JSB

Highlights of the Plenary Meeting of the Appointees of the Joint Supervisory Body of Eurojust on 16 June 2015 at Eurojust

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Representing the President of the College of Eurojust, the National Member of the Czech Republic and also Chair of the Trafficking in Human Beings College Team, gave a presentation on the operational activities of Eurojust and the future perspectives of the organisation. He provided a recent case example concerning illegal immigration and some statistics on Eurojust's casework. In 2014, 104 cases had been registered (a 14.5% increase on the previous year), 197 coordination meetings and 10 coordination centres organised, assistance provided in the setting up of 122 Joint Investigation Teams and there had been 266 cases concerning the execution of European Arrest Warrants.

The Administrative Director gave a presentation on the latest administrative developments at Eurojust and the status of the construction of the new premises of Eurojust due to be completed in 2017. He informed that Eurojust had now available a Public Register of documents on its website. He provided an overview of Eurojust's budgetary situation in 2014.

The National Member of the Czech Republic presented the state of play on the Eurojust regulation and the European Public Prosecutor's Office regulation.

The Head of Operational Support gave a presentation on a Eurojust Operations Manual which was currently being drafted. This manual aimed to provide a set of guidelines to harmonise procedures in order to facilitate operational work.

The Data Protection Officer informed that much work had been done during the last year. Guidelines had been put in place for various data protection issues to be applied on a daily basis, including a Decision of the College on the insertion of data in the CMS (adopted on 17 June 2014). Compliance with Article 19 of the Data Protection Rules was being implemented and with the next release of CMS 4.1 planned in October there would be a specific tab for the completion of the Article 19 form. As far as data protection was concerned in the draft Eurojust Regulation, she said that Eurojust could be satisfied that most of its comments had been taken on board. Concerning the status of the supervisory role, it would seem that a compromise solution of a Cooperation Board had been found although a few points needed to be addressed. The JSB had submitted its Third Opinion on the Data Protection Regime in the Proposed Eurojust Regulation to the Latvian Presidency on 6 May 2015. This opinion had been published as a Council Document on 8 May 2015. This opinion stressed the importance of the involvement of experts with judicial experience in the cooperation board. The opinion also emphasised the importance of the involvement of Eurojust in the discussions about the processing of personal data in the supervisory mechanism.

The Data Protection Officer expressed her gratitude to the JSB permanent members who had provided a pillar of continuity for the body. The JSB Appointee for Luxembourg expressed her satisfaction with the JSB's work, noting that the future supervisory mechanism was a key issue and that an advantage of the present system was the contained size of the JSB.

The Chair presented on the outcome of the JSB's inspection of Eurojust in January. He explained that the main focus of the inspection had been to check the recommendations of the previous inspection carried out in 2013. There was a clear commitment from the National Members to have a common approach in data protection issues. However, there were still some aspects that needed to

be improved. On 11 and 12 May, there had been a meeting between the technical experts of the inspection team and Eurojust to find solutions to these problems.

The Chair presented the Activity Report of the Joint Supervisory Body for 2014. He referred to the regular meetings held with the Presidency Team of Eurojust in 2014 which had been very productive. He stressed the commitment, efficiency and professionalism of the Data Protection Service team and his appreciation for their support during meetings.

The Data Protection Officer conveyed the apologies of the Chair of the External Relations Team, who could not be present. She outlined the priority areas of the work of the team. A draft cooperation agreement between Eurojust and Ukraine was now with the Council of European Union for approval. The report would also be forwarded to the European Parliament for consultation. An agreement between Eurojust and Montenegro had been finalised and approved by the College of Eurojust. It would now be submitted to the Council of European Union and the European Parliament. A Memorandum of Understanding between Eurojust and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) had been signed. Ms Alonso Blas thanked the JSB for providing its opinion on this Memorandum of Understanding by written procedure. An informal dialogue was ongoing with the Data Protection Authority of Georgia and a study visit was being planned there in the coming months. Preliminary dialogues on the possible negotiation of a cooperation agreement with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were being held and TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange of the European Commission) seminars in both countries were being planned for September. A seminar between Eurojust and the United States of America on the EU-US Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition agreements was being planned in October. A liaison magistrate from Switzerland was now based at Eurojust.

The Head of the Information Management Unit provided an overview of the main Information Management projects. These included: Eurojust's connection to the SIS II (Schengen Information System); the imminent release of the 4.1 version of the CMS, which would incorporate a feature to facilitate compliance with Article 19 of the Data Protection Rules and thus meet the JSB's request for implementation of Article 19; a Case Information Form (CIF) was being developed in support of the practical implementation of Eurojust as a centre of expertise. Eurojust continued to work with other agencies and information was shared regularly between Eurojust and EU-LISA.

The Data Protection Secretary of the Council of EU presented a report on Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings published by the JSB Europol, which tackled the problem of ensuring the accuracy of data relating to persons who were victims. It would be translated in all EU languages. It was hoped to have a targeted promotion of the report at both EU and international level.

The JSB Appointee for Portugal was elected as a new permanent member by acclamation. The JSB Appointee for the Netherlands became Chair for the next year.