

## Courtesy translation

16 September 2013

Europol proposal: invitation to submit a contribution focusing on the aspect concerning the joint parliamentary scrutiny of the activities of Europol

Dear Mr Diaz de Mera,

The Standing Committee for Immigration & Asylum / Justice and Home Affairs Council (I&A/JHA Committee) has discussed your invitation to submit a response to the Europol proposal<sup>1</sup> in its meeting of 10 September 2013. The Committee is now pleased to inform you of its contribution focusing on the aspect concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of the activities of Europol.

The proposed article 53 provides that the information to be received by the European Parliament and the national parliaments should include annual activity reports, threat assessments, strategic analyses and annual working arrangements. Moreover, matters relating to Europol may be discussed with the Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Management Board in the European Parliament, in the presence of representatives of the national parliaments. In addition, the European Parliament will fulfil its role of budgetary authority.

The I&A/JHA Committee can agree to this form of parliamentary scrutiny, as described in article 53. The appearance of the Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Management Board before the European Parliament to discuss matters relating to Europol is considered worthwhile, partly in view of the fact that the I&A/JHA Committee has already had such a meeting with the Executive Director of Europol, Mr Wainwright, on a voluntary basis in December 2012. In the opinion of the Committee members, the proposal also clearly specifies what information should be transmitted and is of such a nature as to give a complete overview of Europol's activities.

Finally, the Committee would recommend that parliamentary scrutiny be organised in a structured way and take place periodically, partly since interparliamentary meetings relating to Europol have not taken place in a structured manner in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Dr G. ter Horst

Chair of the Standing Committee for Immigration and Asylum / Justice and Home Affairs Council

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2013)173, dated 27 March 2013. Information about the consideration of this proposal in the Senate can be consulted at [www.europapoort.nl](http://www.europapoort.nl) under file number **E130019**.