Ballegooij, June 2020

This study provides an assessment of and conclusions on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (FD EAW, 2002/584/JHA). The study concludes that the FD EAW has simplified and sped up handover procedures. To address outstanding challenges, it recommends targeted infringement proceedings, support to judicial authorities and hearing suspects via video-link where appropriate to avoid surrender whilst ensuring effective defence rights, and measures to achieve the humane treatment of prisoners.

Unlocking the potential of the EU Treaties: An article-by-article analysis of the scope for action

Study edited and coordinated by Étienne Bassot, May 2020

This study identifies legal bases in the Treaties that remain either under-used (in terms of the purposes they could be used to achieve) or completely unused. It explores 50 possible initiatives in detail, including the strengthening of the powers of Eurojust. The Eurojust chapter explains current challenges and policy debates, followed by an analysis of the scope for action based on Article 85(1)(a) TFEU, for example in the area of protecting the financial interests of the EU or a reinforced mandate in counter-terrorism and other areas of serious cross-border crime.

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Written by Udo Box, February 2020

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. The Treaty of Lisbon has provided a stronger basis for the development of a criminal justice area, while also stipulating new powers for the European Parliament. This Fact Sheet describes the legal basis and objectives in this field, the achievements so far and the role of the European Parliament throughout the years.

The European Commission package of ETIAS consequential amendments: Substitute impact assessment

Study coordinated by Katharina Eisele, December 2019

Neither the original proposal for the establishment of a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), nor the two amendment proposals ('the Commission package') were accompanied by Commission impact assessments (IAs). This triggered a substitute IA which concluded, inter alia, that the Commission package expands the scope of the European Criminal Record Information System for Third-Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN) which constitutes a serious interference with the rights to respect for private life and to protection of personal data.

The fight against terrorism

Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, Gianluca Sgueo and Sofija Voronova with Alina Dobрева, June 2019

EU spending in the area of counter-terrorism has increased over the years, to allow for better cooperation between national law enforcement authorities and enhanced support by the EU bodies in charge of security, such as Europol and eu-LISA. Financing for cooperation with third countries has also increased. This briefing assesses current terrorist challenges, the public expectations for EU involvement, the deliveries of the 2014-2019 parliamentary term and the potential for the future.

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

Written by Kristiina Milt, May 2019

This briefing goes over the main legislative instruments, EU legislative acts and international agreements on judicial cooperation in criminal matters, amongst others. It concludes that the European 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. 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.

The European Public Prosecutor's Office: Strategies for coping with complexity

Study coordinated by Vera Milicevic, May 2019

This study analyses challenges related to the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) as enhanced cooperation among 22 Member States, and discusses possible solutions for coping with them. Complexity is identified as a main challenge owing to the EPPO's specific multilevel structure, the relationship between the EPPO and non-participating Member States, and the fact that the EPPO Regulation leaves many procedural rules to the law of the Member State. Depending on the nature of the challenge, the suggested strategies to cope with complexity encompass legislative, administrative, and monitoring measures.

The future partnership between the European Union and the United Kingdom: Negotiating a framework for relations after Brexit

Study by Carmen-Cristina Cirlig and Laura Puccio, September 2018

This study focuses on the aims and principles underpinning the EU-UK negotiations on a future partnership agreement, as expressed publicly by each party up to September 2018, as well as on some of the legal constraints and existing practices shaping EU cooperation with third-country partners. The study contains a chapter on EU-UK cooperation in justice and home affairs (pp. 58-75), including a section on Eurojust, highlighting the possibilities for future cooperation in this area.

Criminal procedural laws across the EU: A comparative analysis of selected main differences and the impact they have over the development of EU legislation

Study coordinated by Roberta Panizza, August 2018

This study examines the extent to which differences between national procedural criminal laws hinder the negotiations and the operation of cross-border cooperation instruments. It is based on a comparative analysis of a representative sample of nine Member States. It identifies several forms of "hindrances" to cross-border cooperation, ranging from mere delays to the suspension and the non-execution of assistance requests, alongside the striking underuse of some of the existing instruments. Several non-legislative and legislative recommendations are put forward for the short and the long-term perspective.

The EU-UK relationship beyond Brexit: options for police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Study coordinated by Kristiina Milt, July 2018

This study provides expertise on the legal, institutional and technical implications of the UK's future relationship with the EU after Brexit, in the areas of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. A key challenge will be to reconcile the political expectation of the changing form and nature of the cooperation with the UK as a third country outside of Schengen, with the needs at the operational level which are in the EU's security interest. It will also be necessary to ensure that the UK's human rights and data protection standards will be equivalent to those in place in the EU.

The institutional architecture of EU anti-fraud measures: Overview of a network

Study by Gianluca Sgueo, June 2018

In the EU, several institutions, agencies and other bodies (collectively referred to as 'EU authorities') are concerned with preventing and combating fraud related to the EU budget. These EU authorities, and the activities they carry out – including policy-making, monitoring and operational tasks – make up a multi-layered network, in which Member States and international organisations are also included. The present analysis offers an overview of this network, with a focus on the EU institutional framework, including on the role of Eurojust.

Access to financial data by law enforcement authorities. Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment

Briefing by Katharina Eisele with Anne van Heijst, June 2018

This briefing provides an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the proposal on the access to financial data by law enforcement authorities. While the Commission's impact assessment made a real attempt to analyse the impacts of the proposed measures, this initial appraisal briefing concludes that a more thorough analysis of the safeguards on fundamental rights would have been useful and that the overall preferred option remains unclear.

CSDP after Brexit: the way forward

Study coordinated by Jérôme Legrand, May 2018

The Common Security and defence Policy (CSDP) will be strongly impacted by the imminent divorce between the UK and the EU. The study focuses on the terms of the equation, analysing the proposal made by the UK to the EU in this area, the EU's reaction so far, and the existing rules and practices allowing the involvement of third countries in the EU defence policies. It also examines the potential impact of Brexit on the most promising defence policies that the EU is presently carrying out, and reviews the options available to the EU in one of the most difficult negotiations in contemporary history.

The fight against terrorism. Cost of Non-Europe Report

Study by Wouter van Ballegooij and Piotr Bakowski, May 2018

This report identifies significant benefits that could be achieved by addressing the gaps and barriers in the fight against terrorism, notably by developing an evidence-based EU criminal policy cycle involving the European Parliament and national parliaments. It advocates fostering a European law enforcement culture, in which relevant information is shared, judicial cooperation tools are used properly, and seeking the support of EU agencies becomes a natural thing to do.

The return of foreign fighters to EU soil: Ex-post evaluation

Study edited and coordinated by Amandine Scherrer, May 2018

This study outlines the EU response to the issue of returning foreign fighters and their families. It furthermore examines how six Member States have responded to this phenomenon so far (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK). These Member States are confronted with significant challenges in dealing with foreign fighters that combine legal, ethical and practical questions regarding their obligations and capabilities as regards the handling of the foreign fighters still abroad and the returnees already on EU soil.

EU efforts on counter-terrorism – Capacity-building in third countries

Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, with Patryk Pawlak and Georgios Barzoukas, December 2017

While the responsibility for counter-terrorism lies primarily with its Member States, the role of the EU itself in counter-terrorism has grown significantly in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks that have hit Europe in the post-'9/11' era. This briefing provides an overview of the terrorism 'hot spots', as well as the conceptual framework and extensive toolkit of human and financial resources that the EU has developed to support third countries to manage or mitigate terrorist threats.

EU justice and home affairs agencies: Securing good governance

Study coordinated by Sarah Sy, October 2017

This study examines the governance structures of EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies, mapping and analysing the relationships of across-the-board agencies to the main institutional actors in terms of core reporting and scrutiny mechanisms. It looks closely at management boards' composition and operation, and considers some of the implications of the current governance set up with respect to ensuring co-operation from corresponding national structures. It identifies existing structural shortcomings inherent to current mandates and makes suggestions for improvement.

Cybersecurity in the EU and Beyond: Exploring the threats and policy responses

Study coordinated by Darren Neville, September 2015

This study sets out to develop a better understanding of the main cybersecurity threats facing the EU, and existing cybersecurity capabilities in the European Union and the United States. It further examines the current state of transnational cooperation and explores perceptions of the effectiveness of the EU response, pinpointing remaining challenges and suggesting avenues for improvement.

The inter-agency cooperation and future architecture of the EU criminal justice and law enforcement area

Study coordinated by Alessandro Davoli, November 2014

This study analyses the current relationship and foreseeable cooperation between several EU agencies and bodies: Europol, Eurojust, the European Anti-Fraud Office, the European Judicial Network and the future European Public Prosecutor's Office. It reflects on their cooperation regarding the fight against serious transnational crime and the protection of the EU's financial interests. It also identifies good practices and difficulties and suggests possible ways of improvements.

The end of the transitional period for police and criminal justice measures adopted before the Lisbon Treaty. Who monitors trust in the European justice area?

Study coordinated by Alessandro Davoli, November 2014

This study examines the legal and political implications of the forthcoming end of the transitional period for the measures in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. It focuses on the meaning of the transitional period for the wider European Criminal Justice area. The most far-reaching change emerging from the end of this transition will be the expansion of the European Commission and Luxembourg Court of Justice scrutiny powers over Member States' implementation of EU criminal justice law.

Policy departments

The Policy Departments of DG Internal Policies (IPOL) and DG External Policies (EXPO) are responsible for providing expertise and policy advice to support the activities of the parliamentary committees and other parliamentary bodies. Based on analyses carried out either in-house or externally, policy departments provide independent, specialised, objective, high-quality and up-to-date information in all areas of Parliament's activities.

A wide variety of formats is used by the Policy Departments in order to deliver their policy analysis, most frequently in response to a request from a parliamentary committee or delegation. Their written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of Members, or as background notes and speaking points for Parliament's political authorities.

The Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, to enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current issues.

European Parliamentary Research Service

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues relating to the European Union, in order to assist them in their parliamentary work.

As the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, EPRS provides a comprehensive range of products and services, backed by specialist internal expertise and knowledge sources in all policy fields, so empowering Members and committees through knowledge and contributing to the Parliament's effectiveness and influence as an institution.

EPRS also supports and promotes parliamentary outreach to the wider public.

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