

***‘Meeting of the Chief Public Prosecutors with the Chief Federal Prosecutor and representatives of the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Offices of the European Neighbouring Countries on 27-29 May 2019 in Düsseldorf**

Resolution of 10 June 2019

The European Commission’s proposal for the multi-annual financial framework (2021-2027) of Eurojust is a cause for concern. When compared with the previous financial framework, only very slight increases have been granted. This does not take sufficient account of the significant increase in the volume of cases handled during previous years. Thanks to the quick, efficient and professional work carried out by Eurojust, the volume of cases has increased by more than 300% during the last seven years. Eurojust therefore guarantees efficient law enforcement within Europe. In 2020, workload will increase further as a result of the operational activities of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office. Eurojust is likely to be one of the first advisory contacts for the new transnational Public Prosecutor’s Office. On a more general note, in recent years, Eurojust has become an important partner for the German Public Prosecutor’s Offices in the fight against cross-border (organised) crime. This institution, which is highly regarded by and of crucial importance to the German Public Prosecutor’s Offices, must continue operating and must be expanded as far as is possible. The proposals put forward by the European Commission do not take account of this objective. They will lead to a situation in which Eurojust is no longer able to maintain its sound and professional work to the extent necessary to ensure effective law enforcement.

The Chief Public Prosecutors and the Chief Federal Prosecutor hereby appeal to the Federal Government to ensure that, during the upcoming negotiations concerning the multi-annual financial framework (2021-2027), it pushes for significantly greater and more adequate funding to be made available to Eurojust to enable it to meet the practical requirements of the German Public Prosecutor’s Offices in the fight against cross-border (organised) crime.

Statement of grounds

The European Commission presented its long-term draft budget under the heading a “budget for the future”. This financial framework, which sets out the main points, covers a period of seven years. Alongside the financing of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, for example, it also governs the financing of the work carried out by Eurojust. The crucial negotiating phase is due to commence after the European Elections and it is possible that the decisions will be made under the German Presidency during the second half of 2021, or possibly even under the Finnish Presidency.

The financial framework is relatively tight. “Brexit” is having a significant impact.

From the point of view of the (German) criminal justice system, alongside the carefully considered financing of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, it is vitally important that its long-established point of contact, Eurojust, continues to receive adequate funding to ensure that the concerns raised by the Public Prosecutor’s Offices can continue to be dealt with as quickly and as professionally as before. Under the previous financial framework, Eurojust was granted the amount of 247.3 million euros. However, its actual financial requirements (its total individual budget) amount to 274.5 million euros. Such increased financial requirements are a consequence of the ever-increasing volume of cases and the resulting necessity for appropriate coordination meetings, coordination centres and Joint Investigation Teams. All this is paid for by the Eurojust budget. The financial framework proposed by the European Commission for the next seven years gives a figure of 250 million euros and therefore fails to take account of the significant increase in the number of cases handled. In 2018, the Public Prosecutor’s Offices across Europe called upon Eurojust far more frequently than in previous years (30% more cases, 19% more coordination meetings and 13.5% more Joint Investigation Teams). The German Public Prosecutor’s Office relied particularly heavily on Eurojust. In 2018, the number of German cases handled rose by more than 80%. To date, this has not changed. When the European Public Prosecutor’s Office enters its operational phase next year, it will also be vitally important that it receives support in the form of sound and professional advice from Eurojust without this impacting negatively upon the everyday concerns of the Public Prosecutor’s Offices. This will also require time and resources.’