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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
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23 February 2018

Dear Chair, Dear Colleague,

As promised, we have drafted a new compromise proposal for the Rules of Procedure of the JPSG. The past weeks, we had intensive bilateral contacts with those delegations that had tabled amendments before the JPSG constituent meeting or had expressed doubts regarding certain points. We would like to thank you all for this feedback and dedication. The debate that took place on 9 and 10 October 2017 and these bilateral meetings and contacts have shown us that there is a common will to reach an agreement on the JPSG Rules of Procedure in Sofia.

They also helped to clarify the main changes that were needed to find common ground and a text that would reflect the needs and concerns of all JPSG delegations and members.

We are at the brink of a historic moment: we are setting the rules and procedures for the first joint parliamentary scrutiny body ever established. National parliaments and the European Parliament will work together and will strengthen Europol and the security of our citizens.

The compromise proposal reflects a strong role for national parliaments, through the Presidential Troika, in the agenda setting, the preparation of discussion documents, the secretariat and drafting of the conclusions of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group. It also gives delegations the possibility to effectively contribute to the agenda and the scrutiny findings. It guarantees and promotes the democratic right of parliamentarians and the fundamental principle of scrutiny; namely the right to ask questions. But the proposed system also warrants quality control and a workable scenario for Europol and its services. These Rules of Procedure leave room for the JPSG's role to evolve and develop further. They foresee the possibility to set up subgroups and ensure participation of all chambers and parliaments in the scrutiny activity.



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Our proposal also deals with the issue of observers and the level of their involvement in the daily work of the JPSG. We are convinced that the proposed text is balanced and will ensure an active involvement of those Member States that are no longer part of the Europol regulation, mirroring their level of participation in Europol and in the Europol bodies and its substructures.

All in all, this new compromise proposal incorporates the main changes that were already agreed upon during our debates on 9 and 10 October 2017. Speaking time, the possibility to hold extraordinary meetings, reporting by the JPSG representative attending Europol management board meetings, guaranteeing the possibility of interpretation at meetings held in the Presidency Member State, etc.

A review of the Rules of Procedure by October 2019 is foreseen while respecting the principle set by the Speakers' Conference on decision-making. In order to ensure an efficient and effective scrutiny, delegations will – however - have the opportunity to present amendments and annotations to draft conclusions.

We sincerely hope that you will recognize the progress that was made and the fact that most concerns have been incorporated into this new text resulting in a balanced proposal.

Please send your amendments, on the consolidated version, by email to jpsg.libesecretariat@europarl.europa.eu and s.tsvetkova@parliament.bg, before Monday 12 March 2018 at 10h00.

Yours Sincerely,

Tsvetan Tsvetanov
Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to
the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group

Claude Moraes
Chairman of the Committee on Civil
Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs,
European Parliament

Annex: Compromise proposal for JPSG Rules of Procedure