



2026/828

15.4.2026

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/828

of 30 March 2026

on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Ecuador, of the other part, on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Ecuadorian authorities competent for combating serious crime and terrorism

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 16(2) and Article 88, in conjunction with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), and Article 218(7) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾ provides that it is possible for the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) to transfer personal data to an authority of a third country on the basis of, inter alia, an international agreement concluded between the Union and that third country pursuant to Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), adducing adequate safeguards with respect to the protection of privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.
- (2) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2025/1541 ⁽³⁾, the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Ecuador, of the other part, on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Ecuadorian authorities competent for combating serious crime and terrorism (the 'Agreement') was signed on 30 March 2026, subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (3) The Agreement establishes cooperative relations between Europol and the competent authorities of Ecuador, and allows for the transfer of personal and non-personal data between them, with a view to combating serious crime and terrorism and protecting the security of the Union and its citizens.
- (4) The Agreement ensures full respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the 'Charter'), including the right to respect for private and family life, recognised in Article 7 of the Charter, the right to the protection of personal data, recognised in Article 8 of the Charter, and the right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, recognised in Article 47 of the Charter. The Agreement includes adequate safeguards for the protection of personal data transferred by Europol under the Agreement.
- (5) The Agreement does not affect, and is without prejudice to, the transfer of personal data or other forms of cooperation between the authorities responsible for safeguarding national security.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 218(7) TFEU, it is appropriate for the Council to authorise the Commission to approve, on the Union's behalf, amendments to Annexes II, III and IV to the Agreement.
- (7) Ireland is bound by Regulation (EU) 2016/794 and is therefore taking part in the adoption of this Decision.

⁽¹⁾ Consent of 11 March 2026 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA (OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/794/oj>).

⁽³⁾ Council Decision (EU) 2025/1541 of 18 July 2025 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Ecuador, of the other part, on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Ecuadorian authorities competent for combating serious crime and terrorism (OJ L, 2025/1541, 25.7.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/1541/oj>).

- (8) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (9) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾ and delivered an opinion on 17 July 2025.
- (10) The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the Union,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Ecuador, of the other part, on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Ecuadorian authorities competent for combating serious crime and terrorism is hereby approved on behalf of the Union ⁽⁵⁾.

Article 2

For the purposes of Article 31(2) of the Agreement, the position to be taken on behalf of the Union on amendments to Annexes II, III and IV to the Agreement shall be approved by the Commission after consultation with the Council.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption ⁽⁶⁾.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 2026.

For the Council

The President

M. PANAYIOTOU

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj>).

⁽⁵⁾ The text of the Agreement is published in OJ L, 2026/827, 15.4.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2026/827/oj.

⁽⁶⁾ The date of entry into force of the Agreement will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.