

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002547/24
to the Commission
Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)
(14 November 2024)**

Subject: Europol agreements — exchange of personal data

One of the pillars of the EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025 is international cooperation. It states that ‘strengthening international cooperation with third countries, regions, international and regional organisations, and at multilateral level to pursue the approach and objectives of the [EU Drugs] Strategy’ is key.

In this context, back on 9 March 2023, the Council of the European Union authorised the opening of negotiations for the conclusion of agreements between Europol and the competent authorities of Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, allowing the exchange of personal data in the fight against serious crime and terrorism.

Subsequently, the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 18 October 2023 on the EU roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime also sets out the need to boost EU cooperation with Latin American countries in the fight against this scourge. I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. How is the negotiation of these agreements progressing?
2. When are they expected to be concluded?

Submitted: 14.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(16 January 2025)**

1. On 15 May 2023, following the Commission’s recommendations, the Council of the EU authorised the opening of negotiations for international agreements between the EU and Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru on the exchange of personal data between Europol and their respective authorities competent to fight serious crime and terrorism.

Negotiations for the above-mentioned Agreement with Brazil were finalised at technical level on 18 October 2024, and the draft Agreement text, which had been previously shared with the Committee of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament, was initialled by the lead negotiators. Currently, the necessary steps for the signature and conclusion of the Agreement are ongoing. The signature of the Agreement with Brazil is foreseen in 2025.

Three negotiation rounds have been held with Bolivia. Two negotiation rounds and a technical meeting have been held with Ecuador. Two meetings have been held with Peru. The Commission maintains close contact with all these countries to continue and finalise the negotiations as soon as possible. Negotiations with Mexico have not yet commenced. The Commission reiterates its availability to regularly update the European Parliament on the progress of these negotiations.

2. Considering the negotiation of these international agreements is a bilateral process, it is not possible for the Commission to estimate their conclusion dates. With the aim of strengthening international cooperation in the fight against serious crime, including drug trafficking and terrorism, the Commission is working on these files as a priority.
