



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Per WESTERBERG
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Riksdagen
Sveriges riksdag
SE – 100 12 STOCKHOLM*

Dear President,

Allow me to start by apologising for the extremely long delay in replying to the Riksdag's opinion on the Communication on the scrutiny of Europol's activities by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments {COM(2010) 776 final}, and I regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Please rest assured that the Commission has taken good note of the Riksdag's opinion and appreciates that the conclusions and recommendations of its Communication are welcomed. The Commission shares the view that law enforcement-related activities which have the potential to affect individual's right to privacy need to be supervised, but that at the same time, Europol's capacity to contribute to ensuring citizens' protection should be safeguarded.

As regards the possibility to make a common schedule and 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 speaks about the evaluation of Eurojust's activities (article 85), whilst with regard to Europol it refers to the 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 2009 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 within weeks. 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.

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

Based on the input from other national Parliaments and the European Parliament, as well as contributions from other institutional stakeholders, the Commission will formulate concrete proposals to put in place mechanisms for the parliamentary scrutiny of Europol, during the course of next year.

I am looking forward to continuing our political dialogue on this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

*/-/ Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*