

**Outcomes of Proceedings of the
4th online meeting of CEPOL Management Board
30 June 2020, 10:00 CEST
Chairperson: Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG**

ITEM 1. Welcome by the Chair

Presenter : Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG, Chair of CEPOL Management Board
Took the Floor : -

Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG, Chair of CEPOL Management Board welcomed the participants to the 4th online Management Board meeting.

ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda

Presenter : Chair
Took the Floor : -

After summarising the voting procedure, the **Chair** invited Voting Members to comment on the draft Agenda and announced that no voting will take place under Item 6. Since no additional request has been made, the **Chair** invited Voting Members to vote on the draft Agenda.

During the meeting all but one (Sweden) voting members were present or represented by their alternates, and two proxy votes have been submitted (from Lithuania to Latvia for full time and from Finland to the Chair in case of a delayed duration of meeting), hence, the total number of eligible votes was 26.

Voting results: In favour: 26 members; **Against:** 0; **Abstained:** 1 (Sweden, as not represented for voting)

Conclusion: The MB has adopted the draft Agenda

ITEM 3. Adoption of the Draft Outcomes of Proceedings

Presenter : Chair
Took the Floor : -

Commission recommended some rectifications, which were distributed to all participants prior to the meeting.

Conclusion: The MB adopted the Outcomes with the recommended rectifications.

ITEM 4. Update on the current situation on CEPOL by Executive Director

Presenter : Dr.h.c. Detlef SCHROEDER, Executive Director
Took the Floor : -

The **Executive Director** welcomed all participants and expressed his gratefulness to the Croatian Presidency for the good cooperation regarding the first online conference on *Policing the Pandemic*, held on 25 June.

Regarding the current situation at CEPOL he informed the assembly that from the 1st of July the Agency will move forward to phase 2 of its *returning to office policy* meaning that office work shall be the standard, however, there is a great flexibility towards teleworking. Training activities are planned to be resumed from September onwards.

Via the Agency's COVID-19 Task Force, offering specific online services towards Member States CEPOL served approximately 2800 additional participants from several Member States. This initiative is to be continued until October and there are already 60 additional webinars planned to be run in this context by the Member States. As far as the general provision of services are concerned, the Agency trained 19260 individuals (COVID-19 Task Force included) via online training. The LEEed platform is up and running and receives positive feedback from its users. Since its launch, the number of registered active users is already above 7000.

Regarding projects the Executive Director informed the Management Board that the 3rd new project (TOPCOP) has also been signed based on the last amendment of SPD 2020-22. The finalisation of the 4th project contract (Western Balkans project against Crime and Terrorism - WB PaCT) is foreseen very soon, which will require another amendment in the SPD.

The Executive Director referred to a questionnaire sent in April to member states about their ability to implement CEPOL activities during 2020. According to the responses received until the end of May, 57% of the courses organized by the framework partners and 50% of the courses organized by CEPOL but hosted by framework partners were cancelled. The total unconsumed budget related to cancelled activities amounts to EUR 852,181.86 (EUR 438,268.86 from Granted activities, EUR 335,018.00 regarding CCA, and EUR 78,895.00 regarding hosted activities). The Executive Director assured that CEPOL will make a serious attempt to find solutions to have as many courses as possible organised. Simultaneously, the possibility for a second wave of COVID-19 has to be taken into consideration.

Concerning the call for Framework Partners he encouraged Member States to apply, since so far only 19 applications have been received.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 5. Update on the current situation by the Commission

Presenter : Mr. Laurent MUSCHEL, European Commission

Took the Floor : -

In his presentation **Mr. Laurent MUSCHEL** informed the MB that the draft budget 2021 adopted by the Commission on 24th June confirms the total EU contribution of €10.62 million to CEPOL and an establishment plan including 33 posts. The MFF budgets a 2% addition to this amount in each budget year up to 2027. He also noted that in line with expectations, DG BUDG confirmed in the budgetary procedure that the number of staff in 2021 will be stabilised at the level agreed during the 2020 budget. **Mr. MUSCHEL** underlined that Interoperability is included in the budget and it is amounting to €0.384 million for 2021, including one TA and one CA posts, as well as the operational expenditure (€2 million in total up to 2027).

Concerning the MFF 2021-27 he emphasised that it is unlikely to be adopted before the end of the year, hence the Internal Security Fund (ISF) will not be adopted before mid-2021. DG HOME has been trying to open up the flexibility for specific actions by Agencies under ISF, but it is not sure that this will remain in the final version.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 6. Discussions regarding the forthcoming amendment of SPD 2020

ITEM 6.1 Cancellation of residential activities in 2020

Presenter : Executive Director

Took the Floor : Finland, Portugal, Spain, Commission, Executive Director, Head of Operations

The **Executive Director** informed the assembly that according to the current regulation the Management Board needs to approve the cancellation of activities. The tabled list contains those activities recommended by the contracted Framework Partners for cancellation. He also reminded

that, contrary to what initially envisaged, Item 6.1 and 6.2 are not presented for voting but will be formalised in a written procedure at a later stage.

Finland expressed its surprise that the 2nd module of the Future leaders' course is planned to be cancelled, since this would cause the withdrawal of the 1st module, as well, even though Finland has already made preparations to organise it. Finland also asked an explanation regarding the Cybercrime Academy (CCA) related course cancellations.

In his answer the **Executive Director** conveyed his hope that there will be a solution for the 2nd module to be organised, otherwise it will need to be cancelled, unfortunately. Concerning the CCA courses he explained that due to the limitation of the Agency's human resources and the limited capacity of the CCA, several courses will need to be cancelled, as well. As a compensation, CEPOL would like to bring in hands-on online workshops.

Answering **Portugal** and the **Commission** on the very late submission of the documents and too short time available for reviewing them, the **Chair** and the **Executive Director** explained that due to the importance of the topic the **Chair** supported the late distribution of the document, however, it has been withdrawn from voting. The **Executive Director** added that the monthly sequence of online meetings makes document preparations sometimes very challenging, and requested the kind understanding of the Management Board in this regard.

In its reply **Portugal** noted that in this case the frequency of the online meetings might need to be reduced in order to provide sufficient time for the Agency to prepare the documents and for the MB to read and consider them.

Concerning the CCA courses, the **Commission** supported Finland and underlined that the CCA centre should be up and running in the coming months. Regarding cancellations the Commission hoped that there will be flexible solutions found to organise some very important but currently cancelled activities, like the two courses regarding illegal migration. **Mr MUSCHEL** also noted that even if he cannot take a position on it at the moment, he understands the logic of employing 2 additional SNEs necessary until end of 2021 from the currently unspent 1.1 million EUR. Finally, he welcomed the fact that the Schengen evaluators' course has not been cancelled but moved to the 2nd half of the year.

Answering **Spain**, **Mrs. Mailis PUKONEN, Head of Operations** explained that the implementation of those activities not cancelled can go on without any further confirmation.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 6.2 Preliminary discussion on amending SPD 2020-2022

<i>Presenter</i>	<i>: Executive Director</i>
<i>Took the Floor</i>	<i>: Austria, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Commission, Chair, Executive Director, Head of Operations</i>

In his presentation the **Executive Director** reviewed the planned amendments of SPD 2020 in order to cover the underspending generated due to course cancellations.

Austria appreciated the work done for revising the remaining budget, especially regarding adjustment number 5 on "Qualification on Moodle" and 6 on "Certified qualification / upgrading skills for e-learning officers", both to be delivered via e-learning. **Germany** asked CEPOL about the expenses already made on online participant management in the last years, given the amount listed for this item in the list of proposals for reallocation.

Answering Germany, the **Executive Director** noted that the CRM project was a long and not successful project of the Agency, amounting to approximately 80k EUR; however, due to the fact that the external contractor did not support the platform anymore, and that there was no other market player offering similar services, the project had to be stopped. He expressed his confidence that Moodle is a much more trustworthy platform, where service providers will always be available. The **Head of Operations** added that proposed works would cover the development and implementation of an event management plug-in to the existing LEEd platform. Once adopted by the Management Board, contracts will be prepared and the related work will be started; however, full implementation will run into year 2021.

Answering **Ireland** on spending allocated budgets in these difficult times, the **Commission** explained that in case of small agencies, like CEPOL, it is recommended to find other solutions for spending their allocated money. If no sensible solutions are found for some of the unspent budget, it is necessary to give it back to the Commission, so that it can be timely spent for other purposes.

Replying to **Belgium** the **Executive Director** explained that returning unspent budget to the Commission in time (i.e. in September/October) will not be penalised, however, it still might have an impact on the Agency's financial support in the coming years. Hence, CEPOL is doing its utmost to utilise its remaining funds for the purpose of its business. He thanked Belgium for proposing the integration of the Exchange plug-in (nr. 16) into participation management (nr. 18), which can indeed be taken into consideration during the development. On the other hand, he regretted to inform the Member States that providing Microsoft Office 365 services outside CEPOL is formally not possible. Concerning sound isolation, he explained that it is necessary because of the sensitive content of some of the training activities and the removal of CEPOL HQ is in the time horizon of 2-5 years.

Replying to the **Chair**, the **Executive Director** told that the Research & Science Conference is planned to be organised in Q1 of 2021 and invited Member States to consider hosting the event and/or participating in its organisation and development.

ITEM 7. Presentation of OTNA Reports

<i>Presenter</i>	: Mrs. Mailis PUKONEN, Head of Operations
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<i>Took the Floor</i>	: Finland, Commission, Executive Director
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Mrs. Mailis PUKONEN, Head of Operations has shortly presented the OTNA reports. Answering **Finland**, she requested to send report specific questions via email and supported the idea of involving the Expert Group on the New Business Model into forward planning and utilisation of these reports. She also supported the request of the **Commission** towards the Member States to participate more actively in the reporting process ensuring a full representation of MS in these reports.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 8. Approval of the planning of Grants for 2021

<i>Presenter</i>	: Head of Operations
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<i>Took the Floor</i>	: Belgium, Austria, Portugal, Germany, Commission, Executive Director, Chair
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In her presentation, **Mrs. Mailis PUKONEN, Head of Operations** informed the MB regarding the planning for grants in 2021. Altogether 45 activities have been envisioned to be proposed for granting. The tabled list of activities per thematic area includes the envisioned budgets, as well as the activities to be implemented by CEPOL.

Belgium (supported by **Austria, Portugal, Germany**, and the **Commission**) expressed their dissatisfaction with the submission, as this was lacking all details about the content of the activities, noting that this should be the core business of the MB. According to **Portugal**, the proposal should also reflect the priorities of the incoming Presidency TRIO. **Belgium** and **Austria** requested to find solution to include among the activities the course titled "Behind Enemy Minds" already presented by Belgium and broadly supported during the 7th MB meeting in Tampere. In their reply, the **Executive Director** and the **Head of Operations** underlined that the proposed list of activities is based on CEPOL's prioritisation exercise, as well as the EU-STNA and OTNA processes. Based on the interventions, the **Commission** concluded that the item is not mature for adoption by the MB and suggested postponing the vote, once CEPOL will have provided more detailed information on the suggested activities. Upon accepting the **Chair's** proposal, the **Agency** is ready to do so, via a written procedure.

Regarding the Belgian proposal on "Behind Enemy Minds", the **Executive Director** proposed a structured solution, namely that within the process of annual programming a margin of 5-10 % of the operational budget could be allocated for emerging training topics. In this context, "emerging need"

would mean that the Agency does not have the financial instruments to grant it out, hence, the Agency must take the lead in its implementation.

The **Chair** concluded that the MB would make its decision via written procedure.

Conclusion: The MB will make its decision via written procedure

ITEM 9. Approval of the meeting Calendar for the second half of 2020 – 06/2020/MB

Presenter : Executive Director

Took the Floor : Germany, Belgium

The **Executive Director** introduced the planned meeting Calendar for the second half of 2020 and noted that the indicated meetings are planned to be organised as physical meetings but if the situation so requires, some of them might be implemented online.

Germany informed the assembly that the Münster MB meeting related pre-bookings have already been arranged, however, despite the COVID-19 situation, the last date for free hotel cancellation for Germany is 10 August 2020. Participants can make their reservations by 2 September. The **Executive Director** underlined that since hotel expenses are to be paid by the MB meeting participants, CEPOL cannot cover the costs of cancellations. For this reason, he kindly asked Member States to take the risk of possible cancellation costs and make their reservation by the given deadline, even if the meeting might be repealed.

Answering **Belgium** on the possible reallocation of the costs of the network meetings due to new travel restrictions the **Executive Director** explained that such a situation would mean that CEPOL cannot implement its training activities either, hence, the remaining money will need to be given back to the commission in September or October the latest.

The **Chair** invited the MB members to vote on draft decision 06/2020/MB on the meeting Calendar for the second half of 2020.

Voting results: In favour: 26 members; **Against:** 0; **Abstained:** 1 (Sweden, as not represented for voting)

Conclusion: The MB has adopted decision 06/2020/MB

ITEM 10. Trio Presidency Priorities / Priorities of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Presenter : Mr. José LEITÃO, incoming Chair, Mr. Carsten TWELMEIER, German Presidency

Took the Floor : -

Mr. José LEITÃO, incoming Chair presented the priorities of the new Trio Presidency. Most importantly the Trio will need to deal with the *impact of COVID-19*, which will presumably change the existing training structure, and everything related to it. The Trio will also focus on an *improved cooperation between the CNUs*, ensuring an even involvement of all the Member States in CNU related activities. Besides, the *development of training quality* will need to be increasingly touched upon, also revisiting the existing training plans, products, and their implementation. Furthermore, emphasis will put on increasing and developing different forms of *online training*.

According to **Mr. Carsten TWELMEIER**, the work of the incoming German Presidency will be based on the already started work of the outgoing Trio Presidency, in cooperation with CEPOL HQ, incoming Trio Presidency, European Commission and Management Board. Regarding the German priorities he regretted that in the already existing draft document only CSDP can be considered as a CEPOL related area, however, the final priorities will only be published in the coming days.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 11. Handover of the MB Chairmanship

<i>Presenter</i>	: <i>outgoing Chair, incoming Chair</i>
<i>Took the Floor</i>	: <i>Executive Director</i>

Reviewing the work of the outgoing Chairmanship **Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG, MB Chair** underlined the importance of the increased strategic discussions and the successful tackling of the new challenges brought about by the health crisis, including the lessons learned from it. He also thanked the work of Mrs. Danijela PETKOVIC, Deputy Chair and the Croatian and Romanian presidencies, as well as CEPOL and he wished a successful 18-month period for the new Chairmanship, as well as for the new Trio Presidency. The **Executive Director** expressed his gratefulness for the fruitful cooperation.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 12. AOB

<i>Presenter</i>	: <i>Chair</i>
<i>Took the Floor</i>	: <i>-</i>

The **Chair** informed the Assembly that no proposal has been submitted for AOB.

Conclusion: The MB took note

ITEM 13. Closing of the meeting

<i>Presenter</i>	: <i>Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG, MB Chair</i>
<i>Took the Floor</i>	: <i>Mr. José LEITÃO, incoming Chair</i>

The **Chair** thanked the participants and presenters for their attendance and contribution and in agreement with the **incoming Chair** announced that the next online MB meeting will take place in **September 2020. Exact date will be communicated in early September.**

Tampere, 24 November 2020

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Dr. Kimmo HIMBERG
Chair of CEPOL Management Board
1 January 2019 – 30 June 2020

Budapest, 25 November 2020

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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 (alternate member)	Zora	VALASKOVA
ESTONIA (alternate member)	Dorel	KÄOSAAR
European Commission – DG HOME (alternate member)	Laurent	MUSCHEL
FINLAND	Lotta	PARJANEN
FRANCE (alternate member)	Ingrid	PEYRATOU
GERMANY (alternate member)	Carsten	TWELMEIER
GREECE	Avraam	AIVAZIDIS
HUNGARY (alternate member)	András	GAÁL
IRELAND (alternate member)	Brian	CONWAY
ITALY (alternate member)	Lorena	CAPOLUPO
LATVIA (alternate member)	Ieva	KLAVINA
LITHUANIA	- Proxy to Latvia -	- Proxy to Latvia -
LUXEMBOURG	Marc	WELTER
MALTA	Angelo	GAFA
NETHERLANDS	Sandra	WIJKHUIJS
POLAND (alternate member)	Piotr	SOCHACKI
PORTUGAL	José	LEITÃO
ROMANIA	Ovidiu	MACOVEI
SLOVAKIA (alternate member)	Stanislav	STRAKA
SLOVENIA (alternate member)	Egidij	GLAVIC
SPAIN (alternate member)	Jose Alberto	RAMIREZ VAZQUEZ
SWEDEN	-	-

Member State observers:

AUSTRIA	Gerhard	HABERLER
AUSTRIA	Carina	MAYER
CYPRUS	Stelios	GAVRIEL
CZECH REPUBLIC	Vendula	KWASNIAKOVÁ
CZECH REPUBLIC	Jan	PECHÁČEK
FINLAND	Pasi	KEMPPAINEN
FINLAND	Antti	TALVITIE
FRANCE	Magali	CHASSERIAU
GREECE	Marita	KYRITSI
GERMANY	Guido	KATTERT
ITALY	Massimo	TULINI
LITHUANIA	Simona	IVANOVIEŃ
LUXEMBOURG	David	CHENUT
NETHERLANDS	Ronald	BRON
POLAND	Anna	GRUNT
PORTUGAL	Rui	ALFARO PEREIRA
PORTUGAL	Hugo	CRUZ
PORTUGAL	João	OLIVEIRA
PORTUGAL	Ernesto	MESQUITA
ROMANIA	Calin	BALAEI
SPAIN	Roberto	WHYTE FLORES
SWEDEN	Ulf	SYDORF

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