

13 November 2019

To: The Co-Chairs and the Presidential Troika of the JPSG

The matter: The latest meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol and views prior to forthcoming meetings of the JPSG.

I would like to start by thanking the Co-Chairs, Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR and Ms Mari-Leena TALVITIE for leading the latest meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG) in Brussels on 23-24 September 2019.

Prior to the meeting, our delegation and other JPSG delegations devoted not so insignificant efforts to examining the current Rules of Procedure and proposing amendments that can improve and clarify the JPSG's work procedures. The delegations also devoted considerable efforts to independently seeking compromises during and within the margins of the meeting.

However, compromises do not come about of their own accord; they require, above all, a structured process. In keeping with established practice at other interparliamentary conferences, there were expectations that the Co-Chairs and the Troika would ensure a structured processing of the proposed amendments, that they would explore the possibilities of reaching a consensus, and would give a transparent account of this to the JPSG. Unfortunately, this transparency was missing at the latest JPSG meeting, which meant that it was not clear, during the meeting, which delegations opposed individual proposed amendments, and on what grounds. For this reason, it was with some disappointment and frustration that the Delegation of the Swedish Parliament to the JPSG on Europol participated in and left the meeting in Brussels.

I am sure that we can all agree that procedural issues should not burden the meetings of the JPSG. However, this does not mean that there is consensus among the delegations that the Rules of Procedure should remain unchanged, with the exception of the proposal regarding the Danish Parliament's status in the group, or that the Rules of Procedure should be excluded from future review.

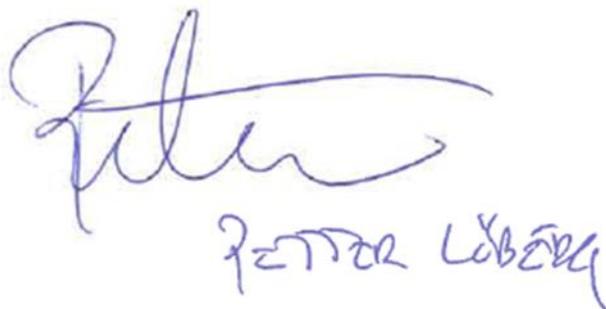
The Delegation of the Swedish Parliament to the JPSG considers that there is still a need for a review of the Rules of Procedure, and it proposes that the matter of a future review be taken up on the agenda of the JPSG's sixth meeting in Zagreb

on 22-23 March 2020. Prior to renewed discussions on the Rules of Procedure, it may be worth considering whether a special preparation procedure needs to be established, for example, within the framework of a working group or sub-group. In order not to affect scrutiny activities at ordinary meetings, an extraordinary meeting could be held which is devoted solely to the internal matter of the JPSG's Rules of Procedure. The provisions of the Rules of Procedure are crucial for how the JPSG carries out its assignment, and certain improvements can be discussed, such as the issue of the appointment of the JPSG's representative to the Europol Management Board meetings.

In the spirit of improving scrutiny of Europol, which is the JPSG's main responsibility, I would also like, on behalf of my Delegation, to propose a number of practical ways in which future JPSG meetings could become even better:

- Support for what type of matters are to be dealt with by representatives from, inter alia, Europol during each meeting session. This will increase the probability of the delegations' oral questions during the meeting being addressed at the most appropriate session. By way of example, the outlines for speeches that were sent out prior to the meeting in Bucharest in February 2019 can be mentioned.
- In order to scrutinise Europol, a good understanding of its activities is required. In addition to speeches by Europol's management on Europol activities and the work carried out by the European Data Protection Supervisor, it might be of value to invite staff from Europol who work with more practical matters to a greater extent. This could promote a greater knowledge of Europol's work among the members of the JPSG, and enable more detailed questions and answers about the various fields of activity.

I look forward to continuing our good cooperation.



PETTER LÖBERG

Petter Löberg

Head of the Delegation of the Swedish Parliament - the Riksdag - to the JPSG on Europol.