

How the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) dealt with the moves of two former staff members to positions related to combatting online child sexual abuse

Case opened

Case 2091/2023/AML - **Opened on** 20/12/2023 - **Institution concerned** European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation |

Executive Director

EUROPOL

Dear Ms X,

I have received a complaint against Europol.

The complaint is about the way Europol handled the post-service activity requests of two of its former staff members who allegedly had worked on matters related to preventing and combatting child sexual abuse on the internet while at Europol and whose new positions seem to relate to this matter. The first staff member joined a major technology stakeholder in early 2022, and the second joined the same stakeholder as a board member later that year. [1] The complainant considers that these moves give rise to risks of conflicts of interest.

I have decided to open an inquiry into this complaint to investigate how Europol dealt with the moves of these two former staff members.

I have decided that, for the purpose of this inquiry, it is necessary to inspect the documents in Europol's file on:

- The authorisation requests and supporting documents submitted by the two former staff members when declaring their post-service activities;
- The decisions issued by Europol in both cases, as well as all related internal documents or exchanges, in particular those that detail the reasoning for granting or not granting the



authorisation;

- Any guidance that Europol gives to its staff leaving the service regarding paid or unpaid activities.

I would be grateful if Europol could provide the above documents, preferably in electronic format, [2] by 15 January 2024. The responsible inquiries officer is Ms Amandine Le Bellec.

Yours sincerely,

Emily O'Reilly European Ombudsman

Strasbourg, 20/12/2023

[1] The exact details of the cases at stake can be found in the complaint, which you will find attached to this letter. Please note that the full text of the complaint is located in the first attachment to the complaint form.

[2] Information or documents that your institution considers to be confidential will not be disclosed to the complainant or any other person without the prior agreement of Europol. Please clearly mark such material 'Confidential'. Encrypted emails can be sent to our dedicated mailbox.