



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Commissie V&J

Mr Díaz De Mera García Consuegra
Rapporteur, LIBE Committee
European Parliament

The Hague, 12 February 2015
Re: Parliamentary scrutiny of Europol

Dear Mr Díaz De Mera García Consuegra,

On January 14, 2015, the standing committee on Security and Justice of the Dutch House of Representatives discussed the current state of play regarding the proposal for the regulation on Europol (COM(2013) 173), in particular the provisions on parliamentary scrutiny.

The committee is well aware of the fact that the negotiations on the draft regulation have already reached an advanced phase. Nevertheless, with this letter we would like to make a contribution to the ongoing trilogue negotiations. Furthermore the committee would like to express its wish to participate in future discussions about parliamentary scrutiny.

The discussion in the committee on Security and Justice focused on the amendment of the proposed Europol regulation by the European Parliament which includes far-reaching changes to the provisions on parliamentary scrutiny of Europol contained in the Commission's original proposal. Although the committee is a strong supporter of the principle of joint parliamentary scrutiny on EU agencies such as Europol, we do think a detailed description or the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group at this time should not be included in the regulation. The committee will write in similar terms to the Commissioner for Home Affairs and the current President of the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

The committee is of the opinion that the discussion about how to establish efficient and effective procedures for scrutiny of Europol's activities should take place between the European Parliament and national parliaments. This should be the primary forum to address the topic of joint

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parliamentary scrutiny and elaborate on issues such as equal representation in a potential Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, better reflecting articles 88(2) and 9 of Protocol (No. 1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

In conclusion, to enable a better conversation between your Parliament and our House of Representatives, I kindly request that either our Speaker or myself as Chair of the standing committee on Security and Justice be formally invited to participate in the discussion, might any future initiative from your side arise that could be understood as effectuating the TFEU articles stipulating a joint effort of European Parliament and national parliaments.

Your sincerely,

L. Ypma

Chair of the standing committee on Security and Justice

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