

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002954/24
to the Commission**

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(16 December 2024)

Subject: Evaluation and revision of Europol mandate

The new Commission has announced that it will strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation in the EU, including by making Europol ‘a truly operational police agency’ and by doubling its staff, with ‘a strengthened oversight and mandate ⁽¹⁾.’ Since the adoption of the initial Europol Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/794) in 2016, the agency has not been comprehensively evaluated to assess its impact, effectiveness, efficiency, structure and operation. Pursuant to Article 68 of the Europol Regulation, an initial evaluation was due on 1 May 2022. However, this was postponed to 29 June 2027 with the entering into force of the amended Europol Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/991) in June 2022.

Against this background,

1. Does the Commission agree that carrying out an evaluation of the current Europol Regulation before proposing further amendments would not only be in line with the better regulation agenda, but would also allow the co-legislators to make better-informed decisions on how Europol’s mandate and oversight could be strengthened, accompanied by sufficient financial resources?
2. Will the Commission expedite the evaluation of the Europol Regulation, so that the evaluation report is available and can be used during the preparation of a new proposal aimed at amending Europol’s mandate?

Submitted: 16.12.2024

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2025)

1. Evaluating the current EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) Regulation ⁽¹⁾ before proposing further amendments aligns with the better regulation agenda. Evaluations aim to help learn about the functioning of EU interventions and assess their performance against initial expectations. An evaluation takes a critical look at whether EU legislation is fit for purpose and delivers its intended objectives at minimum cost. That approach would enable the co-legislators to take better-informed decisions regarding the strengthening of Europol’s mandate.
2. The Commission acknowledges the importance of timely evaluations of the legislation in force. The new proposal to strengthen the mandate of Europol will build on the evaluation of the current Europol Regulation as well as an impact assessment and a consultation with stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States, that will include a public consultation. The Commission will therefore consider anticipating the evaluation report to the European Parliament pursuant to Article 68(1) of the Europol Regulation, as amended in 2022 ⁽²⁾, and adopt it before 29 June 2027.

¹ Mission letter to Magnus Brunner: https://commission.europa.eu/document/ea79c47b-228b-4390-a119-5115dc40fc3e_en.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA, OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53-114.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2022 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794, as regards Europol’s cooperation with private parties, the processing of personal data by Europol in support of criminal investigations, and Europol’s role in research and innovation, OJ L 169, 27.6.2022, p. 1-42.