

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001276/26
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(26 March 2026)**

Subject: Controversy surrounding the planned revision of Europol's mandate and its transformation into a 'truly operational police agency'

A year ago, Commission Vice-President Henna Virkkunen announced the transformation of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) into a 'truly operational EU police agency' ⁽¹⁾. In doing so, the Commission announced not only a revision of Europol's mandate, but also ambitions to further centralise powers in the area of security. There have been calls for the creation of a European FBI.

As a former Minister of the Interior and now a Member of the European Parliament, I have had the opportunity to familiarise myself with Europol's successes, which are based — as the agency's name suggests — on cooperation, supporting Member States and coordinating the fight against cross-border crime. Europol's activities are particularly important in combating drug-related crime, human trafficking and VAT fraud. This model is a good example of effective cooperation at European level. Meanwhile, the Commission intends to use the success of this agency as part of its federalist agenda.

That is why the announcements regarding the transformation of Europol into a fully operational police agency arouse my opposition and have been criticised by many experts and Member States. During the LIBE meeting on 19 March 2026, Commissioner Brunner concluded his remarks by stating that this would not be a European FBI, which can be interpreted as the Commission backing away from its radical announcement.

1. How does the Commission understand the concept of a 'truly operational police agency'?
2. What safeguards does the Commission plan to put in place to ensure that Europol remains an agency supporting Member States, rather than a body exercising direct police powers?
3. Will the proposal to revise the mandate take into account concerns regarding the centralisation of powers and the criticism levelled at the announcement made by Commissioner Virkkunen?

Submitted: 26.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(4 June 2026)**

The political guidelines of the Commission's President make clear that reinforcing the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) is a central priority for the EU to ensure a high level of internal security.

The proposal for a revision of the Europol Regulation ⁽¹⁾ will fully respect the balance of competences established by the Treaties. Its objective will be to equip Europol to support cross-border cooperation more effectively through enhanced operational, analytical, and technical support.

This requires systematically integrating Europol's tools, expertise, and operational capabilities into cross-border investigations, while removing the remaining obstacles to seamless information exchange and the effective use of Europol's support. It also means positioning Europol at the centre of the development of advanced European law enforcement capabilities.

The proposal for a revision of the Europol Regulation will aim to make full use of the possibilities offered by Article 88 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, while fully respecting the clear limits that it sets.

In light of the increased responsibilities and accompanying resources, the proposal for a revised legal framework for Europol will aim to provide a future-proof and robust framework for Europol's role, with a well-defined scope of action and responsibilities, strengthen governance and accountability.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-commission-propose-expanding-role-pan-european-police-agency-europol-2025-04-01/>.

⁽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, as amended.