



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Hr. Thor PEDERSEN
Formand for Folketinget
Christiansborg
DK – 1240 COPENHAGEN*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Danish Parliament for its opinion on the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the procedures for the scrutiny of Europol's activities by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments {COM(2010) 776 final}. Apologies for the long delay in replying to your opinion.

The Commission takes good note of the comments expressed, and notably those concerning the need for simple and cost-effective mechanisms of scrutiny.

As regards the possibility to establish common procedures for the parliamentary control of both Europol and Eurojust, it should be noted that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union refers to the evaluation of Eurojust's activities (article 85), whilst with regard to Europol it refers to scrutiny (article 88). In addition, it is also worth mentioning that the founding acts of Europol and Eurojust have not been established in parallel. The 2008 Council decision reforming Eurojust¹ had to be transposed into Member States' legislations by 4 June 2011. In the meantime, the Commission has launched a study on the strengthening of Eurojust, the outcomes of which are expected by the end of 2011. This study will also deal with possible options for the evaluation of Eurojust's activities as well as with the involvement of the European Parliament and national Parliaments thereto.

The Commission welcomes the views expressed by the Folketing as a valuable contribution - alongside those from other national Assemblies as well as other institutional stakeholders - to preparing the content of the procedures for parliamentary scrutiny which will form part of the future regulation on Europol.

¹ Council Decision 2009/426/JHA of 16 December 2008 on the strengthening of Eurojust

In this spirit, the Commission also takes note of the fact that a new formal forum is not considered desirable and that it would be preferable to build on existing inter-parliamentary mechanisms.

I am looking forward to our continued political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*