



Updated version in view of the JPSG meeting on 1-2 February 2021
under the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU

JPSG Written and Oral Questions

Guide for Members

INTRODUCTION

The Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG) brings together Members of national parliaments and the European Parliament to fulfil the scrutiny and oversight on the activities of Europol including fundamental rights.¹

The JPSG meets at least twice a year and is Co-Chaired by the European Parliament and the parliament of the country holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

RIGHT TO ASK QUESTIONS

Article 4.2. of the JPSG Rules of Procedure:

Right to ask questions

Members of the JPSG may address both oral and written questions to Europol. Written questions may also be asked outside the meeting framework and independently of items listed on the agenda and shall be answered within an appropriate timeframe. The questions shall reflect the mandate of the JPSG as defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/794 (Europol Regulation). These questions shall be relayed to Europol after their admissibility has been checked by the Co-Chairs and the question is deemed to be in line with the Europol regulation. A further written reply can be requested in case the answer to an oral question is deemed insufficient.

The Rules of Procedure of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol in its Art. 4 (4.2) set up the right to ask questions as part of the scrutiny tasks. Members of the JPSG – individually or jointly - may address questions to Europol. There are two categories of questions: written and oral ones.

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¹ The JPSG was constituted pursuant to Art. 51 of Regulation (EU) 2016/794 (Europol Regulation) and Art. 88 TFEU.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Members of the JPSG are invited to send their written questions by email to the JPSG Co-chairs. During the Portuguese Presidency the contact details are:

European Parliament:

Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Co-Chair of the JPSG, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Assembleia da República:

Mrs. Isabel Oneto, Co-Chair of the JPSG, Head of the Portuguese Assembleia da República Delegation to the JPSG, Europol-parleu2021@ar.parlamento.pt

Requirements to submit written questions:

Written questions may be asked outside the meeting framework and independently of items listed on the agenda and shall be answered by Europol within a six week timeframe. The text submitted to the Co-Chairs as a written question addressed to Europol shall be explicitly marked as a 'Written Question'. An email of confirmation of the receipt of a (set of) written question(s) shall be sent from the mailbox: jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu, with a copy to Europol-parleu2021@ar.parlamento.pt.

Step one – Admissibility

The Co-Chairs decide whether or not the written questions meet admissibility requirements within a week. The Member raising non admissible questions is informed via email without any further delay together with a written explanation.

Step two – Europol

The Co-Chairs - in line with Art. 4 (4.2) of the JPSG Rules of Procedure - submit the admissible written questions via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat mailbox to Europol asking for a reply within a six week timeframe.

Should the written questions not be clear enough, Europol may ask the Co-Chairs via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat for further clarifications on them. In that case, the Co-Chairs ask the Member to explain in more detail the substance of his/her questions. The clarification should be sent within a week by the Member who submitted the question.

All JPSG Members are informed about admissible written questions after their submission to Europol by the Co-Chairs via e-mail as part of the meeting documents for the upcoming JPSG meeting and the IPEX website.

Step three - receipt of the reply

Europol sends the reply to the Co-Chairs via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat.

The Co-Chairs transmit the reply to all JPSG Members via e-mail as part of the meeting documents for the upcoming JPSG meeting and publish it on the IPEX website.

Step four - possible further clarification

In case the reply is not satisfactory to the Member who submitted the question, the Member may inform the Co-Chairs on this. The Member can ask a follow up written question to which the same six week requested timeframe applies. If the Member prefers, the point raised in the question could instead be addressed orally during the following JPSG meeting in the exchanges with Europol. At that meeting, the Member concerned can ask for further clarifications.

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Members of the JPSG may, during the appropriate point on the agenda of the JPSG meeting ask Europol oral questions linked to the listed topics on the agenda. In case Members wish to notify Europol beforehand on the content of their specific question as to enable Europol to provide a more detailed answer, they can do so following a similar approach as for written questions and contact the Co-Chairs.

To make sure that they can get a detailed reply, Members may send their oral questions to the Co-Chairs by email two weeks before the JPSG meeting. The text submitted to the Co-Chairs as an oral question addressed to Europol shall be explicitly marked as an 'Oral Question' to be replied to in the framework of the next meeting. An email of confirmation of the receipt of a request will be sent from the mailbox: jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu, with a copy to Europol-parleu2021@ar.parlamento.pt.

Step one – admissibility

The Co-Chairs decide whether or not the oral questions, submitted by JPSG members to notify Europol beforehand on their content, meet the admissibility requirements.

The Member who submitted the oral question or Co-Chairs communicate the admissible questions at the meeting.

Step two - Europol

In case Members have sent their oral questions to the Co-Chairs by email beforehand, the Co-Chairs forward the questions to Europol via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat mailbox and request a reply to the admissible oral questions at the meeting.

Step three – reply

Europol replies on the oral questions at the meeting. In case Europol requires more time to reply, sending additional replies in writing within a six week timeframe may be suggested.

Step four - follow up

In case the oral reply is deemed insufficient by the Member who presented the question, the Member may ask Europol to consider the oral question as a written question and request a written reply within a six week timeframe.