



**ACTIVITY
OF THE
LEGAL SERVICE**

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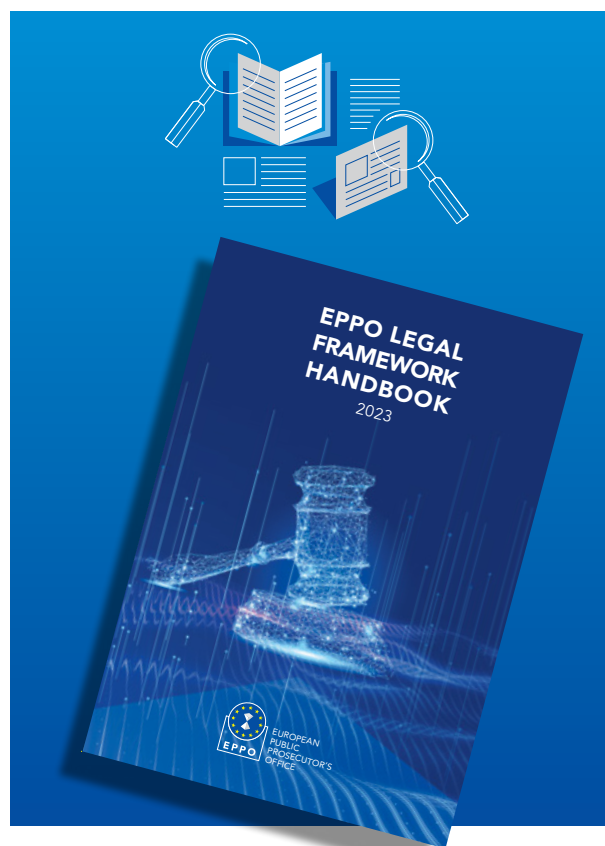
The Legal Service has a horizontal role within the organisational structure of the EPPO, providing legal advice to the College, the European Chief Prosecutor, the European Prosecutors and the Administrative Director on the interpretation of the legal framework under Union law regulating the activities of the EPPO.

During 2023, the Legal Service continued to support the College in the adoption of rules and guidelines, and on operational, governance and administrative matters. This support took the form of legal advice on key aspects related to the EPPO's operation and functioning. This advice has been rendered both orally or in writing, in the form of opinions.

The Legal Service has also provided **relevant expertise for the negotiation and conclusion of working arrangements with authorities from non-EU countries, Member States and IBOAs.**

Upon request, 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 non-EU countries and non-participating Member States, as well as on the application of Article 31 of the EPPO Regulation.

In 2023, members of the Legal Service acted as agents on behalf of the EPPO in Cases C-281/22⁸⁵ and C-292/2023⁸⁶, before the Court of Justice of the EU, and in Cases T-442/22⁸⁷, T-676/22⁸⁸, T-46/23⁸⁹, T-103/23⁹⁰, T-385/23⁹¹, before the General Court of the EU. In each of 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-281/22⁹² and T-442/22.



In 2023, the Legal Service continued to develop and administer 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 a hub with practical guidance on judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EPPO and authorities from non-EU countries and non-participating Member States, the EPPO's online '**Library**' and the '**Case Law Monitoring**' database – the latter two in cooperation with the Operations and College Support unit. It also edited the following publications: '**Monthly CJEU Monitor**', '**EPPO Legal Framework Handbook 2023**' and the '**Case Law Digest**' (in cooperation with the Operations and College Support unit).

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