

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 06. 07. 2015
C(2015) 4399 final

Lord BOSWELL
Chairman of the
European Union Select Committee
House of Lords
Palace of Westminster
UK – LONDON SW1A 0PW

Dear Chairman,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Lords for its Opinion concerning the Regulation on the European Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training {COM(2013) 173 final}.

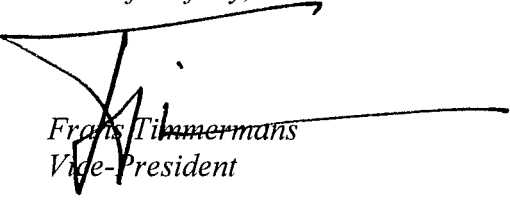
The Commission has on several occasions expressed its position on the modalities according to which the joint scrutiny of European Parliament and national Parliaments on Europol's activities should take place.¹ The Commission considers that it lies within the power of both the European Parliament and 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.

The Commission 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 therefore not for the proposed Regulation to set the rules and modes of such joint cooperation.

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

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

Yours faithfully,


Frans Timmermans
Vice-President


Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission

¹ 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, COM(2010) 776.