



Parliament of Romania



Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG)

Bucharest, 11 June 2020

Dear Co-Chairs of the JPSG

Dear Colleagues,

Your letter of 26 May 2020, regarding the documents submitted by Europol to the JPSG, reached us and we would like to start by expressing our thankfulness for sharing it.

With regard to the Europol Programming Document 2020 – 2022, we acknowledge its comprehensive nature. As the effects of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic had not been taken into account at the time of its final approval, *i.e.* 25 March 2020, we suggest that an update of this document, comprising potential administrative adjustments concerning the agency, be highly relevant.

We would also like to welcome the thematic reports sent to the JPSG during March and April, namely:

- I) Pandemic profiteering how criminals exploit the COVID-19 crisis, March 2020;
- II) Viral marketing. Counterfeits, substandard goods and intellectual property crime in the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 April 2020;
- III) Beyond the pandemic how COVID-19 will shape the serious and organised crime landscape in the EU, 30 April 2020).

A special emphasis should be put on the important warning enclosed in the third report, according to which “the full impact of the pandemic – not only on crime but also more widely on society and the economy – is not yet apparent. However, law enforcement should be prepared to be able to respond to the warning signals as the world deals with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

On the other hand, we would like to draw attention to the fourth annual activity report (2019) of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) at Europol, released on 15 May 2020, which deals with the highly topical issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Finally, we would like to underline the willingness of the Romanian delegation to the JPSG to develop the solid partnership with Europol. We are looking forward to the forthcoming proposal on the strengthening of Europol's mandate, which will be unveiled by the European Commission later this year.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Romanian delegation to the JPSG on Europol,

Oana - Consuela FLOREA

Head of the Romanian Delegation to the JPSG on Europol

