



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.4.2015  
C(2015) 2292 final*

*Mr William CASH MP  
Chairman of the  
European Scrutiny Committee  
House of Commons  
Palace of Westminster  
UK – LONDON SW1A 0AA*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the House of Commons for its Opinion concerning the Regulation on the European Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training {COM(2013) 173 final}. It also welcomes the intention of the United Kingdom to join Europol after the adoption of the Regulation. As rightly reported in the Reports annexed to the Opinion, the Commission has on several occasions made its position clear on the modalities according to which the joint scrutiny of European Parliament and national Parliaments on Europol's activities should take place.*

*The Commission issued in 2010 a Communication on the procedures for the scrutiny of Europol's activities by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments.<sup>1</sup>*

*During the consultations on the Communication and the debates that followed, several solutions were discussed in the different fora where the stakeholders met. The Commission expressed support for the setting up of an inter-parliamentary forum in order to establish a formal mechanism for information exchange and coordination between national Parliaments and the European Parliament. Nonetheless, the Commission considered that it lies within the power of both the European Parliament and the national Parliaments to coordinate their work and enhance their cooperation, and that they should be encouraged to take that initiative as well as ownership of their own procedures.<sup>2</sup>*

*For these reasons, the Commission agrees with the House of Commons that the model of scrutiny of Europol's activities as proposed by the European Parliament through a supranational body would go beyond what is provided by the Treaty.*

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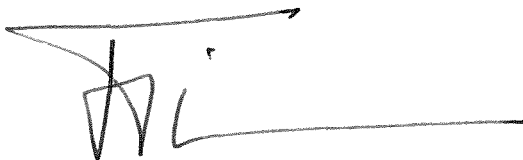
<sup>1</sup> COM(2010) 776.

<sup>2</sup> COM (2010) 776 final, p. 15.

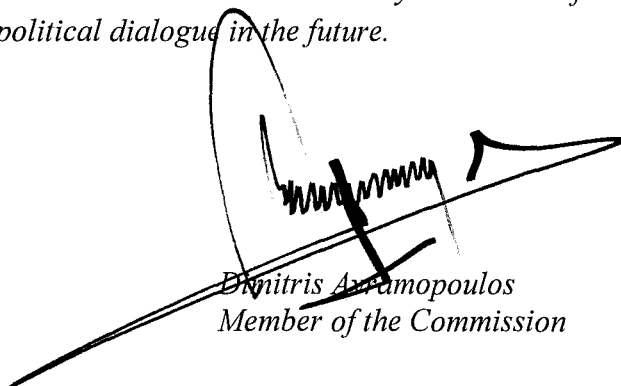
*Therefore, the Commission maintains this position and considers that, in order to respect the independence of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament as well as their freedom to organise themselves, it is not for the proposed Regulation to set the rules and modes of such joint cooperation.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Frans Timmermans  
Vice-President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, prominent loop at the top and a series of wavy lines below, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*