



# **Working Arrangement between Eurojust and the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama**



## **Working Arrangement between Eurojust and the National Prosecution Office of the Republic of Panama**

**Eurojust, represented for the purposes of this Working Arrangement by Mr Ladislav Hamran, President of Eurojust; and**

**the Attorney General's Office, on behalf of the competent authorities of the Republic of Panama, represented for the purposes of this Working Arrangement by Mr Javier E. Caraballo Salazar, Attorney General of the Republic of Panama.**

(hereinafter collectively referred to as the 'Parties', or individually as the "Party"),

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the "Eurojust Regulation"), and in particular Article 47(1) and (3), as well as Article 52 (1) and (2) thereof,

Having regard to Article 220 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama, on the powers of the Office of the Attorney General in the prosecution of crimes and violations of constitutional or legal provisions; and Law 63 of 28 August 2008, approving the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Panama, which establishes that the Public Ministry is responsible for directing the investigation and that it is its duty to prosecute crimes, exercising the actions derived therefrom before the courts and tribunals in which it acts; since it directs the investigation of crimes, and conducts or orders the execution of appropriate proceedings to determine the existence of the offence and those responsible,

Considering that the Executive Board of Eurojust was consulted on Eurojust's intention to conclude a Working Arrangement with the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama on 25 September 2023 and gave a favourable opinion, and that the College approved its conclusion on 21 November 2023,

Considering the interests of both the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama and Eurojust in developing a close and dynamic cooperation to meet the present and future challenges posed by serious crime, particularly serious and organised crime and terrorism,

Respecting the fundamental rights and principles as reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and other international human rights instruments.

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p.138. This Regulation has been amended by Regulation (EU) 2022/838 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 (OJ L 148, 31.5.2022, p. 1–5) and by Regulation (EU) 2023/2131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 October 2023 (PE/74/2022).

## **CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 Purpose and scope**

1. The purpose of this Working Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as 'Arrangement') is to encourage and develop strategic cooperation between the Parties in combating serious and organised crime and terrorism. This Arrangement does not constitute a legal basis for the exchange of personal data.
2. Cooperation between the Parties shall take place within the mandate of Eurojust. It may, in particular, include:
  - a. The exchange of legal, strategic and technical information, including results of strategic analyses, information concerning substantive and procedural criminal legislation and practices, practical difficulties, best practices and lessons learned in judicial cooperation in criminal matters.
  - b. Inviting each other to awareness raising and knowledge building events on issues related to their respective mandates and competences.
  - c. Improving judicial cooperation in the field of criminal justice by facilitating the communication between the competent authorities of the Member States of the European Union and the Republic of Panama.
  - d. Ensuring mutual understanding and familiarisation with the requirements in cooperation in relation to serious and organised crime and terrorism.
  - e. Exchanging best practices in fighting the most severe forms of crimes.

### **Article 2 Relation to other international instruments**

This Arrangement shall be without prejudice to any other obligations incurred under the terms of any bilateral or multilateral agreement between the Republic of Panama and the European Union or any of its Member States that contains provisions governing judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

## **CHAPTER II - MODE OF COOPERATION**

### **Article 3 Contact Point(s)**

1. The Republic of Panama shall appoint one or more Contact Points to coordinate cooperation with Eurojust and ensure that information is promptly shared with the relevant national authorities of the Republic of Panama.
2. This appointment shall be duly notified to Eurojust in writing in accordance with its internal procedures. The Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama shall inform Eurojust without delay of any change regarding this appointment.
3. Eurojust shall ensure that the Contact Points have efficient means to communicate with the Agency on operational and strategic matters.

**Article 4**  
**Functions of the Contact Points**

1. Contact Points and Eurojust shall exchange information within the scope of this Arrangement without delay.
2. Contact Points may in particular be requested to:
  - (a) Ensure general communication, including on such matters as appointments, strategic exchanges, organisation of workshops, as well as of courtesy and study visits;
  - (b) Expedite, facilitate or coordinate the execution of requests for judicial cooperation, and follow-up on the status of specific requests, without prejudice to the transmission channels provided for in bilateral or multilateral instruments applicable between the Republic of Panama and the EU Member States concerned;
  - (c) Enable direct contact with Panamanian competent authorities;
  - (d) Clarify particular provisions of national legislation and provide legal advice related to the legal system of the Republic of Panama;
  - (e) Advise on how to submit requests for judicial cooperation to the Republic of Panama, including in urgent cases;
  - (f) Attend and facilitate the participation of competent Panamanian authorities in coordination meetings and coordination centres organised at Eurojust in cases involving the Republic of Panama and EU Member States;
  - (g) Support the setting-up of and facilitate the participation of competent Panamanian authorities in joint investigations teams supported by Eurojust;
  - (h) Assist with resolving any issues that might arise in the framework of judicial cooperation between Eurojust and the Republic of Panama.

**Article 5**  
**Functions of Eurojust**

Eurojust may be called to:

- (a) Facilitate or coordinate the execution of requests for judicial cooperation, and follow-up on the status of specific requests, without prejudice to the transmission channels provided for in bilateral or multilateral instruments applicable between the Republic of Panama and the EU Member State(s) concerned;
- (b) Enable direct contact with competent national authorities;
- (c) Clarify particular provisions of national legislation and provide legal advice related to the legal system of EU Members States;
- (d) Advise on how to submit requests for judicial cooperation to EU Members States, including in urgent cases;
- (e) Facilitate the participation of competent Panamanian authorities in coordination meetings and coordination centres organised at Eurojust in cases involving the Republic of Panama;
- (f) Support the setting-up of and facilitate the participation of competent Panamanian authorities in joint investigations teams supported by Eurojust;
- (g) Assist with resolving any issues that might arise in the framework of judicial cooperation between Eurojust and the Republic of Panama.

## CHAPTER III - EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

### Article 6

#### Purpose and use

1. Exchange of information between the Parties shall only take place for the purpose of this Arrangement as established in Article 1(1) and in accordance with the respective legal frameworks of the Parties.
2. The Parties shall inform each other, at the moment of supply of information or before, of the purpose for which the information is supplied and of any restriction on its use, deletion or destruction, including possible access restrictions in general or specific terms. Where the need for such restrictions becomes apparent after the supply of the information, the Parties shall inform each other of such restrictions as soon as possible.
3. The use of information for a different purpose than that for which the information was transmitted shall be subject to a prior authorisation of the transmitting Party.

### Article 7 Confidentiality

The Parties shall be bound by an obligation of confidentiality in respect of information received in the implementation of this Arrangement. Any restriction imposed by the Parties or EU national authorities on the use of the information transmitted shall be respected.

### Article 8 Onward transmission

1. Any information received by either Party under this Arrangement may only be transmitted onward to a third party with the prior written consent of the transmitting Party and subject to any conditions or restrictions indicated by that Party.
2. Prior written consent by the transmitting Party does not apply when the information is further shared by Eurojust with Union bodies listed in the Annex to this Arrangement or with authorities responsible in the Member States for investigating and prosecuting serious crime.

### Article 9 Liability

1. If damage is caused to one Party or to an individual as a result of an unauthorised or incorrect information processing under this Arrangement by the other Party, that Party shall be liable for such damage, in accordance with its respective legal framework.
2. Upon request, a Party shall be bound to pay back the other party, the amounts awarded as compensation for damages to an injured party due to failure to comply with its obligations under this Arrangement. In case of shared liability, if no agreement can be found on the amounts to be paid back between the Parties under this article the issue shall be settled in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 12.

## CHAPTER IV - FINAL PROVISIONS

### Article 10 Amendments

This Arrangement may be amended in writing, at any time, by mutual consent between the Parties.

### Article 11 Expenses

Each Party shall bear their own expenses that may arise in the course of implementation of this Arrangement, unless otherwise agreed on a case-by-case basis.

### Article 12 Settlement of disputes

1. All disputes that may emerge in connection with the interpretation or application of this Arrangement shall be settled by means of consultation and negotiation between the Parties with a view to finding an equitable solution.
2. In the event of serious failing of either Party to comply with the provisions of this Arrangement, or if a Party is of the view that such a failing may occur in the near future, either Party may suspend the application of this Arrangement temporarily.

### Article 13 Assessment of cooperation

At least once every two years, the Parties shall report to each other on the implementation of this Arrangement and propose methods for improvement.

### Article 14 Termination

1. This Arrangement may be terminated by either Party upon three months written notification.
2. In case of termination, the Parties shall reach agreement under the conditions set out in this Arrangement on the continued use and storage of the information exchanged between them. If no agreement is reached, either Party is entitled to request the deletion of the information transmitted.

### Article 15 Entry into force

This Arrangement shall enter into force on the first day following its signature.

Done in The Hague on 12 January 2024 in duplicate in English and Spanish. The English version shall prevail in case of conflict.

For the Attorney General's Office  
of the Republic of Panama

For Eurojust

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Attorney General

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President

**Annex to the Working Arrangement: List of Union Bodies  
(Article 8(2) of the Arrangement)**

Union bodies that can get access to information (via Eurojust):

- European Central Bank (ECB)
- European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
- European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
- European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)
- Missions or operations established under the Common Security and Defence Policy, limited to law enforcement and judicial activities
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)
- European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO)
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)