EUROPOL

The Hague, 9 April 2020

Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group Secretariat

To the attention of the JPSG Co-Chairs

By email only:
jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Europol reply to written questions from Mr Patrick Breyer, Member of the European Parliament

Dear Mr López Aguilar,

Dear Mr Ostojić,

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the JPSG Rules of Procedure and Article 51 of the Europol Regulation, Europol would like to respond to the question raised by the JPSG and European Parliament member, Mr Breyer, received by Europol on 26th February 2020, as follows:

Written question by Mr Breyer

Due to their nature and function, intelligence agencies have significant surveillance powers. For this reason, Germany has explicitly separated them from the law enforcement agencies and authorities.

I would like to ask Europol from which countries' intelligence services does Europol receive personal information on crime or terrorism? Are there any restrictions as regards sharing such intelligence with law enforcement agencies?

Europol reply

While national security remains the sole responsibility of each Member State, the law enforcement authorities and the security intelligence services hold valuable information to effectively combat terrorism and other forms of serious crime. Over the recent years, the Commission and the Justice and Home Affairs Council have encouraged closer cooperation between the law enforcement and security intelligence service communities at national and at European level, while respecting the respective regulatory frameworks.

As a result, Europol has established a dialogue with interested member services of the Counter Terrorism Group (CTG), which led to joint workshops on key counter terrorism related issues with the aim to build mutual knowledge. This dialogue does not comprise the exchange of personal information.

As concerns information exchange with Member States, Europol processes information, including personal data, received from Member States in line with the Europol Regulation. It is for each Member State to determine the competent authorities (as per Article 2(a) of the Europol Regulation) empowered to cooperate with Europol and the composition of their Liaison Bureaux at Europol.

According to the Europol Regulation, the competent authorities shall also comprise other public authorities existing in the Member States that are responsible under national law for preventing and combating criminal offences in respect of which Europol is competent. Currently 10 CTG member countries have dedicated representatives associated to their national Liaison Bureaux at Europol.

I hope that these answers will prove satisfactory and remain available for further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,

Alfredo Nunzi
Head of Corporate Services
Governance Directorate