

Question for written answer E-002954/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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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 mandate¹.’ 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?

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¹ Mission letter to Magnus Brunner: https://commission.europa.eu/document/ea79c47b-22f8-4390-a119-5115dc40fc3e_en.