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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Mr. Claude Moraes

Co-Chair of the JPSG

Chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

European Parliament

B-1047 Brussels

30 May 2018

Dear Mr. Moraes,

Dear Claude,

Herewith, I would like to inform you on the proceedings of the 107th Meeting of the Europol Management Board from 4 May 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria that I attended in my capacity as Co-Chair of the JPSG during the agenda item, specifically devoted to hearing the JPSG input for the Europol Management Board. In my intervention, on behalf of the JPSG Co-Chairs, I raised the following issues presented here below.

I informed the Management Board of the adoption of the Rules of procedure by consensus at the Second Meeting of the JPSG on 18-19 March in Sofia, Bulgaria and the efforts that entailed this result.

I also presented to the Board our common desire as Co-Chairs that the provisions for JPSG participation in Management Board meetings (Recital 20 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/794) be interpreted as broadly as possible. Drawing attention to Article 5 of the consensually adopted JPSG Rules of Procedure that regulate the framework for permanent JPSG representation at Management Board meetings, I highlighted that we expect on the one hand that the invitation will be extended in respect to all future Management Board meetings, on the other – that the JPSG representative will be invited to stay for other relevant agenda items, apart for the one specifically devoted to relations of the Management Board with the JPSG. In this respect, I also highlighted that the attendance of the JPSG representative at Management Board meetings should reflect the scope of Article 51 of the Europol Regulation in terms of content, of course with no prejudice to requirements of confidentiality.

In the same line of argument, I explained that the JPSG has still not selected its representative to the Management Board and that we



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suggest to continue with the current practice of addressing future invitations to the Co-Chairs until such a representative is officially determined.

The issue of providing the Multiannual Programming document at least in both English and French was also mentioned in my intervention, with a view to the EU principle of linguistic diversity, the fact that both English and French are working languages for the JPSG, and in abidance with Article 12 of the Europol Regulation that stipulates that the Management Board should hold consultations with the JPSG on the multiannual programming document. The idea that the Management Board should propose a joint work calendar for the consultation process was also among the highlights in my presentation.

The situation created in respect to the confidentiality of some documents for the Second Meeting of the JPSG was also raised and I called for the Management Board Secretariat to establish a joint agreement with the JPSG Secretariat in this respect.

Last but not least, I noted that the JPSG meetings present a valuable opportunity to hold thematic discussions on a number of politically salient issues related to the work of Europol, including its external strategy and third partners. Thus, it gives the possibility for further guidance and feedback on the strategic orientation of the Agency. In the case of the Sofia JPSG meeting such a panel was the one on the Western Balkans.

I deem it important that in her intervention following my presentation, Europol Executive Director Ms. Catherine de Bolle noted that the Regulation has given parliamentarians a big role and this is a positive development for enhancing the transparency and legitimacy of the Agency through political monitoring and oversight. She also noted that for her it is a priority that Europol is in good contact with elected representatives and made the commitment that Europol will remain in full engagement with the JPSG.

Management Board Chairman Mr. Parkna, in turn, noted that this is the first time the Management Board hears the JPSG views about cooperation with the Management Board and that he welcomes my open and constructive intervention.



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In respect to the access to documents by the JPSG, the need to safeguard confidentiality was noted. It was highlighted that the JPSG should have understanding for the fact that some of the documents that the Management Board discusses are not to be made publicly available in order to safeguard the confidentiality of operations and sensitive information.

On JPSG representation to the Management Board, Mr. Parkna noted that Article 14 of the Regulation gives the Management Board considerable latitude, in particular when it comes to observers at its meetings. He underlined that it is necessary for the Management Board to decide together and called on national representatives to discuss the details with their respective national services and parliamentarians, starting this process immediately, so at the next Management Board meeting an informed debate on the matter can be held. The Management Board is to finalize its position at the October meeting and convey it to the JPSG Co-Chairs by letter.

In conclusion to my participation, I noted that parliamentary scrutiny should not be perceived as a potential impediment but as a contribution to the effectiveness of Europol. The meeting ended on the positive note that the relationship between the JPSG and the Management Board should be made constructive and fruitful so both bodies can fulfill their duties and at the same time facilitate the work of the Agency.

Kindest Regards,

Tsvetan TSVETANOV

Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to the JPSG
Chairman of the Committee on Internal Security and Public Order
National Assembly of Bulgaria

CC: Mr. Raivo Aeg