



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.12.2011
C(2011) 8991 final

Dear Speaker,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Commons 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} and takes good note of the comments expressed therein.

The Commission confirms that the introduction of any mechanism for the parliamentary scrutiny of Europol's activities, to be enshrined in the future regulation which will govern Europol pursuant to Article 88(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, is without prejudice to national parliaments' existing prerogatives under the Lisbon Treaty – including the subsidiarity control mechanism - and any other right deriving from their respective national constitutions.

The House of Commons recalls that it falls to the European Parliament and national parliaments to determine together how to carry out inter-parliamentary cooperation and that this should neither bind national parliaments nor prejudge their positions. As the Commission itself indicated in the Communication, it welcomes the idea that the European Parliament and national parliaments will make use of their right to decide how to coordinate their work. Moreover, there is certainly no intention on the part of the Commission to make proposals regarding future mechanisms for parliamentary oversight of Europol's activities that could encroach on national parliamentary procedures or on their freedom to express different views from that of an inter-parliamentary forum.

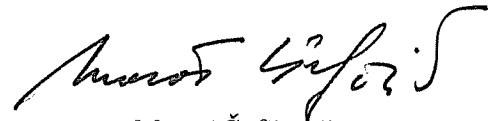
The Commission welcomes the views expressed by the House of Commons as a valuable contribution - alongside those from other national assemblies, the European Parliament as well as other institutional stakeholders - to the preparation of the content of the procedures for parliamentary scrutiny which will form part of the future regulation on Europol.

*The Rt. Hon. John BERCOW
Speaker
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
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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 look forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maroš Šefčovič', written in a cursive style.

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*