



Parliament of Romania

Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG)

Bucharest, 9 July 2019

Dear Chairs and Members of Delegations to the JPSG,
Dear Colleagues,

As the parliamentary dimension of the Romanian presidency to the Council of the European Union came to an end, we think this is the right time to take stock of the activities we have carried out with respect to the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol ('JPSG') for the first half of 2019, in a spirit of transparency and openness.

This spirit of transparency and openness characterized the fourth JPSG on Europol meeting that took place in Bucharest, on 24-25 February 2019.

One of the main aims pursued by the Romanian Co-chair to the JPSG on Europol was the need to move on from a regular format of an inter-parliamentary conference, to a genuine scrutiny and monitoring body, as provided for by Article 51 of the Europol Regulation. That was the reason why an open dialogue with Europol representatives (Executive Director, Deputy Director) and with Europol Management Board ('MB') was sought, and the ability of addressing written questions by delegates was encouraged. Special emphasis was placed on the increasingly open and applied dialogue on strategic issues related to the mandate of the Agency.

It must be acknowledged that the dialogue with Europol representatives was privileged. Reference should be made to the items included on the agenda of the fourth JPSG meeting, covering issues of interest (Europol Travel Intelligence Centre ('ETIC') and European Cybercrime Centre ('EC3')).

Under the Romanian presidency we endeavoured to receive in due time full sets of documents from Europol and to pass them over to JPSG delegates, in order to enable them to formulate meaningful questions before/during the reunions. As a result, along the fourth JPSG meeting, the number of written questions addressed by delegates increased and the time allocated to address oral questions and to debate various issues was prolonged, substantiating thus a veritable parliamentary control.

On the occasion of revising the JPSG Rules of procedure, which is scheduled to take place at the next meeting in September 2019, in Brussels, a good opportunity would be to make clear provisions of relevant rules concerning the right to ask written questions (Article 4.2 of the JPSG Rules of procedure), such as establishing the deadline for sending written questions, the duration of reviewing and summarizing the questions by Troika, uploading the questions on IPEX, etc.

As you are aware, an important topic on the agenda of the fourth JPSG meeting was the appointment of a representative to the Management Board of Europol. You might recall that the invitation letter to the reunion in Bucharest suggested, on the one hand, that such representative be the head of delegation of the national parliament holding the rotating presidency and we asked, on the other hand, for relevant feedback on this suggestion. As the delegates could not reach a consensus, we agreed to postpone any decision on this matter until the next JPSG meeting, which would take place in September. Meanwhile, it was however agreed that the Co-chairs represent JPSG to the Management Board of Europol. This subject could also be considered when revising the JPSG Rules of procedure, as well as the Danish representation to JPSG.

On the latest topic, a general understanding was reached during the fourth JPSG meeting, in Bucharest, where it was agreed the special membership of the Danish delegation, its rights and obligations. To formalise this agreement, amendments to Article 2.2 of the JPSG Rules of procedure and an additional Protocol was presented jointly by the by presidential Troika and the Danish delegation at the end of June 2019.

Having in view that Mr. Claude MORAES could not attend the last Management Board meeting due to pre-election commitments, the JPSG was represented to the 111th meeting of the Management Board of Europol, which took place on 23 May 2019, by the head of the Romanian delegation. Relevant and detailed information on this meeting can be found in a special report, attached to this letter.

To conclude, these last six months brought positive developments in our Group's cooperation with Europol. We hope this positive spirit continues, as there is, naturally, room for further improvements. In any case, please be assured of the Romanian delegation's commitment to contribute to our common aims and priorities and to strengthen security all around the EU.

Oana - Consuela FLOREA

Co-chair of JPSG

Head of the Romanian Delegation to the JPSG on Europol



Annex: Special report pertaining the 111th meeting of the Management Board of Europol, which took place on 23 May 2019