AMENDMENTS
1 - 31

Draft opinion
Caterina Chinnici
(PE661.921v01-00)

2019 discharge: European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
(EUROPOL)
(2020/2172(DEC))
Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism, understands that this goal requires adequate financial resources;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations and providing operational analysis; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious and organised crime, and terrorism;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Caterina Chinnici
Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism and organised crime;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment

1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations and in preventing and combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahli, Sophia in ’t Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1
Draft opinion  
1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment  
1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism, across Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 6  
Clare Daly

Draft opinion  
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion  
1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; emphasises also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Amendment  
1. Underlines the important role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (‘Europol’) in supporting Member States’ criminal investigations; notes also the extension of its tasks and its growing role in the prevention and combating of serious crime, including terrorism;

Or. en

Amendment 7  
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahmani, Sophia in ’t Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion  
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion  
1 a. Calls on the Agency to continue to develop its synergies, increase cooperation and exchange of good practices with other
European agencies with a view to improving efficiency (human resources, building management, IT services and security) ; welcomes the cooperation within the JHA Agencies Network chaired by Europol in 2019 to prepare a strategy paper on the future of the EU Security Architecture and the role of JHA agencies;

Amendment 8
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

 Draft opinion

I a. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors ('the Court') has declared the transactions underlying the annual accounts of Europol for the financial year 2019 to be legal and regular in all material respects and that its financial position on 31 December 2019 is fairly represented; welcomes that the Court has found the payments underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 to be legal and regular in all material aspects;

Amendment 9
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

 Draft opinion

I a. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors ('the Court') has declared the
transactions underlying the annual accounts of Europol for the financial year 2019 to be legal and regular in all material respects and that its financial position on 31 December 2019 is fairly represented; highlights that the Europol’s budget and staff increased from 156 to 169 million EUR (+8.3%) and from 826 to 837 (+1.3%) respectively;

Amendment 10
Peter Kofod, Nicolas Bay, Jean-Paul Garraud

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

2. Notes that a number of projects had to be deprioritised in the revised Annual Work Programme for 2019 due to budgetary constraints and that due to the Commission’s request to reduce the staffing levels for Contract Agents (CAs) Europol deferred the recruitment of all CA vacancies in 2019;

2. Notes that a number of projects had to be deprioritised in the revised Annual Work Programme for 2019 due to budgetary constraints and that due to the Commission’s request to reduce the staffing levels for Contract Agents (CAs) Europol deferred the recruitment of all CA vacancies in 2019, emphasises that while these reductions should satisfy the principle of financial prudence in spending taxpayer's money, they should not hamper Europol's operations aimed at ensuring the safety of Union citizens;

Amendment 11
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

2. Notes that a number of projects had to be deprioritised in the revised Annual Work Programme for 2019 due to budgetary constraints and that due to the Commission’s request to reduce the staffing levels for Contract Agents (CAs) Europol deferred the recruitment of all CA vacancies in 2019;
to be deprioritised in the revised Annual Work Programme for 2019 due to budgetary constraints and that due to the Commission’s request to reduce the staffing levels for Contract Agents (CAs) Europol deferred the recruitment of all CA vacancies in 2019;

recalls, however, that the budget of the Agency increased from EUR 156 to 169 million and its staff from 826 to 837 compared to 2018;

Amendment 12
Clare Daly

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

2 a. Notes that the current proportion of women on the Europol Management Board is 12 out of 53 members (22.6%); asks the Agency to take measures ensuring better gender balance within its senior management;

Amendment

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1,748 in 2018 to 1,921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89%) and that operational meetings funded by Europol increased from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%);

Amendment

3. Notes that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1,748 in 2018 to 1,921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89%) and that operational meetings funded by Europol increased from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%); stresses
the highly specialised investigations supported by Europol in recent years to counter highly sophisticated organised criminal networks, drug trafficking, illicit waste disposal and illicit trafficking on dark web;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1 748 in 2018 to 1 921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89 %) and that operational meetings funded by Europol increased from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%);

Amendment

3. Notes that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1 748 in 2018 to 1 921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89 %) and that operational meetings funded by Europol increased from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%), which underline the substantial increase in the importance of the Agency's work;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahli, Sophia in 't Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1 748 in 2018 to 1 921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89 %) and that operational meetings funded by Europol increased

Amendment

3. Highlights that the number of operations that Europol supported grew from 1 748 in 2018 to 1 921 in 2019 (representing an increase of 9.89 %) and that operational meetings funded by
from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%);

Europol increased from 427 in 2018 to over 500 in 2019 (representing an increase of 17%);

Or. en

Amendment 16
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Patrick Breyer, Alice Kuhnke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019.

Amendment
4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged again the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; recalls that this is a further amendment signed to the same contract in 2018 and notes that although a new framework contract for business travel services entered in force in 2019, Europol decided to extend the old contract; deplores that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019; further regrets the shortcomings in public procurement found by the Court and underlines that the Agency should integrate sufficient checks concerning the terms used in the documents to the call for tenders in its ex-ante controls before signing the order forms;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion

PE663.242v02-00 10/17  AM\1222705EN.docx
Paragraph 4

*Draft opinion*

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019.

*Amendment*

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019; *takes note of the explanations from Europol in response to the Court’s finding, highlighting that the extension was a conscious decision to preserve business continuity and that Europol will have an internal audit on contract management in 2021 to obtain assurance on its contract management arrangements and calls on the Agency to improve the regularity of transactions;*

Or. en

Amendment 18
Caterina Chinnici

*Draft opinion*

Paragraph 4

*Draft opinion*

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019.

*Amendment*

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019; *takes note of Europol's reply that it exerted due diligence and applied the principle of sound financial management, and of Europol's*
commitment to commence an internal audit with a view to obtaining additional assurance on its contract management approach;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Peter Kofod, Nicolas Bay, Jean-Paul Garraud

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019.

Amendment
4. Regrets to note again the Court’s finding that there were weaknesses in contract management and ex ante controls linked that the Europol irregularly prolonged the duration of a framework contract for the provision of business travel services by signing an amendment after the contract had expired; notes that this resulted in irregular payment of EUR 32 531 in 2019, emphasises that such irregularities should not happen in the future;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahlani, Sophia in ’t Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Stresses the importance to increase the digitalisation of the Agency in terms of internal operation and management but also in order to speed up the digitalisation of procedures; stresses the

Or. en
need for the Agency to continue to be proactive in this regard in order to avoid a digital gap between the agencies at all costs; draws attention, however, to the need to take all the necessary security measures to avoid any risk to the online security of the information processed;

Amendment 21
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Regrets the observation by the Court that Europol failed to make payments within prescribed terms as laid down in the Financial Regulation and that similar or even higher levels of delays were found in 2018 and 2017; stresses that according to the Court this recurrent weakness exposes the Agency to reputational risk; calls on Europol to take note of the observations by the Court and implement corrective actions;

Amendment 22
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Dupont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Notes the late payments issued by the Agency in 20% of the cases in 2019; acknowledges that the level of late payments was even higher in previous
years but calls on the Agency to regularise payments to bring these in line with the Financial Regulation to avoid reputational risk;

Amendment 23
Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Reminds that according to the Financial Regulation all Union bodies must make payments within prescribed terms; however notes that the Agency frequently failed to do so exposing therefore the Agency to reputational risk;

Amendment 24
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Welcomes the fact that Europol correctly implemented the Court's recommendation regarding the publication of vacancy notices on the website of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO);

Amendment 25
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Dü pont, Tomas
Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Notes the Court’s observations that tendering documents for procurement were not specific enough in 2019 with regard to the procurement of furniture, which undermines the competitive nature of tendering procedures; calls on the Agency to ensure that tendering specifications are comprehensive to allow fair and effective competition;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Calls on Europol to increase its efforts in making payments within prescribed terms; welcomes the mitigation actions taken by Europol in this regard, thanks to which in 2019 an overall immaterial interest amount of 1.624,53 EUR was paid;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahlani, Sophia in 't Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)
4 b. Underlines the important effect of turnover within the staff of the agencies of the European Union; calls for the implementation of human and social policies to remedy it;

Amendment 28
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Patrick Breyer, Alice Kuhnke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

4 b. Calls on the Agency to ensure, in all its activities, full transparency and full respect with fundamental rights;

Amendment 29
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

4 c. Notes that the current proportion of women in Europol's Management Board is 12 out of 53 members (22.6%); recalls that pursuant to Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/794 the principle of a balanced gender representation on the Management Board shall be taken into account; asks Europol to take measures in this respect.
Amendment 30
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düppont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

4 c. Notes the Court’s observations that underlying prices and calculation of certain discounts were not properly checked prior to submitting the order form to the contractor of the purchasing of furniture; calls on the Agency to integrate such checks in its ex-ante controls, before signing and sending the order forms;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düppont, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský, Andrzej Halicki, Axel Voss

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

4 d. Welcomes the Agency’s action following the Court’s observation from 2017 so that it now publishes vacancy notices on the website of the European Personnel Selection Office in addition to on its own website and on social media;

Or. en