

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure	2015/0809(CNS)
Awaiting final decision	
<p>Agreement on strategic cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and European Police Office (Europol)</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>6.40.05.06 Relations with the countries of the Middle East</p> <p>7.30.05 Police cooperation</p> <p>7.30.05.01 Europol, CEPOL</p> <p>7.30.20 Action to combat terrorism</p> <p>7.30.30 Action to combat crime</p> <p>Geographical area</p> <p>United Arab Emirates</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	 MUSSOLINI Alessandra	10/11/2015
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA Agustín	
		 KAUFMANN Sylvia-Yvonne	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Commission DG	Commissioner	
European Commission	Migration and Home Affairs	AVRAMOPOULOS Dimitris	

Key events			
24/08/2015	Legislative proposal published	10510/2015	Summary
05/10/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/2015	Vote in committee		
	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st		Summary

03/12/2015	reading/single reading	A8-0351/2015	
15/12/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/12/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0443/2015	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/0809(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	LIBE/8/04528

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	09394/2015	18/06/2015	CSL	
Legislative proposal	10510/2015	24/08/2015	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report	PE571.489	05/11/2015	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE572.835	25/11/2015	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0351/2015	03/12/2015	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0443/2015	15/12/2015	EP	Summary

Agreement on strategic cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and European Police Office (Europol)

PURPOSE: to approve the conclusion by the European Police Office (Europol) of the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and Europol.

PROPOSED ACT: Council implementing decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: pursuant to [Decision 2009/371/JHA](#) establishing the European Police Office (Europol) and [Decision 2009/934/JHA](#) adopting the implementing rules governing Europol's relations with partners, including the exchange of personal data and classified information, Europol is to conclude agreements with the third States which have been put on the list determined by [Decision 2009/935/JHA](#).

Such agreements have the objective of supporting and strengthening action by the competent authorities of the Member States and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating organised crime, terrorism and other forms of serious crime affecting two or more Member States, and may concern the exchange of operational, strategic or technical information, including personal data and classified information.

The United Arab Emirates is included in the list determined by Decision 2009/935/JHA.

In order to increase effectiveness in preventing and combating serious forms of crime, Europol has initiated, in accordance with Decision 2009/934/JHA, the procedure for the conclusion of an Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and Europol (Strategic Agreement).

Strategic agreements may be concluded by Europol only after approval by the Council, the latter having previously consulted the Management Board of Europol. The Management Board approved the Operational and Strategic Agreement on 13 May 2015.

The conditions for triggering the exercise of the implementing powers by the Council pursuant to Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA and 2009/935/JHA have been met.

CONTENT: in accordance with the draft implementing decision, Europol shall be authorised to conclude the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Europol.

The terms of the cooperation governed by the Strategic Agreement provide for the exchange of information, which may include specialist knowledge, general situation reports, results of strategic analysis, information on criminal investigation procedures and information on crime-prevention methods; participation in training activities; and the provision of advice and support in individual criminal investigations.

In addition, the Agreement contains no provisions relating to the exchange of personal data.

Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland shall all take part in the adoption and application of this Decision.

Agreement on strategic cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and European Police Office (Europol)

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted, in the framework of a special legislative procedure (Parliaments consultation), the report by Alessandra MUSSOLINI (EPP, IT) on the draft Council implementing decision approving the conclusion by the European Police Office (Europol) of the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and Europol.

The committee recommended the European Parliament to approve the Council draft.

The Commission is called upon to:

- assess, after the entry into force of the new [Europol Regulation](#), the provisions contained in the cooperation agreement, in particular on data protection;
- inform the Parliament and the Council of the outcome of this assessment and, if appropriate, to submit a recommendation for an authorisation to open international renegotiation of the agreement.

To recall, according to the current Europol Council Decision ([Decision 2009/371/JHA](#)), it is for the Council to approve the conclusion of international cooperation agreements with third states or international organisations, after having consulted the European Parliament. Such agreements may concern the exchange of operational, strategic, technical or classified information. The operational cooperation agreement also includes the exchange of personal data.

This proposal concerns the proposed approval of a strategic cooperation agreement between Europol and the United Arab Emirates. Such strategic agreement excludes the exchange of personal data, so the issue of data protection is not relevant in this case. The information exchanged could include specialist knowledge, general situation reports, results of strategic analysis, information on criminal investigation procedures, information on crime-prevention methods, training activities, and the provision of advice and support in individual criminal investigations.

The explanatory statement accompanying the report stated that according to Europol, the United Arab Emirates are increasingly relevant in the fight against organized crime as that country is becoming a growing hub for economic and financial crime. Proceeds from criminal activities such as Value Added Tax (VAT) fraud, Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) fraud and Money Laundering have been reinvested in the United Arab Emirates and key criminals involved in these frauds have sought refuge there.

The conclusion of this strategic cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates would aid and reinforce the fight against financial fraud and would contribute to enhancing international cooperation in the field of financial investigation and other relevant criminal matters.

Agreement on strategic cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and European Police Office (Europol)

The European Parliament adopted by 490 votes to 159, with 44 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council implementing decision approving the conclusion by the European Police Office (Europol) of the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism between the United Arab Emirates and Europol.

Parliament approved the Council draft under the Parliaments consultation procedure. It called on the Commission to:

- assess, after the entry into force of the new [Europol Regulation](#), the provisions contained in the cooperation agreement, in particular on data protection;
- inform the Parliament and the Council of the outcome of this assessment and, if appropriate, to submit a recommendation for an authorisation to open international renegotiation of the agreement.