

02.03.2012

Ares save 219143

Subject: Invitation to an informal meeting on the future revision of Europol's legal basis

Dear Mr. Negrão,

As you may be aware, the Commission is preparing to review the legal basis of the European Police Office – Europol – in line with the Lisbon Treaty.

I consider this exercise to be of utmost importance and I believe the Commission as well as the other institutional stakeholders should join efforts to deliver a Europol which is both more efficient and more accountable to the European citizen.

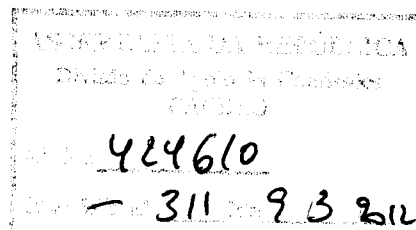
National Parliaments have a crucial role to play in this context. Alongside the subsidiarity check of the future proposal for a regulation, national Parliaments will be called upon to exercise a right of scrutiny, together with the European Parliament, over Europol's activities, in accordance with article 88.2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission's initial thoughts in this area were set out in its Communication on the Parliamentary Scrutiny of Europol adopted at the end of 2010, on which several national Parliaments sent opinions in the context of the so-called political dialogue with the Commission, sharing important comments and reflections with us, which we considered very carefully. My Directorate General also called a meeting in January last year, to which representatives of national Parliaments were invited, in order to have a first exchange of views on the content of that Communication.

Since then, my services have been reflecting further on this issue of parliamentary oversight of this agency and some informal contacts with permanent representatives of national Parliaments have taken place. I feel it is now time for a meeting with elected representatives to hear your views on the ideas which I have developed in order to allow for the Parliaments of the EU, jointly with the European Parliament, to carry out their scrutiny. This would also be an opportunity to discuss, on an informal basis, other aspects of the envisaged reform of Europol's regime.

The meeting will run from 10:00 to 12:30 on Friday 20 April 2012 in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels. The meeting room and its exact location will be indicated on the screens at the entrance of the centre on that day.

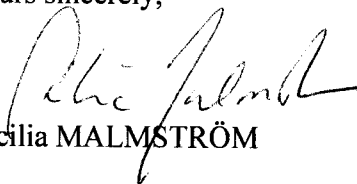
Mr. Fernando Negrão
Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees
The Assembly of the Republic
Palácio de São Bento
1249-068 LISBOA



Please note that the meeting will take place in English only and that there will be no reimbursement of travel or other expenses.

Please confirm the participation of your appointed member to Victoria Amici (victoria.amici@ec.europa.eu, tel. + 32 2 296 60 81) by 26 March.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM