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PRIVILEGES
AND IMMUNITIES



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Protocol

drawn up, on the basis of Article K.3
of the Treaty of European Union
and Article 41(3) of the Europol Convention,

on the Privileges and Immunities of Europol, the members of its organs, the Deputy Directors and employees of Europol

Brussels, 19 June 1997

[The United Kingdom instrument of adoption was
deposited on _____ and the Protocol entered into force
for the United Kingdom on 1 July 1999]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
June 2000*

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PROTOCOL
DRAWN UP, ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE K.3 OF THE TREATY ON
EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 41(3) OF THE EUROPOL CONVENTION,
ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF EUROPOL,
THE MEMBERS OF ITS ORGANS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTORS
AND EMPLOYEES OF EUROPOL

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES to the present Protocol, Member States of the European Union,

REFERRING to the Council Act of 19/6/97

CONSIDERING that pursuant to Article 41(1) of the Convention based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention)¹, Europol, the members of its organs, the Deputy Directors and employees of Europol shall enjoy the privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their tasks in accordance with a Protocol setting out the rules to be applied in all Member States,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol:

- (a) "Convention" means the Convention based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention);
- (b) "Europol" means the European Police Office;
- (c) "Organs of Europol" means the Management Board as referred to in Article 28 of the Convention, the Financial Controller as referred to in Article 35(7) of the Convention, and the Financial Committee as referred to in Article 35(8) of the Convention;
- (d) "Board" means the Management Board as referred to in Article 28 of the Convention;
- (e) "Director" means the Director of Europol as referred to in Article 29 of the Convention;
- (f) "Staff" means the Director, Deputy Directors and the employees of Europol as referred to in Article 30 of the Convention with the exception of the local staff as referred to in Article 3 of the Staff Regulations;
- (g) "Archives of Europol" means all records, correspondence, documents, manuscripts, computer and media data, photographs, films, video and sound recordings belonging to or held by Europol or any of its staff members, and any other similar material which in the unanimous opinion of the Board and Director forms part of the Archives of Europol.

¹ European Communities No. 13 (1995) Cm 3050

ARTICLE 2

Immunity from legal process and immunity from search, seizure, requisition, confiscation and any other form of interference

1. Europol shall have immunity from legal process for the liability referred to in Article 38(1) of the Convention in respect of unauthorized or incorrect data processing.
2. The property, funds and assets of Europol, wherever located on the territories of the Member States and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, seizure, requisition, confiscation and any other form of interference.

ARTICLE 3

Inviolability of archives

The archives of Europol wherever located on the territories of the Member States and by whomsoever held shall be inviolable.

ARTICLE 4

Exemption from taxes and duties

1. Within the scope of its official activities, Europol, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt from all direct taxes.
2. Europol shall be exempt from indirect taxes and duties included in the price of movable and immovable property and services, acquired for its official use and involving considerable expenditure. The exemption may be granted by way of a refund.
3. Goods purchased under this Article with exemption from Value Added Tax or excise duties shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of, except in accordance with the conditions agreed upon with the Member State that has granted the exemption.
4. No exemption will be granted from taxes and duties which represent charges for specific services rendered.

ARTICLE 5

Freedom of financial assets from restrictions

Without being subject to any financial controls, regulations, notification requirements in respect of financial transactions, or moratoria of any kind, Europol may freely:

- (a) purchase any currencies through authorized channels and hold and dispose of them;
- (b) operate accounts in any currency.

ARTICLE 6

Facilities and immunities in respect of communication

1. Member States shall permit Europol to communicate freely and without a need for special permission, for all official purposes, and shall protect the right of Europol to do so. Europol shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive official correspondence and other official communications by courier or in sealed bags which shall be subject to the same privileges and immunities as diplomatic couriers and bags.

2. Europol shall, as far as may be compatible with the International Telecommunications Convention of 6 November 1982¹, for its official communications enjoy treatment not less favourable than that accorded by Member States to any international organization or government, including diplomatic missions of such government, in the matter of priorities for communications by mail, cable, telegraph, telex, radio, television, telephone, fax, satellite, or other means.

ARTICLE 7

Entry, stay and departure

Member States shall facilitate, if necessary, the entry, stay and departure of the persons listed in Article 8 for purposes of official business. This shall not prevent the requirement of reasonable evidence to establish that persons claiming the treatment provided for under this Article come within the classes described in Article 8.

ARTICLE 8

Privileges and immunities of members of the organs of Europol and staff members of Europol

1. Members of the organs of Europol and staff members of Europol shall enjoy the following immunities:

- (a) Without prejudice to Article 32 and, so far as applicable, Article 40(3) of the Convention, immunity from the legal process of any kind in respect of words spoken or written, and of acts performed by them, in the exercise of their official functions, such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned may have ceased to be members of an organ of Europol or staff members of Europol;
- (b) inviolability of all their official papers and documents and other official materials.

2. Staff members of Europol, whose salaries and emoluments are subject to a tax for the benefit of Europol as mentioned in Article 10, shall enjoy exemption from income tax with respect to salaries and emoluments paid by Europol. However, such salaries and emoluments may be taken into account when assessing the amount of tax payable on income from other sources. This paragraph does not apply to pensions and annuities paid to former staff members of Europol and their dependants.

3. The provisions of Article 14 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Communities shall apply to the staff members of Europol.

ARTICLE 9

Exemptions to immunities

The immunity granted to persons mentioned in Article 8 shall not extend to civil action by a third party for damages, including personal injury or death, arising from a traffic accident caused by any such person.

ARTICLE 10

Taxes

1. Subject to the conditions and following the procedures laid down by Europol and agreed by the Board, the staff members of Europol engaged for a minimum period of one year shall be subject to a tax for the benefit of Europol on salaries and emoluments paid by Europol.

¹ Treaty Series No. 33 (1985) Cmnd. 9557

2. Each year, Member States shall be notified of the names and addresses of the staff members of Europol mentioned in this Article as well as of any other personnel contracted to work at Europol. Europol shall deliver to each of them a yearly certificate bearing the total gross and net amount of remuneration of any kind paid by Europol for the year in question, including the details and nature of payments and the amounts of withholdings at source.

3. This Article does not apply to pensions and annuities paid to former staff members of Europol and their dependants.

ARTICLE 11

Protection of personnel

Member States shall, if so requested by the Director, take all reasonable steps in accordance with their national laws to ensure the necessary safety and protection of the persons mentioned in this Protocol whose security is endangered due to their services to Europol.

ARTICLE 12

Waiver of immunities

1. The privileges and immunities granted under the provisions of this Protocol are conferred in the interests of Europol and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. It is the duty of Europol and all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to observe in all other respects the laws and regulations of Member States.

2. The Director shall be required to waive the immunity of Europol and any staff member of Europol, in cases where the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of Europol. In respect of the Director, the Financial Controller and the members of the Financial Committee, the Board has a similar obligation. In respect of members of the Board, the waiving of the immunities shall be within the competence of the respective Member States.

3. When the immunity of Europol as mentioned in Article 2(2) has been waived, searches and seizures ordered by the judicial authorities of the Member States shall be effected in the presence of the Director or a person delegated by him, in compliance with the rules of confidentiality laid down in or by virtue of the Convention.

4. Europol shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Member States to facilitate the proper administration of justice and shall prevent any abuse of the privileges and immunities granted under the provisions of this Protocol.

5. Should a competent authority or judicial body of a Member State consider that an abuse of a privilege or immunity conferred by this Protocol has occurred, the body responsible for waiving immunity pursuant to paragraph 2 shall, upon request, consult with the appropriate authorities to determine whether any such abuse has occurred. If such consultations fail to achieve a result satisfactory for both sides, the matter shall be settled in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 13.

ARTICLE 13

Settlement of disputes

1. Disputes on a refusal to waive an immunity of Europol or of a person who, by reason of his official position, enjoys immunity as mentioned in Article 8(1), shall be discussed by the Council in accordance with the procedure set out in Title VI of the Treaty on European Union with the aim of finding a settlement.

2. When such disputes are not settled, the Council shall unanimously decide on the modalities according to which they shall be settled.

ARTICLE 14

Reservations

Reservations shall not be permissible in respect of this Protocol.

ARTICLE 15

Entry into force

1. This Protocol shall be subject to adoption by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.
2. Member States shall notify the depository of the completion of their respective constitutional requirements for adopting this Protocol.
3. This Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the notification, referred to in paragraph 2, by the Member State which, being a member of the European Union on the date of adoption by the Council of the Act drawing up this Protocol, is the last to fulfill that formality.

ARTICLE 16

Accession

1. This Protocol shall be open to accession by any State that becomes a member of the European Union.
2. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the depository.
3. The text of this Protocol in the language of the acceding State, drawn up by the Council of the European Union, shall be authentic.
4. This Protocol shall enter into force with respect to any State that accedes to it, ninety days after the date of deposit of its instrument of accession, or on the date of the entry into force of this Protocol if the latter has not yet come into force when the said period of ninety days expires.

ARTICLE 17

Evaluation

1. Within two years after the entry into force of this Protocol, it will be evaluated under the supervision of the Management Board.
2. Immunity pursuant to Article 8(1)(a) shall be granted only in respect of official acts which require to be undertaken in fulfilment of the tasks set out in Article 3 of the Convention in the version signed on 26 July 1995¹. Prior to each amendment or extension of the tasks in Article 3 of the Convention there shall be a review in accordance with the first paragraph, in particular with regard to Articles 8(1)(a) and 13.

¹ European Communities No. 13 (1995) Cm 3050

ARTICLE 18

Amendments

1. Amendments to this Protocol may be proposed by any Member State, being a High Contracting Party. Any proposal for an amendment shall be sent to the depository, who shall forward it to the Council.
2. Amendments shall be established unanimously by the Council, which shall recommend that they be adopted by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.
3. Amendments thus established shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.
4. The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union shall notify all Member States of the date of entry into force of the amendments.

ARTICLE 19

Depository

1. The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union shall act as depository of this Protocol.
2. The depository shall publish in the Official Journal of the European Communities the notifications, instruments or communications concerning this Protocol.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Protocol.

Done at Brussels, this nineteenth day of June in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, in a single original, in the Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish languages, each text being equally authentic, such original remaining deposited in the archives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

[Here follow the Signatures]

SIGNATURES, RATIFICATIONS ETC., EFFECTIVE DATES AND DECLARATIONS

<i>State</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Austria	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	01 Sep 1998	01 Jul 1999
Belgium	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	12 Jun 1998	01 Jul 1999
Denmark	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	17 Nov 1997	01 Jul 1999
Finland	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	30 Dec 1997	01 Jul 1999
France	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	31 May 1999	01 Jul 1999
Germany	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	02 Oct 1998	01 Jul 1999
Greece	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	30 Sep 1998	01 Jul 1999
Ireland, Republic of	Signature	19 Sep 1997	
	Ratification	11 Mar 1998	01 Jul 1999
Italy	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	31 May 1999	01 Jul 1999
Luxembourg	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	29 Jan 1999	01 Jul 1999
Netherlands, The	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	03 Jul 1998	01 Jul 1999
Portugal	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
	Ratification	05 Mar 1999	01 Jul 1999
Spain	Signature	19 Jun 1997	
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