



2016/2184(DEC)

15.2.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Police Office (Europol) for the financial year 2015
(2016/2184(DEC))

Rapporteur: Petr Ježek

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' ("the Court") conclusions that the annual accounts of Europol (the Agency) present fairly its financial position on 31 December 2015 and that its transactions are legal and regular;
2. Welcomes the high implementation rate of the budget of 99,8 % for commitment appropriations and 89 % for payment appropriations; notes, however, that carryovers of committed appropriations reached 41 % for administrative expenditure; stresses the importance of the respect for the principle of annuity of the budget; recalls that the principle of annuity is one of the three basic accounting principles; welcomes the commitment of the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure efficient and compliant budget implementation;
3. Notes with concern the use by the Agency of the controversial private database WorldCheck, which often links individuals and organisations to terrorism only on the basis of public resources, without any proper investigation, transparency or provision of effective means of redress; calls on the Agency to explain to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs the way it uses this private database in its work in order to assess the relevance of the use of public funds for acquiring licences for WorldCheck;
4. Welcomes the publication of the Agency's Consolidated Activity Annual Report for 2015 and recommends, in this respect, that the Agency also publish the Court's report; welcomes the publication of whistleblowing rules and notes the Agency's commitment to complement the existing rules with additional arrangements; reiterates that transparency is a key issue in upholding the Union citizens' trust in the Union and Union institutions;
5. Welcomes the fact that the Agency is effectively and efficiently delivering the expected products and services by the competent law enforcement authorities of the Member States and cooperation partners; acknowledges that over 732 000 operational messages were processed through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) and that almost 40 000 related cases were initiated, that the Europol Information System (EIS) processed over 633 000 searches, that the Agency supported 812 operations, produced over 4 000 operational reports and coordinated 98 joint actions;
6. Notes that the members of the Agency's Directorate published "declarations of absence of conflict of interest"; calls, however, on the Agency to also publish "declarations of interest" so that a third party can assess the absence of conflict of interest; notes that the members of the management board did not publish their declarations of interest but welcomes the upcoming new Europol Regulation which is expected to enter into force on 1 May 2017, with new provisions on rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest;
7. Highlights the fact that, in response to terrorist attacks and the migration crisis and in light

of the Commission's Agenda on Security and Migration, the Agency's mandate was strengthened, its budget increased and its staff reinforced; welcomes the successful efforts of the Agency in setting up the EU Internet Referral Unit, the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) and the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC); encourages the Agency to focus on the development of these three new instruments;

8. Encourages the Agency to streamline the processes concerning the Analysis Work Files and the establishment of the new Europol Analysis System and devote the necessary resources to ensure a high level of data security, privacy and data protection;
9. Encourages the Agency to continue to improve information sharing among its partners as well as cooperation with Member States, national law enforcement and Eurojust for the purposes of counter-terrorism, while fully respecting data protection and privacy rules, including the purpose limitation principle; invites the Agency to pay more attention to the presentation of its work via online platforms.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	9.2.2017
Result of final vote	+: 38 -: 1 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Heinz K. Becker, Michał Boni, Caterina Chinnici, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Tanja Fajon, Kinga Gál, Ana Gomes, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Monika Hohlmeier, Eva Joly, Dietmar Köster, Barbara Kudrycka, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Marju Lauristin, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Monica Macovei, Roberta Metsola, Péter Niedermüller, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Sergei Stanishev, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Bodil Valero, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Udo Voigt, Josef Weidenholzer, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský
Substitutes present for the final vote	Petr Ježek, Jeroen Lenaers, Nadine Morano, Morten Helveg Petersen, Emil Radev, Barbara Spinelli, Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Axel Voss
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Georg Mayer