

JPSG Written and Oral Questions
Guide for Members: Co-Chairs including Finnish Presidency
version 18/09/2019

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 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:

4.2. 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 2016/794 Regulation on Europol and Art. 88 TFEU.

1. Written questions

The Members of the JPSG are invited to send their written questions by email to the JPSG Co-chairs.

For the period during the Finnish Presidency these contact details are:

European Parliament: Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Co-Chair of the JPSG and Head of the delegation of the European Parliament to the JPSG;
jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Finnish Presidency parliament: Ms Mari-Leena TALVITIE, Co-Chair of the JPSG and Head of delegation of the Finnish Parliament to the JPSG: Minna-Liisa.Rinne@eduskunta.fi

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 weeks deadline. Members shall submit their written questions to Co-Chairs explicitly mentioning 'Written Questions'. An email of confirmation of the receipt of a (set of) written question (s) is sent from the mailbox: jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu

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 should be 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 eligible written questions via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat mailbox to Europol asking for a reply within a 6 weeks deadline.

All JPSG Members are informed about admissible written questions after their submission to Europol by the Co-Chairs via the IPEX website² where the questions and, once available, Europol's replies are uploaded.

Should the written questions submitted 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 drafted the question.

² <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/conference/getconference.do?type=082dbcc5667f1c7a016681b2ccc40281>

Step three - receipt of the reply

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

The Co-Chairs will transmit via the JPSG LIBE Secretariat the reply to the author of the question and publish it on IPEX website in order to inform all JPSG Members.

Step four - possible further clarification

In case the reply is not satisfactory to the Member who drafted the question, the Member may signal this to the Co-Chairs. The Member can ask a follow up written question to which the same six week period will apply. If the Member prefers, the point raised in the question could instead be addressed orally during the following JPSG meeting in the exchanges with the Europol's representative. At that meeting, the Member concerned can ask for further clarifications.

2. Oral questions

The Members of the JPSG may, during the appropriate slot of the agenda, ask Europol oral questions linked to the listed topics on the agenda, during the JPSG meeting. In case Members wish to notify Europol beforehand of the content of their specific questions 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. Members should explicitly mention in the request that the questions are 'Oral Questions' to be replied to in the framework of the next meeting. An email of confirmation of the receipt of a request is sent from the mailbox: jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Step one - admissibility

The Co-Chairs are to decide whether or not the oral questions, submitted by JPSG members to notify Europol beforehand of the content of their specific questions as to enable Europol to provide a more detailed answer, meet the admissibility requirements.

The Co-Chairs communicate the questions admissible or non-admissible at the meeting.

Step two - Europol

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

Step three - reply

Europol replies at the meeting. In case the Europol representatives require more time to reply to the question, they may suggest sending replies in writing within a 6 weeks deadline.

Step four - follow up

In case the reply orally given is deemed insufficient according to the Member who presented the question, they may ask Europol to consider the oral questions as a written questions and request a written reply within a six weeks deadline.