



Supervision Conference: Data protection and criminal justice

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO): An overview

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What is the EPPO?

- The EPPO was established by Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 and became operational on **1 June 2021**
- The EPPO is the independent public prosecutor's office of the European Union, responsible for **investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU** ("PIF crimes") committed after 20/11/17
- Competence: a) fraud, including cross-border VAT fraud involving a total damage of at least EUR 10 mln; b) money laundering; c) corruption; d) misappropriation; and e) organised crime, if the focus is the commission of PIF crimes
- **Not all Member States participate in the EPPO** – Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Poland and Sweden have not joined

Structure

- **Central Office (Luxembourg)**
 - ❖ European Chief Prosecutor
 - ❖ 22 European Prosecutors
 - ❖ College
 - ❖ Permanent Chambers
 - ❖ Administrative Director and other staff (HR, Data Protection Office, budget, case analysts, financial investigators, etc.)
- **Decentralised level (22 MS)**
 - ❖ At least 2 European Delegated Prosecutors (EDPs) in each MS

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

STRATEGY



European Chief Prosecutor (supported by 2 Deputies)

- > Heading the EPPO, organising the work.
- > Contacts EU, EU countries and third parties.



College of Prosecutors (one European Prosecutor per participating country)

- > Decision-making on strategic matters to ensure coherence, consistency and efficiency within and between cases.
- > Adoption of internal rules of procedure.

OPERATIONS



Permanent Chambers (3 members: 2 European Prosecutors and chaired by the Chief Prosecutor, one of the Deputies, or another European Prosecutor)

- > Monitor and direct the investigations and prosecutions by the European Delegated Prosecutors (EDPs).
- > Operational decisions: bringing a case to judgment, dismissing a case, applying simplified procedure, refer case to national authorities, instruct EDPs to initiate investigation or exercise right of evocation.
- > European Prosecutor from the EU countries concerned supervises the EDP on behalf of the Permanent Chamber.



European Delegated Prosecutors (EDPs) (at least two prosecutors per participating country)

- > Responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment cases falling within EPPO's competence.

How does the EPPO work?

- Principle of legality: when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a PIF crime has been committed, the EPPO **shall** initiate an investigation
- Primacy of the EPPO's competence: if national authorities start investigations into PIF crimes (or such investigations are ongoing), **the EPPO can "evoke" (take over) the case**
- Investigations are carried out by the **EDPs** in the MS where the crime was committed **under the supervision and direction of the Permanent Chamber** and, when needed, in cooperation with the EDPs of other Member States
- The EPPO works in accordance with **EU and national law**; it relies on national authorities (e.g. police authorities) → judicial review of most EPPO acts lies with national courts



Thank you for your attention!

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