

Agreement on operational and strategic cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Police Office (Europol)

2015/0808(CNS) - 24/08/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to approve the conclusion, by the European Police Office (Europol), of the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina 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.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is included in the list determined by Decision 2009/935/JHA.

In order to increase effectiveness in preventing and combating serious forms of crime and, in particular, given that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a potential candidate State and a close neighbour of the Union, with which Bosnia and Herzegovina has many links and exchanges, Europol has initiated the procedure for the conclusion of an Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Europol ('Operational and 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. **Operational agreements** require, in addition, that the Council obtain, via the Management Board, the opinion of the Joint Supervisory Body of Europol, as far as the agreement concerns the exchange of personal data.

The Operational and Strategic Agreement received a positive opinion from the Joint Supervisory Body with regard to those provisions. **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 and an implementing decision should therefore be adopted in order to approve the conclusion of the Operational and Strategic Agreement.

CONTENT: in accordance with the draft implementing decision, Europol shall be authorised to **conclude the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation** between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Europol.

The terms of the cooperation governed by the Operational and 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 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.