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Opinion on the future scrutiny of Europol's activities - COM (2010) 776

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Dear Cecilia Malmström

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The European Affairs Committee has examined the European Commissions' communication from 17 December 2010 on the procedures for the scrutiny of Europol's activities by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments – COM (2010)776.

The European Affairs Committee finds it essential that a future common arrangement for the scrutiny of Europol's activities is simple, cost- and time-efficient and gives a real added value to scrutiny carried out at national level.

The European Affairs Committee supports the Commission's suggestion to set up an interparliamentary forum consisting of both national parliaments' and the European Parliament's committees responsible for police matters.

In that regard, the Committee finds that no new body should be set up, and that the future scrutiny of Europol's activities should instead be based on existing parliamentary structures. The European Affairs Committee would therefore suggest that the scrutiny be carried out by a joint parliamentary committee composed of members from the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee) and members from the relevant committees of national parliaments.

The European Affairs Committee finds that a future arrangement for parliamentary scrutiny of Europol's activities should be based on a flexible exchange of information between interested parties. Furthermore, it should be ensured that the level of information exchange, which takes place between Europol and the European Parliament on the basis of Council Decision 2009/371/JHA of 6 April 2009 establishing Europol, is continued at least at the same level with representatives from national parliaments.

Finally, the European Affairs Committee finds that there should be a common procedure for scrutiny of Europol's activities and for the future evaluation of Eurojust, in order to ensure that the parliamentary supervision of these two agencies can be dealt with at the same time.

Kind regards,

Anne-Marie Meldgaard
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee