Dear European Chief Prosecutor, dear European Prosecutors,

Further to your letter of 26 January 2021, we would like to first express our gratitude for your relentless commitment to the swift and efficient launch of the EPPO’s operational activities.

We are fully aware of the specificity of the EPPO, the Public Prosecution Service of the European Union as you rightly called it, and we are determined to providing it with the necessary support to let it achieve its crucial mission. For this reason, we have endorsed the EPPO’s request for a higher 2021 budget and granted eight additional posts in the establishment plan.

With regard to your request for 42 more staff under budget 2021, however, we would first encourage the EPPO to fill the existing vacancies and allocate them in the most effective way. The key priority is to ensure the Office can start its investigations and prosecutions as soon as possible. It is imperative to have further clarity on the number of cases the EPPO will be dealing with before taking any further decision to increase its human resources.

The Commission stands ready to re-assess the budget and staff allocated to the EPPO once the Office will become operational and more information will be available on its actual workload. We invite the EPPO to inform the Commission of the evolution of recruitments as well as the evolution of actual workload once the EPPO becomes operational.

We thank you for your understanding and wish you the best of success for the forthcoming start of your activities, which we trust will give a major and invaluable contribution to the protection of our common budget.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)  
Johannes HAHN  

(e-signed)  
Didier REYNDERS

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