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Establishing a European Public Prosecutor's Office (the EPPO): An example of effective Judicial cooperation overcoming organizational barriers between different legal systems

Synopsis:

The creation of the EPPO will play without any doubts a major role in the ongoing process of the creation of a European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice because of the dynamics that this new body is expected to activate. Indeed, the establishment of the first single investigating office across EU MS – independent and accountable – that is obliged to initiate a criminal investigation if sufficient grounds are given is a real good practice in the field of Judicial cooperation. The recurrent link between corruption, money laundering, and serious VAT carousels concerning the European budget as well as other serious crimes having a cross-border dimension, e.g., organized crime, trafficking offences, and even terrorism, could lead to a progressive awareness of the need to extend the EPPO's mandate in the future. The creation of the EPPO has the potential to set an example of how the organizational barriers to effective cooperation can be overcome and how the reform or harmonization of judicial systems is necessary in order to improve the cooperation.