


Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2005/0808(CNS)
Police cooperation: common use of Europol liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Initiative United Kingdom	
Amending Decision 2003/170/JHA 2002/0815(CNS)	
Subject 7.30.05 Police cooperation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		13/10/2005
		PSE ROURE Martine	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2746	24/07/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers		

Key events			
19/07/2005	Legislative proposal published	10706/2005	Summary
06/09/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/03/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
17/03/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0064/2006	
05/04/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/04/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0126/2006	Summary
24/07/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
24/07/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/08/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2005/0808(CNS)

Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision 2003/170/JHA 2002/0815(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the European Union (after Amsterdam) M 030-p2; Treaty on the European Union (after Amsterdam) M 034-p2c; Treaty on the European Union (after Amsterdam) M 030-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/30057

Documentation gateway

For information	06710/2005	24/02/2005	CSL	
For information	08517/2005	29/04/2005	CSL	
Legislative proposal	10706/2005 OJ C 188 02.08.2005, p. 0019-0020	19/07/2005	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0064/2006	17/03/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T6-0126/2006	05/04/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2006)2095	11/05/2006	EC	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2006/560 OJ L 219 10.08.2006, p. 0031-0032 Summary

Police cooperation: common use of Europol liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Initiative United Kingdom

PURPOSE: To amend Council Decision 2003/170/JHA on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision

CONTENT: This proposal is being presented on the initiative of the United Kingdom. It is being done in light of an evaluation of the existing Council Decision, 2003/170/JHA, in relation to liaison officers posted abroad. (Please refer to procedure reference CNS/2002/0815). According to the evaluators' report certain changes should be made to current practices relating to how Europol liaison officers are used as well as provisions pertaining to when meetings for liaison officers are held. Bearing in mind the evaluators' recommendations, the current proposal suggests the following amendments be made to Council Decision 2003/170/JHA :

- a, 'Europol liaison officer', shall mean a Europol employee, posted abroad to one or more third countries or to an international organisations to support and co-ordinate the co-operation with the authorities in those countries or organisation by facilitating the exchange of information between them.

- the Decision should be without prejudice to Europol liaison officers' tasks within the framework of the Europol Convention, nor between its implementing arrangements and co-operation agreements concluded between Europol and the third country or international organisation concerned.

- Member States may, at their own initiative, request such meetings - especially those Member States acting as a 'lead nation' for EU co-operation in a particular country or region.

- Member States may make a request to Europol to use Europol liaison officers seconded to third countries or international organisations, with a view to the exchange of relevant information. Requests should be addressed in accordance with the Europol Convention.

- Liaison officers seconded to third countries and international organisation must provide Member States any information they may have on serious threats and of any criminal offences relating to Europol's remit. Any such information shall be communicated to the relevant authorities via national units and in accordance with the Europol Convention.

Lastly, this Decision will apply to Gibraltar.

Police cooperation: common use of Europol liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Initiative United Kingdom

The committee adopted the report by Martine ROURE (PES, FR) amending - under the consultation procedure - the proposed UK initiative on amending Decision 2003/170/JHA on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. The main amendments were as follows:

- in order to prevent pointless overlap of work, and with a view to fostering a spirit of mutual support and cooperation, Europol liaison officers should be responsible for coordinating the work of the liaison officers seconded by the Member States in cases where there are several of them within one and the same country or organisation;
- information collected by liaison officers seconded by the Member States should "immediately and directly" be forwarded to Europol;
- liaison officers seconded by the Member States should be instructed to "act more globally, taking into account the EU interest";
- where liaison officers seconded by the Member States collect any information on serious criminal threats to another Member State, they should forward that information to their respective national authorities and Europol if the threatened Member State is not represented by its own liaison officer in the country or organisation concerned and to the liaison officers of the Member State in question and Europol if that Member State is represented;
- lastly, a series of drafting amendments sought to include a mention of the Europol Convention at various points in the text where reference is made to national law, given that the Convention has not yet been incorporated into all Member States' domestic legislation.

Police cooperation: common use of Europol liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Initiative United Kingdom

The European Parliament adopted the report by Martine ROURE (PES, FR) amending - under the consultation procedure - the proposed UK initiative on amending Decision 2003/170/JHA on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. (Please refer to the summary dated 13/03/2006).

Police cooperation: common use of Europol liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Initiative United Kingdom

PURPOSE: to make changes to the use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/560/JHA amending Decision 2003/170/JHA on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

CONTENT: currently, provisions on the posting of liaison officers abroad is set out in Decision 2003/170/JHA on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. For a summary of this Decision see CNS/2002/0815. On the initiative of the British is has been decided to modify certain aspects of the Decision and to bring it into line with current practice. At the same time, the Decision amends certain provisions on liaison officers meetings so that a 'lead nation' is given responsibility for co-ordinating and initiating EU co-operation in a particular country or region.

In addition, the Decision states that Member States must ensure that all information will be exchanged in accordance with the Europol Convention. Further, and in accordance with national law and the Europol Convention, the Member States may make a request to use Europol liaison officers seconded to third countries or international organisations, for the purpose of exchanging relevant information. Such requests will be addressed to Europol via the Member States' national units. Europol will ensure that its liaison officers, seconded to third countries and international organisations, will provide all information to it, relating to serious threats of criminal offences to the Member States. Such information will be communicated via the national units in accordance with the Europol Convention.

The General Secretariat will draw up an annual summary on the postings of liaison officers. This report will include information on their duties and any cooperative agreements between the Member States on the postings of their liaison officers. It will also list the Member States who have been tasked with co-ordinating EU co-operation. Details of Europol liaison officers posted to third countries or international organisation will also be included.

This Decision will apply to Gibraltar.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25 August 2006.