

The Hague, 16 May 2022

Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG)
Secretariat
For the attention of the JPSG Co-Chairs
By email only:
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Europol answer to written question from the Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Mr Patrick Breyer, to the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG)

Dear Co-Chairs,

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the JPSG Rules of Procedure and Article 51 of the Europol Regulation, Europol would like to respond to the question raised by Mr Patrick Breyer, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and of the JPSG, received by Europol on 29 March 2022 as follows:

Written questions:

- 1. Regarding the systematic uploading of documents released in response to public requests by Europol to the public register of documents, who is in charge of the process and what resources are dedicated to it?**

Europol's answer

Once Europol documents have been given full or partial public access as a result of a public access request, Europol's Corporate Communications Team immediately uploads the respective documentation to the public register on Europol's website.¹ Within the Corporate Communications Team, the release of these documents is performed, on a rotational basis, by one of the six (6) staff members who are involved in maintaining the website of Europol, in addition to their other regular day-to-day duties.

Europol is implementing an update of the filter search categories in Europol's public register. By the end of May 2022, all documents available on Europol's public register can be filtered to view directly those documents which are released following full or partial public access by Europol.

- 2. Concerning your commitments in response to a complaint filed by Statewatch regarding the public register of documents: Can the agency provide an update of its action plan indicating which actions have been carried out, which are still pending, and what the current timetable is, particularly as regards department identification and assessment of documents that can be made public proactively?**

Europol's answer

Europol has taken the corresponding steps to improve its public register, in line with the decision the Ombudsman released in February 2021 in the case 2272/2019/MIG², namely by:

¹ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-events/public-register>

² <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/case/en/56155>

Europol Public Information

- Making the public register *user-friendly* (i.e. by means of a dedicated public register webpage, to allow citizens to get an overview of the (kind of) documents that are held by Europol);
- Ensuring that the public register is *complete* (meaning that all documentation concerning the institution's core activities should be taken into account for the public register, including relevant legislative documentation concerning Europol's decisions, strategy and policy as well as all documents which were fully or partially released as a result of public access requests);
- Maintaining the public register in a *timely manner*, with updates being made on a regular basis.

More specifically, the navigation on Europol's website was enhanced, with dedicated filters to browse through and search the publicly available documents.

Europol also consulted its records to identify and upload to its public register relevant further documents. The public register has the option to filter documents of interest, based not only on their type such as 'Europol's legal framework', (Executive) 'Director's Decisions', 'Management Board (MB)' documentation, but also based on key words within the content of the documents. As mentioned in the answer to Question 1 above, an additional filter is being implemented, which will allow the citizen to directly view documentation in the Europol public register, as a result of full or partial public access.

All updates to the public register, including the release of documents as a result of public access requests, are performed in a timely manner.

While the number of documents that are already available on the public register is continuously growing, Europol is in the process of creating a list of further legal, strategic and other documents to be included in the public register.

3. What awareness raising activities have been undertaken for staff on the proactive publication of documents not likely to risk undermining any protected interest?

Europol's answer

Europol has brought attention to staff across the organisation by means of regular internal meetings. From an overall perspective, Europol implemented a full update of its website in November 2021, and is satisfied that the information presented to citizens, including on its operational activities, demonstrates a transparent and proactive approach to make the general public familiar with Europol's activities on a continuous basis (including refinements to the public register).

I hope that this answer will prove satisfactory. Europol remains available for further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Ebner
Deputy Executive Director of Governance