Council of the European Union

Brussels, 23 November 2026
(OR. en)

15204/26

ENFOPOL 415
JAI 1367

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the appointment of the Executive Director of Europol

COUNCIL DECISION

of …

on the appointment of the Executive Director of Europol

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA[1], and in particular Article 54 thereof,

Acting as the authority vested with the power to appoint the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors of Europol,

Having regard to the proposal of the Management Board of Europol of 26 June 2026,

[1] OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/794/oj.

Whereas:

(1) The term of office of the Executive Director of Europol ended on 1 May 2026. It is therefore necessary to appoint a new Executive Director of Europol.

(2) The decision of the Management Board of Europol of 10 December 2025 establishes the rules for the selection, extension of the term of office and removal from office of the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors of Europol.

(3) The post of Executive Director of Europol has been deemed to be vacant since 1 August 2025, nine months before the end of the term of office of the Executive Director of Europol, pursuant to Article 3(1), point (a), of the decision of the Management Board of Europol of 10 December 2025. A vacancy notice for the post of Executive Director of Europol was published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 17 February 2026[2].

(4) In accordance with Article 54(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/794, a shortlist of candidates has been drawn up by a selection committee set up by the Management Board (the 'Selection Committee'). The Selection Committee prepared a duly reasoned report and submitted it to the Management Board on 15 June 2026.

[2] OJ C, C/2026/862, 17.2.2026.

(5) On the basis of the report of the Selection Committee and in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/794 and the decision of the Management Board of 10 December 2025, the Management Board issued a reasoned opinion on the appointment of the new Executive Director of Europol on 26 June 2026. In that opinion, it proposed to the Council a shortlist of three candidates suitable for the post.

(6) On 23 September 2026, the Council selected Mr Jürgen EBNER as the new Executive Director of Europol. On 24 September 2026, the Council informed the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee of the European Parliament ('LIBE Committee'), which is the competent committee for the purposes of Article 54(2), fourth subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2016/794, about that selection.

(7) On 4 November 2026, Mr Jürgen EBNER appeared before the LIBE Committee. On 19 November 2026, the LIBE Committee gave its opinion in accordance with Article 54(2), fourth subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2016/794,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Mr Jürgen EBNER is hereby appointed as the Executive Director of Europol for the period from 16 December 2026 to 15 December 2030 at grade AD 15.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at …, …

For the Council
The President