



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 8.8.2013  
C(2013) 5327 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion concerning the Communication on the European Law Enforcement Training Scheme {COM(2013) 172 final}. The Commission is pleased that the Communication on the European Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS) is welcomed by the Bundesrat.*

*As a non-legislative instrument, the Communication on the LETS sets out a framework and methodology to develop training support to Member States on issues related to cross-border law enforcement cooperation. The Commission acknowledges that law enforcement training at national level is, and remains, the competence of Member States. The LETS builds on existing training at national and European level and highlights the areas where support in training at EU level would add value. Training provided at EU level would be based on a training need assessment which ensures that the right training is provided to the right target group. A basic level of knowledge and skills on the EU context of policing for all law enforcement officials would be beneficial for cross-border law enforcement cooperation and would contribute to a common law enforcement culture across the EU.*

*The extension of the target group for EU-level training to all ranks would not overburden the capacity at EU agencies involved. It would allow products, such as e-learning tools, to reach a much larger target group. In addition, EU-level courses would be based on training gaps and should be open for those officers who actually have the relevant training need, which are not necessarily only senior officers.*

*The Communication on the LETS was published together with the Commission's proposal on the Europol regulation (COM(2013) 173 final, repealing Decisions 2009/371/JHA and 2005/681/JHA). That proposal aims to widen Europol's mandate to cover training of all relevant law enforcement officers, including training not related to fighting serious crime (e.g. language training, training on managing large sports events). However, the scope of Europol's operational activities would remain limited to the more serious types of cross-border crime.*

*Mr Winfried KRETSCHMANN  
President of the Bundesrat  
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*In order to ensure that Europol's activities in the field of training are not overshadowed by its operational activities, the Commission included a number of safeguards in its proposal. Firstly, Europol's new mandate clearly refers to training as one of the core tasks of the agency. A specific new department in charge of training ("the Europol Academy") is proposed to be created within Europol. Secondly, a deputy executive director would be in charge of training activities. Thirdly in the management board of Europol, alternate members are to be appointed on the basis of their knowledge of national policy on training for law enforcement officers and would act as full members whenever training issues are discussed or decided upon. Fourthly, a scientific committee would be set up, tasked to advise the Management Board on technical training issues.*

*There is a close link between training and operational work. Combining the operational know-how of Europol with the training and education expertise of CEPOL in one place would strengthen those links and create synergies between the two fields. Daily contacts between the operational and training communities at EU level would help identify the training which law enforcement officers really need, and thereby maximise the impact the law enforcement efforts in their fight against cross-border crime priorities. The current training architecture operated by CEPOL includes close cooperation with the network of national law enforcement academies in the Member States. This architecture should not change after a merger with Europol. Moreover, the merger is likely to reinforce training in practice. It would allow CEPOL's current decentralised networking-based organisation to benefit from Europol's expertise and operational cooperation with Member States. Europol could at the same time benefit from proximity to training expertise.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Bundesrat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*