

ACTIVITY OF THE LEGAL SERVICE



According to its role and mission within the organisational structure of the EPPO, the Legal Service unit has continued during 2024 to provide legal advice to the College, the European Chief Prosecutor, the European Prosecutors and the Administrative Director on the interpretation of the legal framework under Union law regulating the activities of the EPPO.

During 2024, the Legal Service contributed to the drafting of new rules and guidelines adopted by the College, on operational, governance and administrative matters. Moreover, the Legal Service provided advice to the College, both orally and in writing, in the form of opinions.

The Legal Service has also continued to provide relevant expertise for the negotiation and conclusion of working arrangements and agreements with authorities from third countries, Member States and IBOAs.

The Legal Service gave specific legal advice on operational matters to members of the central and decentralised levels of the EPPO, including, but not limited to, on the application of the EPPO's legal framework in specific investigations, on judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EPPO and authorities from third countries and non-participating Member States, as well as on the application of Article 31 of the EPPO Regulation.

In 2024, members of the Legal Service acted as agents on behalf of the EPPO in Cases C-292/23¹⁰³, C-328/24 P¹⁰⁴ and C-352/24 P¹⁰⁵, before the Court of Justice of the European Union, and in Cases T-676/22¹⁰⁶, T-509/24¹⁰⁷ and T-509/24 R, before the General Court of the EU. In all these cases, the respective members of the Legal Service elaborated and submitted procedural documents in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure (e.g. written observations, defence submissions, pleas of inadmissibility), and took all necessary measures to defend the EPPO's interests. Moreover, members of the Legal Service pleaded before the Court of Justice and the General Court, respectively, in the oral hearings held in Cases C-292/23 and T-676/22.

In 2024, the Legal Service further advanced and administered several tools and databases on the EPPO's intranet, aimed at supporting the activities of the central and decentralised levels of the EPPO. These include the 'Library' and the 'Case Law Monitoring' database - in cooperation with the Operations unit and a hub with practical guidance on judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EPPO, and authorities from third countries and non-participating Member States.

The Legal Service delivered presentations on key matters related to the functioning and legal framework of the EPPO, targeted to European Delegated Prosecutors, EPPO staff, and as well to outside stakeholders including members of academia, national authorities, IBOAs, trainees etc.