

EPPO: Meet the College of European Prosecutors

29 July 2020 – Updated September 2020

On 27 July 2020, the EU Council appointed 22 European Prosecutors (“EPs”).¹ Together with the European Chief Prosecutor, EPs constitute the College of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (the “EPPO”). As we previously explained in more detail,² the EPPO is responsible for investigating and prosecuting criminal offences affecting the European Union’s financial interests in 22 of its 27 Member States. Its College is responsible for strategic decisions, including the EPPO’s priorities, and its investigation and prosecution policies.

The EU Council appointed one EP per participating Member State from a list of three candidates presented by each Member State, and ranked by a selection panel according to their qualifications and experience.³ For the candidates nominated by Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal, the Council did not follow that non-binding order of preference.

Each EP is appointed for a term of six years, which is not renewable but can be extended for up to three years. However, as part of the transitional rules for the first mandate, appointed EPs from Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain were randomly selected to hold a three-year nonrenewable mandate only.

The names of the 22 appointed EPs and some publicly accessible elements of background are as follows:

- **Austria: Ingrid MASCHL-CLAUSEN.** Senior Public Prosecutor (*Oberstaatsanwalt*) with the Public Prosecutor’s Office for Economic and Corruption Offences (*Wirtschafts- und Korruptionsstaatsanwaltschaft*). She was a Seconded National Expert to the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union from 2003 to

¹ The EU Council decision of 27 July 2020, published on 29 July 2020, is [available here](#). The EU Council press release dated 27 July 2020 is [available here](#).

² See our previous update on the structure of the EPPO: [available here](#).

³ Although Malta presented two candidates only, the EU Council decided to proceed on that basis “given the exceptional circumstances in that Member State” and “since any further delay in the appointment of the European Prosecutors would have serious adverse consequences on the effectiveness of European Union law.”, See recital 12 of the Council decision of 27 July 2020.

2008 before becoming Senior Legal Officer at Eurojust in 2008. In 2006, she became Justice Counsellor and Head of the Justice Unit at the Austrian Permanent Representation of the EU. She is a former National Member for Austria at Eurojust.

- **Belgium: Yves VAN DEN BERGE.** As Deputy Director of the Cabinet Ministry of Justice, he specialised in the coordination of criminal law. He was formerly a prosecutor (Advocate-General) before the Court of Appeal of Ghent.
- **Bulgaria: Teodora GEORGIEVA.** Judge at the Sofia Administrative Court.
- **Croatia: Tamara LAPTOS.** Head of the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime since 2014. She has prosecuted a number of high-profile political figures, which won her the award for “Prosecutor of the Year” at the 2011 International Association of Prosecutors in Seoul, South Korea.
- **Cyprus: Katerina LOIZOU.** Counsel of the Republic of Cyprus, she has previously worked for the office of the Attorney General, as well as in private practice. She has represented Cyprus at the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation since September 2004.
- **Czech Republic: Petr KLEMENT.** Prosecutor of the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office and member of its Department of Serious Economic and Financial Crime, specialising in the protection of the financial interests of the EU and cybercrime, since May 2014. He is a member of the OLAF Supervising Committee.
- **Estonia: Kristel SIITAM-NYIRI.** Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Criminal Policy Department at the Ministry of Justice, following a long career as Senior Public Prosecutor in the Northern District Prosecutor’s Office.
- **Finland: Harri TIESMAA.** As District Prosecutor in Helsinki since 1991, he specialised in economic offences. He was a seconded national expert at Eurojust from 2009 to 2010, before being appointed as national member at Eurojust in 2011.
- **France: Frédéric BAAB.** Inspector General for the Ministry of Justice since 2019. Having started his career as Deputy Public Prosecutor and Investigating Judge, he joined the French Ministry of Justice in 2001 as a specialist of European negotiations in the field of criminal cooperation. Appointed French Liaison Magistrate to the German Ministry of Justice in 2003, he joined France’s Permanent Representation in Brussels in 2007, with responsibility for negotiating the Council Decision on the strengthening of Eurojust. He served as President of the Court of First Instance of Dunkerque from 2010 to 2013 and joined the Ministry of Justice as diplomatic counsellor in 2012. Between 2014 and 2019, he was the national member of Eurojust.

- **Germany: Andrés RITTER.** Senior Public Prosecutor (*Leitender Oberstaatsanwalt*) and the head of the Rostock Public Prosecutor's office since 2013. He served as a legal expert for the European Commission in 1998/1999. He was one of three candidates for the position of Chief European Prosecutor.
- **Greece: Dimitrios ZIMIANITIS.** Career Prosecutor, currently serving as Deputy Prosecutor of the Greek Court of Appeal. He was previously a prosecutor of the Greek Court of First Instance and recently seconded to the independent supervisory committee of OLAF. His academic interest lies in the area of European criminal law.
- **Italy: Danilo CECCARELLI.** Public Prosecutor in Milan, specialized in tackling financial and economic crime, money laundering, asset recovery and confiscation, since 2018. A public prosecutor since 1996, he served as international prosecutor in Kosovo in 2013–2018.
- **Latvia: Gatis DONIKS.** Prosecutor at the Methodology Division of the Department of Analysis and Management of the Prosecutor General's Office. He served as senior advisor on Prosecution (Management) to the European Union Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) until 5 September 2019.
- **Lithuania: Tomas KRUSNA.** Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Criminal Prosecutions Department, Prosecutor General's Office. A prosecutor since 1998, he was named as national member at Eurojust in 2006. He served as legal adviser at OLAF between 2008 and 2011, when he went back to the Prosecutor General's Office. Also in 2011, he was appointed deputy national member for Eurojust.
- **Luxembourg: Gabriel SEIXAS.** Deputy Public Prosecutor and Deputy Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office of The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg since 2018, having served as deputy public prosecutor.
- **Malta: Yvonne FARRUGIA.** Police Inspector within Malta's Police Economic Crimes Unit.
- **The Netherlands: Danielle GOUDRIAAN.** Began her career as a Public Prosecutor in Amsterdam in 2003, specialising in serious fraud, environmental crime and asset confiscation. Since 2011, she has taught criminal investigations, corruption and legal privilege at the Dutch Training Center for the Judiciary (SSR). In 2017, she entered the OECD as a Member of a Management Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, and was named chair of the Meeting of the Law Enforcement Officials on Bribery in 2018.

- **Portugal: José Eduardo MOREIRA ALVES DE OLIVEIRA GUERRA.** A member of the Public Prosecution service since 1985, he was seconded to Eurojust as a national expert in 2007 and was appointed deputy national member in 2012.
- **Romania: Cătălin-Laurențiu BORCOMAN.** Former advisor to the general prosecutor and head of a local division of the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism (“DIICOT”) since 2012. He was an adviser to Laura Kövesi (now European Chief Prosecutor) when she was general prosecutor of Romania.
- **Slovakia: Juraj NOVOSKY.** Public Prosecutor of the Special Prosecutor’s Office since 2008, following a temporary assignment to that office in 2005. Prior to that, he was a prosecutor at the regional prosecutor’s offices in Námestovo, Dolný Kubín, and Žilina.
- **Slovenia: Jaka BREZIGAR.** A former district state prosecutor, he worked with the specialised prosecution service at the department prosecuting corporate crime and corruption.
- **Spain: María Concepción SABADELL CARNICERO.** A public prosecutor specialising in anti-corruption and organised crime since 2007, she led the prosecution in the “Gürtel” case, which led to the conviction of a number of politicians and business people in 2018.

The EU Council infographic of the College is available in Annex below.

Now that the EPs have been appointed, the College will need to adopt rules, policies and procedures in order for the EPPO to be able to commence active investigative work as planned, in November 2020.

* * *

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

LONDON



Karolos Seeger
kseeger@debevoise.com



Jane Shvets
jshvets@debevoise.com



Robin Lööf
rloof@debevoise.com



Martha Hirst
mhirst@debevoise.com



Alma M. Mozetič
amozetic@debevoise.com

PARIS



Antoine F. Kirry
akirry@debevoise.com



Alexandre Bisch
abisch@debevoise.com



Ariane Fleuriot
afleuriot@debevoise.com

FRANKFURT



Dr. Thomas Schürle
tschuerrle@debevoise.com



Dr. Oliver Krauß
okrauss@debevoise.com




Dr. Friedrich Popp
fpopp@debevoise.com

Annex: Infographic – College of the EPPO

College of the EPPO

CHIEF PROSECUTOR



Laura Codruța Kövesi

7 year term | Not renewable

Appointed by common accord of the Council and the European Parliament

PROSECUTORS















6 year term, can be extended maximum 3 years

Transitional rule applicable to 8 prosecutors: 3 year term*









One per EPPO participating member state

Not renewable | Appointed by the Council

appointed for 6 years

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  Yves Van Den Berge |  Teodora Georgieva |  Petr Klement |  Andrés Ritter |
|  Kristel Siitam-Nyiri |  Harri Tiesmaa |  Frédéric Baab |  Tamara Laptos |
|  Gabriel Sekas |  Gatis Doniks |  Yvonne Farruglia |  Cătălin Laurențiu Borcoman |
|  Juraļ Novocky |  Jaka Brezigar | | |

appointed for 3 years*

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  Ingrid Maschl-Clausen |  Katerina Loizou |  María Concepción Sabadell Camicero |  Dimitrios Zimianitis |
|  Danilo Ceccarelli |  Tomas Krutina |  Danielle Goudriaan |  José Eduardo Moreira Alves d'Oliveira Guerra |

* In accordance with transitional rules which apply for and during the first mandate period, the European Prosecutors of a group comprising one third of the number of participating member states determined by drawing lots will be appointed for 3 years.