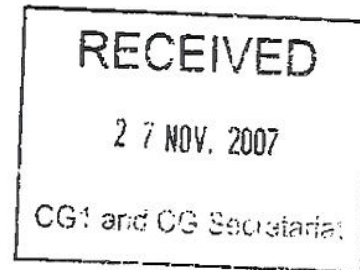




P.P. CH-3003 Bern, GS-FDJP

Europol  
Mr Max-Peter Ratzel, Director  
Raamweg 47  
Postbox 90850  
NL-2509 The Hague



Bern, 22 NOV. 2007

Dear Mr Ratzel,

On 24 September 2004, Switzerland and Europol signed an Agreement on cooperation in the prosecution of crime in eight areas. Article 3(3) of this Agreement provides that if there is a change in Europol's mandate, Europol may submit to Switzerland a written proposal for extending the scope of application of the Agreement.

When the Agreement was signed, Switzerland and Europol also concluded a declaration of intent, providing for the extension of cooperation by the exchange of letters.

This is to acknowledge receipt of your note dated 7 March 2006; it reads as follows:

Europol's mandate has been extended on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 to all serious forms of international crime listed in the Annex to the Europol Convention.... Should the extension of the scope of our cooperation to the new areas included in our mandate on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 meet with Switzerland's approval, I have the honour to propose to you, pursuant to Article 3(3) of the Agreement, that the Agreement shall apply in relation to the new mandate as of the date on which Europol receives Switzerland's written acceptance.

I am honoured to inform you that based on Article 3(3) of the Agreement signed on 24 September 2004, Switzerland has agreed to include into the scope of the Agreement the areas of crime mentioned.

They are—

- murder, grievous bodily injury;
- illicit trade in human organs, tissue, and cells;
- kidnapping, illegal restraint, and hostage-taking;
- racism and xenophobia;

- organized theft and robbery;
- illicit trafficking in cultural goods;
- fraud;
- extortion;
- counterfeiting and product piracy;
- forgery of administrative documents and trafficking therein;
- computer crime;
- corruption;
- illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition, and explosives;
- illicit trafficking in protected or endangered animal species;
- illicit trafficking in endangered plant species and varieties;
- environmental crime;
- illicit trafficking in hormonal substances and growth promoters.

Notwithstanding Article 3(3) of the Agreement of 24 September 2004, Switzerland proposes that the Agreement, extended by the new scope of application, take effect on 1 January 2008.

Referring to the protocol of the Council of the European Union of 30 November 2000, you suggested, on 3 April 2007, to include money-laundering activities into the scope of the Agreement. Switzerland, however, would prefer to continue cooperation in the prosecution of money-laundering activities as provided by Article 3(1) of the Agreement of 24 September 2004.

Accordingly, under this Agreement, cooperation in the prosecution of money-laundering activities will be granted if there is a link between such activities and the forms of crime, or specific forms thereof, that are covered by the scope of the Agreement. Also comprised in the scope of the Agreement are the newly added areas of crime according to the mandate of 1 January 2002. Cooperation is, however, limited to the prosecution of offences that qualify as crime under Swiss law.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.



Christoph Blocher  
Federal Councillor