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## Amendments to the Draft Rules of Procedure of

6th September 2017 for the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol

Submitted by the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament)

### Amendment 1

Article 4 - Proceedings and Languages

#### 4.1 *Conduct of Meetings*

“(a) At the beginning of each meeting, the Co-chairs of the Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union and of the European Parliament shall present the draft agenda and submit it for adoption by the JPSG, they shall determine the order and length of interventions; interventions by Members can never exceed 3 minutes.”

#### Suggested amendment:

To insert the following words after the word “Members” “should, as far as is practical not exceed 5 minutes.”

#### Suggested revised text:

“(a) At the beginning of each meeting, the Co-chairs of the Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union and of the European Parliament shall present the draft agenda and submit it for adoption by the JPSG, they shall determine the order and length of interventions; interventions by Members **should, as far as is practicable not exceed 5 minutes.**”

#### Explanation:

We consider that if Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament take the time to travel and participate in these meetings and national Parliaments and the European Parliament support such activity, a 3 minute speaking slot is too restrictive and that a more flexible approach should be adopted.

## **Amendment 2**

“(e)“ The JPSG shall adopt its decisions by consensus.”

Suggested amendment:

To delete the word “consensus” and replace it with “Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) requiring a two-thirds majority.”

Suggested revised text:

“(e) “The JPSG shall adopt its decisions by **Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) requiring a two-thirds majority.**”

Explanation:

We consider that reaching agreement by consensus may be prove difficult and a majority vote could be unnecessarily divisive therefore, we would recommend a Qualified Majority Vote requiring a two-thirds majority.

## **Amendment 3**

### *4.3 Interpretation*

“(a) Meetings at the Parliament of the Member State holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union (1st semester):

Simultaneous interpretation from and into English and French, as well as from and into the language(s) of the Member State of the EU Council Presidency shall be provided by the Presidency Parliament. Simultaneous interpretation into additional languages may be provided if requested; its costs shall be borne by the relevant national delegation or the European Parliament. The host Parliament shall make available the appropriate technical facilities.

Suggested amendment:

In line one, to delete all words after “into” and replace it with “all EU languages shall be provided.”

Suggested revised text:

“Simultaneous interpretation from and into **all EU languages shall be provided.**”

Explanation:

We consider that all EU languages should be held in the same esteem and that Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament should have the opportunity to speak and contribute in their native language. While acknowledging that this will cause an additional charge on the national Parliament of the Member State holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union this amendment is submitted with a view to creating a more equitable and fair meeting space.

If this amendment is accepted, a new paragraph 4.3 *Interpretation* can be moved, as follows:

“Simultaneous interpretation from and to all EU languages shall be provided”.

#### **Amendment 4**

##### Article 5 - Representative to the Management Board of Europol

“The JPSG shall appoint, from its full Members, a representative who will be entitled to attend, in accordance with Article 14 of the Europol Regulations and for a duration determined from the JPSG, meetings of the Management Board or Europol as a non-voting observer. The representative will regularly report back to the JPSG on his/her main findings.”

#### Suggested amendments:

1. In row 2, to delete the word “from” and replace it with “by”.
2. In the last sentence of this paragraph, to delete all words after “The representative will” and replace it with “report back to the JPSG after each such meeting of the Management Board on his/her main findings.”

#### Revised text:

“The JPSG shall appoint, from its full Members, a representative who will be entitled to attend, in accordance with Article 14 of the Europol Regulations and for a duration determined **by** the JPSG, meetings of the Management Board or Europol as a non-voting observer. The representative will **report back to the JPSG after each such meeting of the Management Board on his/her main findings.**”

#### Explanation:

Amendment (1) is a drafting amendment.

Amendment (2) provides the representative with an opportunity to keep members of the JPSG updated in between meetings of the JPSG. We would also envisage that this person would also provide an oral briefing to members of the JPSG on the work of the Management Board at the bi-annual meetings of the JPSG.

#### **Amendment 5**

##### Article 6 - Final Provisions

#### 6.2. Revision

“In line with the recommendations of the EU Speakers Conference of 23-24 April 2017 in Bratislava, the JPSG shall make a review of its Rules of Procedure, two years after its constituent meeting, and submit the conclusions from such a review to the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments.”

Suggested amendment:

In row two, to insert the word “every” before the word “two”

Revised text:

“In line with the recommendations of the EU Speakers Conference of 23-24 April 2017 in Bratislava, the JPSG shall make a review of its Rules of Procedure, **every** two years after its constituent meeting, and submit the conclusions from such a review to the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments.”

Explanation:

This allows the Rules of Procedure to be refined and improved on a continual basis rather than on a once-off basis.

27 September 2017