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Ms E O'Reilly  
European Ombudsman  
1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman  
CS 30403  
F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex  
France

29 November 2013  
Ref: 13/588/FB/cb

Dear Ms O'Reilly *Dear Madam,*

On behalf of CEPOL, the EU agency responsible for the training of law enforcement officers across Europe, I would like to convey my sincerest regards to you and your colleagues at the office of the European Ombudsman.

I write in response to the letter from your predecessor of 27 September 2013, regarding the decision of the European Ombudsman closing the Ombudsman's visit to the European Police College (CEPOL) – OI/10/2011/IJH.

I wish to respond to two points regarding the most recent observations.

Firstly, regarding the availability of information on our website in languages other than English, CEPOL agrees with the need to provide information to citizens in languages other than English. The banner that you reference was removed from CEPOL's website when some improvements were made to the home page. It took longer than anticipated to reinstate the banner as we wanted to re-consider how to present language versions. The original content of the banner was outdated and, since your last visit, the agency has made a concerted effort to produce more materials in different languages. Indeed, since the Ombudsman's visit, we have provided a booklet on our strategy and an information leaflet in all official languages. We have also produced the 2011 Annual Report in French and



German and an information poster in five languages. We will provide a summary of the Annual Report 2012 in all languages and provide the poster in all remaining languages. We also intend to translation additional key pages of our website into all official languages. We have chosen to group together all language materials and there is now a box on the left-hand side of the homepage that displays language options. When a person selects a language, they are taken to a separate page with links to all materials that we provide in that language.

Secondly, regarding the appointment of a legal advisor, CEPOL agrees with the Ombudsman that an in-house legal adviser could provide advice more rapidly than external legal services. From October 2011 to December 2012, CEPOL benefited from a Seconded National Expert (SNE) in the post of legal advisor. At the end of this period, the growing demand for CEPOL training forced us to reallocate the SNE post to the operations department to better support the delivery of our core business. Given the current budgetary climate, CEPOL is committed to delivering its work programme within existing resources and so will not see additional posts for non-core business at the present time. However, CEPOL does still participate in the inter-agency legal network and will continue to do so.

I thank you once more for your interest in CEPOL and I look forward to a continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely

  
Dr Ferenc Bánfi  
Director