<u>Press release - Laura Kövesi confirmed</u> <u>as European Chief Prosecutor</u>



The decision by the <u>Conference of Presidents</u> (EP President David Sassoli and political group leaders) follows <u>an agreement in September between Parliament and Council negotiators</u> on the new European Chief Prosecutor. Parliament's negotiating team backed Ms Kövesi throughout the negotiations.

Following her confirmation today, Ms Kövesi will start her seven-year mandate. The Council endorsed the deal earlier this week.

Background

The EPPO, which is expected to be operational at the end of 2020, will be an independent office in charge of investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice crimes against the EU budget, such as fraud, corruption or crossborder VAT fraud above 10 million euros. The list of crimes could be extended in the future to include, for example, terrorism.

So far, 22 member states have joined the EPPO. The five countries that currently do not participate — Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Ireland and Denmark — could join at any time.

The EPPO central office will be based in Luxembourg, along with the Chief Prosecutor and a College of Prosecutors from all participating countries. They will head the day-to-day criminal investigations carried out by the delegated prosecutors in all participating member states.