

IPOL-COM-CONT D(2019)7928
Mr Claude Moraes
Chair
Committee on Civil Liberties,
Justice and Home Affairs
ASP 13G205
European Parliament

Subject: Appointment of the European Chief Prosecutor - Outcome of the CONT evaluation after the hearing of the candidates

Dear colleague,

I am writing to inform you about the outcome of the hearing of the three candidates for the position European Chief Prosecutor, selected pursuant to Article 14 of the EPPO Regulation¹, which took place on Tuesday, 26 February 2019 in the afternoon.

In preparation of the hearing, the candidates replied to three questions in writing. Each hearing commenced with a short introduction. The respective presentation was followed by a question & answer session. All political groups represented in the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) and in the Committee for Civil Liberties Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) had the possibility to put questions to the candidates. The hearing of each candidate lasted 75 minutes.

The Members of CONT evaluated the three candidates immediately after the hearing.

Following the evaluation, our committee established an internal ranking of the candidates by secret ballot.

The outcome of the votes in CONT was the following:

Result of the secret ballot	
Laura Codruta KÖVESI	12 votes
Jean-François BOHNERT	11 votes
Andrés RITTER	1 vote

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'), Oj L 283/2017, 31 October 2017

LIBE will complete its evaluation shortly. I would be grateful, if you could, subsequently, inform President TAJANI about the outcome of the hearings, as he requested in his letter of 21 February 2019. The votes prepare Parliament's negotiating position, as "The European Parliament and the Council shall appoint by common accord the European Chief Prosecutor for a non-renewable term of 7 years"².

The Council has heard the three candidates already. In case the positions of the Parliament and the Council do not coincide, a High Level Group, in which CONT should be represented, composed of the representatives of the two institutions, will have to endeavour to agree on a mutual candidate.

With kind regards,



Inge Gräßle

Cc : Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament
Cecilia Wikström, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs
IPOL-E-COORD-LEG

² Article 14 of the EPPO Regulation.