



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 September 2003

12838/03

EUROPOL 48

NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Article 36 Committee

Subject : Letter from the Chairman of the EUROPOL Management Board

Please find in Annex a letter from the Chairman of the EUROPOL Management Board addressed to the Article 36 Committee.

Dear Mr. Marotta,

Relationship between Europol and Organs of the Council

I wish to bring to your attention that the Management Board of Europol during its most recent meetings has been carrying forward a discussion on the roles and relationships between Europol and its Management Board, on one hand, and the Council organs, on the other.

The discussion was prompted by the growing concern of the Management Board that the legislative framework applicable to Europol and its work was not always applied. In particular, on several occasions Council working groups have asked Europol to carry out tasks originally not foreseen by its yearly work programmes and budgets, which are approved by the Council upon the recommendation of the Management Board.

As noted above, it is for the Council to approve the yearly Europol work programme and its priorities. Therefore, any initiatives involving Europol in more areas should be regarded as proposals made by the different working groups without entailing any obligation for Europol until the Council confirms them.

In those cases when Council working groups ask Europol to carry out activities that not envisaged in its work programme or budget and that are referred to in a draft Council decision, the Management Board shall be given the opportunity to express its advice.

I am sure that you agree with the above comments and understand that this initiative aims at strengthening dialogue and cooperation between Europol and the Council fora.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could bring this letter to the attention of General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union so that it can ensure the application of the appropriate procedures.

Thank you for your kind attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Rodolfo Ronconi
Chairman of the Management Board