

Romania joined the EUROPOL

The entering into full force and effect of the EUROPOL Convention on 01.08.2007, once the Decision passed by the European Union Council on Romania and Bulgaria's joining the EUROPOL was adopted and published in the Official Journal of the EU.

According to Article No.3, paragraph (3) of the Act on the requirements that Bulgaria and Romania have to meet so as to join the EUROPOL, and on the adjustments of the treaties which the European Union is based on, that is included in the Accession Treaty, ratified by Law Nr.157/2005, therein called Accession Act, Romania officially joined, on August the 1st, 2007, the conventions and protocols specified at Annex 1, and, therefore, Romania took all the actions necessary to ensure the implementation of the conventions and protocols in which it is involved, that is the Convention on the setting up of the European Police Office and the associated Protocols.

Considering these aspects, as well as the necessity to ensure the publicity of the texts of the Conventions from Annex 1, it was decided, by the Foreign minister's order, the publication of the interpretation of the Article No. 3, paragraph (3) from the Accession Act, the Romanian version of the Conventions having been published in the Official Journal of the European Union, the special Romanian edition.

Question 4 from the Annex 1 of the Accession Act specifies the following documents:

- Convention regarding the setting up of the European Police Office, concluded on 26 July 1996 based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on the European Union, therein called Convention;
- Protocol on the benefits and immunities given to Europol, the members of its organisms, the Europol deputy directors and employees, concluded on 19 June 1997, based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on the European Union, and on Article 41 paragraph (3) of the Convention;
- Protocol on amending Art.2 and the Annex to the Convention on the setting up of the European Police Office (Europol Convention), concluded on 30 November 2000 based on Article 43 (1) of the Convention;
- Protocol on amending the Convention regarding the setting up of the European Police Office (European Convention) and the Protocol on the benefits and immunities given to Europol, the members of its organisms, the Europol deputy directors and employees, concluded on 28 November 2002;
- Protocol on amending the Convention on the setting up of the European Police Office, concluded on 27 November 2003 based on Article 43 paragraph (1) of the Convention;

According to the provisions of the Convention on the setting up of the European Police Office, concluded on 26 July 1995, based on the provisions of the Article K.3 of the Treaty regarding the European Union, the Europol Convention should have entered into force, three months from the Accession.

The Europol Convention for Romania and Bulgaria entered into force on 01.08.2007, once the Decision of the European Union Council was adopted and published in the Official Journal of the EU, according to Article No.3 paragraph (3) from the Accession Act which is part of the Accession Treaty.

For Romania the publication of this Decision of the European Union Council represents the natural follow-up of the responsibilities that it assumed by signing on 25 November 2003 the **Agreement on the Cooperation between Romania and European Police Office** – Europol, legal instrument which regulates the cooperation with Europol.