NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF OLIVIER RAMSAYER

Subject: Re: EC DIGIT Directorate’s Services to the EPPO

Dear Mr. Ramsayer,

Thank you for the kind words about the IT services that my teams are providing to EPPO. As you know, these services are provided in the context of DIGIT’s mandate to give temporary startup help to newly formed decentralized agencies. We were with you at the beginning of EPPO’s establishment phase and continue to serve you today, well beyond the starting date of EPPO operations in 2021.

In a meeting in December 2019, DIGIT and EPPO concluded again that DIGIT could not provide ICT services to EPPO on a long-term basis but would be able to continue current arrangements for a 2-3 year “transition out” phase after the independence of EPPO.

Since then, the Commission has completed the design and implementation of its second generation DWP solution, the WELCOME environment. WELCOME was designed from the start as a highly secure and centrally managed environment, fully tailored to the specific needs of the Commission and by design inherently incompatible with the requirements of a multi-institutional setup.

The “transition out” phase of EPPO aligns well with the Commission’s ongoing migration of Commission staff to the WELCOME environment. DIGIT expects to complete the migration by the end of 2023, allowing us to start the phasing out of DWP services in NET1 by mid-2024. DIGIT has not foreseen to either keep NET1 DWP alive after mid-2024 or to re-engineer the WELCOME environment to allow it to be used by multiple institutions.
In light of this situation, the answers to the questions raised in your note are that

(1) DIGIT can continue to provide the current DWP services to EPPO until mid-2024

(2) DIGIT is not able to re-engineer the WELCOME environment to allow the provisioning of DWP services to EPPO after mid-2024.

I hope this note clarifies DIGIT’s planning and positioning in the Digital Workplace area, allowing EPPO to continue its preparations for its full independence.

Yours sincerely,

(E-signed)
Philippe Van Damme

c.c.: 