Working Arrangement on the cooperation

between

the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('EPPO')

and

the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates

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The European Public Prosecutor's Office ('EPPO'), hereinafter referred to as "the EPPO", and the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates, hereinafter referred to as "the MoJ", hereinafter collectively to as "the Participants" or individually as "the Participant",

Having regard to the provisions of the Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'), hereinafter referred to as "the EPPO Regulation", and in particular the Articles 99 and 104 thereof,

Considering the will of the Parties to establish a close cooperation with a view of protecting by investigative and prosecutorial means the financial interests of the European Union or of the United Arab Emirates respectively, and to fight corruption, organised crime and other forms of serious crimes,

Considering the desire of the Parties to provide close cooperation with each other in investigations and prosecutions,

Taking into account that the EPPO is an independent body of the European Union (EU) that investigates and prosecutes cases in the participating Member States,

Acknowledging that the European Delegated Prosecutors of the EPPO are at the same time active members of the public prosecution service of their respective Member States and have the same powers with the national prosecutors in their respective Member States.

Considering, therefore, that, within its mandate, the EPPO may cooperate in criminal matters with the competent authorities from the United Arab Emirates either on the basis of the international agreements to which the European Union and/or its participating Member States are parties, or, on the basis of reciprocity, in accordance with the law of the United Arab Emirates,

Acknowledging that, in accordance with Article 99(3) of the EPPO Regulation, the working arrangements concluded by the EPPO may not form the legal basis for allowing the exchange of personal data, nor have legally binding effects on the European Union or its Member States,

Considering the competence of the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates acting as a central authority for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the competence of the EPPO to investigate, prosecute and bring to judgment perpetrators of crimes against the financial interests of the European Union,

Aiming to facilitate cooperation in criminal matters and, especially, exchange of evidence and information between them to ensure effective investigation and prosecution, in accordance with the relevant international agreements and in respect of the general principles of international law,

HAVE CONCLUDED THE FOLLOWING WORKING ARRANGEMENT:

Section I

General provisions

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this Working Arrangement is to facilitate cooperation between the Participants in investigations and prosecutions relating to criminal offences within their respective competences, in accordance with their respective legal frameworks, including applicable bilateral and multilateral instruments, as appropriate, and the provisions of this Working Arrangement.

With respect to the exchange of evidence and extradition, the participants apply the provisions of the applicable legal framework for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition, including with regard to the channel of communication.

This cooperation may also include inviting each other to awareness-raising workshops and training activities, knowledge building events, and exchange of experts with a view of improving mutual understanding and familiarisation with cooperation requirements in relation to serious and organised crime and exchange of best practices in fighting against serious forms of crime.

Article 2

Scope

The Participants will cooperate in all areas referred to in this Working Arrangement within the scope of their respective legal frameworks and mandates.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Working Arrangement:

a) 'European Prosecutor' means the EPPO post-holder referred to in Articles 16 and 96(1) of the EPPO Regulation;
b) 'European Delegated Prosecutor' means the EPPO post-holder of the EPPO referred to in Articles 17 and 96(6) of the EPPO Regulation;
c) 'EPPO staff' means the staff and other persons referred to in Articles 2(4) and Article 98 of the EPPO Regulation;
d) 'Personal data' means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person; and
e) 'Information' means personal and non-personal data.

Article 4
Operational cooperation in criminal matters

1. The Participants will provide each other with the broadest extent of mutual assistance in criminal matters for gathering evidence or operational information, and for freezing of assets, in accordance with their applicable legal frameworks.
2. The MoJ, in its capacity as central authority, facilitates the cooperation between the competent judicial authorities of the United Arab Emirates and the EPPO, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks, in gathering evidence or operational information, particularly for identification, tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets, needed by the EPPO for an investigation or prosecution conducted within its competence.

   Such cooperation may be provided on the basis of an international agreement to which both the United Arab Emirates and the Member State of the European Delegated Prosecutor handling the case are parties, in particular bilateral treaties, multilateral agreements, such as the United Nations conventions, to which both the United Arab Emirates and the European Union, as well as the EPPO participating Member States are parties, or on the basis of reciprocity.
3. The EPPO executes requests for legal assistance transmitted by the MoJ, for evidence and information in the EPPO's possession, in accordance with the EPPO Regulation and the applicable international agreements.
4. The Participants acknowledge that where it is necessary for the EPPO to request the extradition of a person sought, the handling European Delegated Prosecutor may request the competent authority of his/her Member State to issue an extradition request in accordance with the applicable international agreements to which the respective Member State and the United Arab Emirates are parties or on the basis of reciprocity.

Article 5

Other ways of cooperation

The Participants may:

(a) organise high-level meetings, as well as technical meetings at both operational and administrative levels;
(b) exchange any strategic and other non-operational information in areas within their competence. This information shall not contain personal data;
(c) cooperate in carrying out training sessions on matters of common interest;
(d) invite each other to seminars, workshops, conferences, and other similar activities that are mutually relevant;
(e) provide logistical, technical, or other support, expertise or other cooperation, to each other in such manner as they may decide between them; and
(f) participate in such additional cooperation or activities as may be decided between them.

Article 6

Transmission of personal data

Transfer of personal data between the Participants shall not take place under this Working Arrangement, and shall be subject to their respective legal frameworks, including relevant international agreements where applicable.

Section II

Article 7

Institutional matters and channels of communication

1. Without prejudice to the provisions on channel of communication for mutual legal assistance and extradition provided by the applicable legal framework, and particularly transmission via central authorities, the Participants will designate, by means of separate exchange of letters, contact points, at operational and institutional levels, for the purpose of this Working Arrangement.
2. The Participants may communicate by any means whereby a written record can be produced, including through secured means of electronic communication.
3. Communications between the Participants are conducted in English.

Section III

Final provisions

Article 8

Consultations

The Participants consult each other regarding any matters that may lead to different interpretations of this Working Arrangement.

Article 9

Expenses

Unless otherwise stipulated in this Working Arrangement, the Participants shall bear their own expenses that arise in the course of implementation of this Working Arrangement.

Article 10

Amendments

This Working Arrangement may be amended in writing at any time by mutual consent between the Participants.

Article 11

Termination of the Working Arrangement

1. This Working Arrangement may be terminated in writing by either Participant with three months' notice.
2. In case of termination, the Participants shall reach agreement on the continued use and storage of the information that has already been communicated between them.
3. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, the legal effects of this Working Arrangement shall remain in force.

Article 12

Effects

This Working Arrangement does not have any legally binding effect on the Participants and does not create any international legal obligation for either the United Arab Emirates or the European Union and its Member States, nor does it affect the rights and obligations arising from international treaties to which the United Arab Emirates and/or the European Union or its Member States are party.

Article 13

Entry into force

This Working Arrangement shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

Done at Luxembourg on 29 October 2026 in two originals in English and Arabic languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the European Public Prosecutor's Office,

Andrés RITTER

Deputy European Chief Prosecutor

For the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates,

Judge Abdulrahman Murad AL BLOOSHI

Assistant Undersecretary of the International Cooperation and Legal Affairs