

**Outcomes of Proceedings of the
1st Online meeting of CEPOL Management Board
31 March 2020, 10:00 CET
Chairperson: Dr Kimmo HIMBERG**

ITEM 1. Welcome by the Chair

Presenter : Dr Kimmo HIMBERG, MB Chair

Took the Floor : -

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 1st Online Management Board, especially the new Voting Members and Alternate Members registered to the webinar (Mr Darius URBONAS, new MB Voting Member for Lithuania, Mr Milorad YORDANOV, new alternate member for Bulgaria, Ms Zora VALÁŠKOVÁ, new alternate member for Czech Republic and Mr José Carlos BASTOS LEITÃO, new alternate member, and from 1st of April new voting member for Portugal).

He expressed his sorrow that due to the current situation with the COVID-19, the Zagreb meeting of CEPOL Management Board needed to be cancelled and announced that in the coming months the Management Board will have monthly online meetings instead.

ITEM 2. Update on the current situation on CEPOL by Executive Director

Presenter : Dr.h.c. Detlef SCHROEDER, Executive Director, Mr Roeland WOLDHUIS, Head of Corporate Services Department

Took the Floor : -

The **Executive Director** welcomed all participants and reviewed the current situation at CEPOL HQ. Currently more than 90-95% of the Agency is in a teleworking mode, still, all critical functions are represented in the Office (3-4 persons), in order to fulfil all mandatory obligations. Due to the circumstances, the Agency is trying to implement its day-to-day activities online, CEPOL Management has an online meeting every morning, while a weekly online staff meeting ensures regular communication with all staff.

While the Expert Group on CKC CT could continue its work via online meetings, several other, important meetings had to be postponed, including the Higher Education Workshop, and the Expert Group on the New Business Model, which could meet before the suspension only once.

As it has already been communicated, all CEPOL residential activities and meetings have been suspended until 31 May 2020. This resulted in the **suspension of 20 residential activities**, with a total budget of 383k EUR, from which the foreseen **total loss amounts to 52k EUR**, due to cancellation of flights, hotels, etc. Regarding CEPOL Projects, **11 residential activities** needed to be suspended with a foreseen **total loss of 50k EUR**. In this regard he reminded the Member States (MS) that even though it is too early to conclude anything beyond the middle of the year, already known cancellations should be indicated to CEPOL as soon as possible, so that the already concluded grants can be reconsidered for the 2nd half of the year.

Regarding online services he informed that by the time being **1150 participants joined CEPOL's online webinars**, and **140 participants attended online courses**, showing a clear increase in participation from MS.

In parallel to the Agency's online activities, CEPOL is offering its online support to MS, too. Currently, altogether 12 institutions from 11 MS and EU agencies are looking for online support from CEPOL, especially by means of webinars and web meetings. The expressed demand and possible solutions are currently being examined by CEPOL's Covid19 Task Force.

Following the Executive Director's update, **Mr Roeland WOLDHUIS, Head of Corporate Services Department** has shortly reviewed the actual situation in Hungary. He told that the Hungarian Parliament had recently passed the Coronavirus Act, granting the government unprecedented

emergency powers. The new law practically allows the government to rule by decree, and as long as the new legislation remains in place, the government will be able to suspend the enforcement of some laws.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 3. Update on the current situation by the European Commission

Presenter	: Mr Laurent MUSCHEL, European Commission
Took the Floor	: Executive Director

In his presentation **Mr Laurent MUSCHEL** summarised the Commission's **5 building blocks of response** to the current, unprecedented crisis:

1. The first strand of the response is the **Limiting of the spread of the virus**. In this regard a coordinated temporary restriction of non-essential travel to the EU has been put in place, while at the same time Member States committed to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Single Market and the implementation of priority 'green lanes' for freight transport, as suggested by the Commission.
2. The second area of work is **providing medical equipment** throughout the EU. In this regard the Commission will actively pursue and speed up its joint procurement initiatives for personal protective equipment, ventilators and testing supplies.
3. **Promoting research** is the third field of intervention. EUR 140 million have already been mobilised for 17 projects, since one of the most urgent goals is to cooperate at worldwide level with a view to developing a vaccine as fast as possible, and making it available everywhere.
4. The fourth element of intervention is tackling **the socio-economic consequences** of this plague, including a proposal for a Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative to provide EUR 37 billion of investment under cohesion policy to address the consequences of the crisis.
5. Finally, the fifth strand is to cooperate with Member States to enhance their efforts **to repatriate EU citizens, stranded abroad**.

Besides, given the need to look beyond the crisis, the Council has asked the Commission to design **a roadmap for an Action Plan including an exit strategy**, bearing in mind the overarching objectives of green transition, digitalisation and sustainability.

In the second part of his presentation **Mr Laurent MUSCHEL** provided an update on the ongoing work of the Commission since the 7th MB meeting of November 2019 in the area of security.

One of the key actions envisaged in the Commission Work Programme by June for 2020 is a **new EU Security Union Strategy**. It will set out the areas where the Union can bring added value to support Member States ranging from combatting terrorism and organised crime, to preventing and detecting hybrid threats, to cybersecurity and increasing the resilience of our critical infrastructure. The **EU Drugs Agenda 2021-2025** should be adopted in a package with the Security Union Strategy and will be accompanied by a more detailed action plan. As part of the EU Security Union Strategy, DG HOME will propose to include an Erasmus scheme dedicated to Law Enforcement.

The Commission will also strengthen Europol's legal framework, including clarifications regarding the preventive nature of the agency's mandate and its role in processing criminal intelligence, as well as better equipping Europol to dismantle high value targets.

As part of the Commission's Work Programme, by the end of 2020 the renewed EU Strategy towards the **eradication of trafficking in human beings** is also envisaged.

According to the Work Programme 2020, a proposal for **additional measures on Critical Infrastructure Protection** is also expected to be adopted in December, following the recent evaluation of the 2008 European Critical Infrastructure Directive, while the supporting of the protection of public spaces is under implementation, following the 2017 Action Plan.

Besides, the Commission is also making preparatory work for a legislative proposal on the **revision of the Prüm Decisions**, while another work-in-progress concerns the **advance passenger information (API) Directive**, ensuring the effective processing of API data in full consistency with the interoperability of EU information systems for borders, security and migration management.

The Commission is also preparing a revision of the mandate of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (**EMCDDA**), which should materialise in early 2021, following a recent evaluation.

A revision of the **EU Policy Cycle** is also foreseen, which will make the exercise less bureaucratic. This will be important for CEPOL, too, since the Agency is actively involved in strategic goal no 3 on "Prevention and capacity building". Besides, CEPOL is also active in EMPACT training in third countries, especially regarding the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership region, which is an era, where the Commission would like to reinforce CEPOL's activities.

DG HOME is also working on the preparation of an **EU-Interpol Cooperation Agreement**, since despite the long-standing partnership with Interpol in the field of security there is no formal cooperation agreement in place.

Concerning the **Draft Budget 2021** Mr Laurent MUSCHEL informed the Webinar, that the related hearings have been replaced with a written procedure due to the coronavirus. The current position of the Commission for CEPOL is to follow strictly the instructions of the Budget Circular, namely a 2% increase of the budget and a stable number of staff. However, this is the starting point in the negotiations and the Draft Budget 2021 is not expected to be adopted by the Commission before early June. The Council and the Parliament readings will take place following this adoption. He also underlined the need for CEPOL to reinforce training in the cybercrime area, all the more in light of the increased threats resulting from the current crisis, as highlighted by Europol in its recent report. As far as the negotiations on the **MFF** are concerned, the related progress is slowed down, and the Commission is set to propose some changes in the MFF proposal to address the fallout of the crisis via an increased budget. It also has to be avoided that CEPOL becomes a victim of this crisis again. Answering the **Executive Director**, he told that, knowing the current circumstances in Europe, no negative impact is expected if the 2020 budget is not fully spent due to obvious reasons.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 4. Foreseen written procedures in the near future

Presenter : Dr.h.c. Detlef SCHROEDER, Executive Director

Took the Floor : European Commission

The **Executive Director** has shortly presented the written procedures foreseen in the near future:

In order to sign the **EUROMED Police** project agreement and to make the necessary budgetary & HR arrangements, the project needs to be reflected in SPD 2020, requiring its substantial amendment. The related draft MB decision (**07/2020/MB**) will be ready for launching, soon. Later on, a significant revision of the Work Programme 2020 will also take place, once the operational implications of the crisis become quantifiable and an update of the annual activity plan seems feasible.

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Management Board a nomination needs to be made by the incoming TRIO Presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia), enabling the Management Board to **elect the new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson** from among its members representing the group of these three Member States. The nomination process is underway, and the related voting procedure is planned to be launched on the 4th of May, on behalf of the European Commission.

As a mandatory document, CEPOL's **Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2019** is also due, the related draft MB decision (**08/2020/MB**) is planned to be launched on the 4th of May. At the same time, the Agency would also initiate voting on the **revised OTNA methodology (09/2020/MB)**.

In line with Executive Director's decision 53/2018/DIR, the meeting calendar covering the term of the incoming Presidency shall be approved each time by the Management Board during the sitting Presidency. Since the 2nd half of the year is not really predictable at this stage, draft MB decision (**06/2020/MB**) on the **meeting Calendar for the 2nd half of 2020** might need to be put on hold, depending on the further development of the activities.

Besides, CEPOL will introduce a draft MB Decision recommending a **hybrid model** for the continuation of the Grants and recruitments of Framework Partners for 2021, while continuing the current CKC on CT and introducing one further new model CKC in 2021.

Answering the **European Commission's** question on how far and for what costs the residential courses can be turned into online activities, he told that CEPOL is currently examining the related possibilities, however, a full picture cannot be provided yet.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 5. Foreseen agenda items for the next online meetings

Presenter : Dr.h.c. Detlef SCHROEDER, Executive Director

Took the Floor : -

Regarding the agenda items for the next online meetings the **Executive Director** recommended an open and flexible approach, providing some more time for considerations in line with the rapidly changing situation. Besides, Voting Members are kindly invited to propose agenda items for the forthcoming meeting, as well.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 6. Reflections to recommendations raised prior to the meeting

Presenter : Dr.h.c. Detlef SCHROEDER, Executive Director

Took the Floor : Austria, Finland

Answering **Austria's** question on how to plan with the postponed activities the **Executive Director** told that currently it is not predictable, when and under which conditions CEPOL can resume business. Nevertheless, it is fully acceptable, if Framework Partners can express already at this stage, if they do prefer to step back from their earlier commitments.

Regarding the request of **Finland**, the **Executive Director** promised that a regularly updated overview will be provided to MS on the suspended residential activities.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 7. AOB

Presenter : Dr Kimmo HIMBERG, MB Chair

Took the Floor : Germany

The **Chair** invited participants to raise any question to be discussed under AOB.

Germany announced a forthcoming change in the German voting membership. Mr Uwe Marquardt, new Vice-President of the German Police University will become the new Voting Member for Germany, while Mr Carsten Twelmeier will become the new Alternate Member. In line with the agreement between the incoming TRIO Presidency, Mr Uwe Marquardt will be nominated to become the new Deputy Chairperson of the Management Board, while the new Portugal Voting member Mr José Leitão will be nominated to become the new MB Chair.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 8. Closing of the meeting

Presenter : Dr Kimmo HIMBERG, MB Chair

Took the Floor : -

The **Chair** thanked the participants and presenters for their kind attendance and contribution, and requested their feedback, in case they have experienced some difficulties with the online technical arrangements. He announced that the next online MB meeting will take place on **29 April 2020**.

Tampere, 04 May 2020

<< Signature on file >>

Dr Kimmo HIMBERG

Chair of CEPOL Management Board

Bergkamen, 08 May 2020

<< Signature on file >>

Dr.h.c. Detlef Schroeder

Executive Director of CEPOL

Annex 1 – List of Meeting Participants

Annex 1. List of Meeting Participants

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Management Board:

Country	First Name	Last Name
FINLAND (Chair)	Kimmo	HIMBERG
CROATIA (Deputy Chair)	Danijela	PETKOVIC

Members/Alternate members designated to replace a voting member:

Country/Institution	First Name	Last Name
AUSTRIA	Norbert	LEITNER
BELGIUM	Alain	RUELLE
BULGARIA (alternate member)	Milorad	YORDANOV
CROATIA	Iva	BALGAC
CYPRUS	Themistos	ARNAOUTIS
CZECH REPUBLIC	Petr	NOVAK
ESTONIA	Kalvi	ALMOSEN
European Commission – DG HOME (alternate member)	Laurent	MUSCHEL
FINLAND	Lotta	PARJANEN
FRANCE	-	-
GERMANY	Carsten	TWELMEIER
GREECE (alternate member)	Maria Areti	KYRITSI
HUNGARY	Emese	HORVACZY
IRELAND (alternate member)	Brian	CONWAY
ITALY (alternate member)	Lorena	CAPOLUPO
LATVIA	Inese	VOLOSEVICA
LITHUANIA	Darius	URBONAS
LUXEMBOURG	Marc	WELTER
MALTA	-	-
NETHERLANDS	Sandra	WIJKHUIJS
POLAND (alternate member)	Piotr	SOCHACKI
PORTUGAL (alternate member)	Jose	LEITAO
ROMANIA	Ovidiu	MACOVEI
SLOVAKIA (alternate member)	Stanislav	STRAKA
SLOVENIA	Danijel	ZIBRET
SPAIN (alternate member)	Jose Alberto	RAMIREZ VAZQUEZ
SWEDEN	-	-

Member State observers:

AUSTRIA	Gerhard	HABERLER
AUSTRIA	Carina	MAYER
BELGIUM	Bart	D'HOOGHE
CYPRUS	Stelios	GAVRIEL
CZECH REPUBLIC	Zora	VALASKOVA
CZECH REPUBLIC	Jan	PECHÁČEK
ESTONIA	Dorel	KÄOSAAR
FINLAND	Pasi	KEMPPAINEN
FINLAND	Antti	TALVITIE
FRANCE	Magali	CHASSERIAU
GERMANY	Guido	KATTERT
ITALY	Massimo	TULINI
LATVIA	Ieva	KLAVINA
LUXEMBOURG	David	CHENUT
MALTA	Jurgen	VELLA
NETHERLANDS	Ronald	BRON
POLAND	Anna	GRUNT
ROMANIA	Calin	BALAEI
SLOVENIA	Egidij	GLAVIC
SPAIN	Roberto	WHYTE FLORES

Other observers:

Institution	First Name	Last Name
European Commission – DG HOME	Cristina	CALABRÓ
Chair of Internal Audit Panel	Katarzyna	KLIMCZAK-SYCH

CEPOL HQ:

Function	First Name	Last Name
Executive Director	Detlef	SCHRÖDER
Head of Operations Department	Mailis	PUKONEN
Head of Corporate Services Department	Roeland	WOLDHUIS
Head of Training and Research Unit	Agnieszka	BIEGAJ
Governance Assistant (Outcomes)	Gyorgy	ISPANKI
Governance Support Assistant	Cecilia	DUBOIS
e-Learning Assistant	Francesco	LA FORGIA