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Delegations will find enclosed the above-mentioned Joint Eurojust-Europol Annual Report to the Council and the Commission.



**Joint Eurojust-Europol Annual Report 2014
to the Council of the European Union and the European Commission**

I. Introduction

Eurojust and Europol have continued their efforts to establish and maintain close cooperation in order to increase effectiveness in combating serious organised cross-border crime and terrorism through the exchange of operational, strategic and technical information, as well as the coordination of activities.

During 2014 Europol and Eurojust cooperated in particular in the following areas:

- Exchange of operational information through SIENA;
- Association of Eurojust with 21 of the 29 Europol Focal Points;
- Exchange of information on and participation in coordination meetings of Eurojust and operational meetings of Europol;
- EMPACT Joint Action Days (Operation Archimedes);
- Participation in strategic and tactical meetings and conferences;
- Contributions of Eurojust to the strategic reports of Europol;
- Regular consultations between the European Cybercrime Centre at Europol (EC3) and Eurojust's Task Force on Cybercrime; and
- Continuous implementation of the Eurojust-Europol exchange programme.

II. Operational Cooperation

In addition to the information regularly provided to COSI, cooperation between Eurojust and Europol in 2014 at operational level can be summarised as follows:

- Examples for operational successes in 2014

Operation BLACKSHADES was aiming at Organised Crime Groups managing the BlackShade malware. During two days of operations in May 2014 taking place in 16 countries worldwide, coordinated by Eurojust, through its coordination centre, and support provided by the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) at Europol, creators, sellers and users of the BlackShades malware were targeted by judicial and law enforcement authorities. 359 house searches were carried out, and more than 90 people were arrested. Over 1,100 data storage devices suspected of being used in illegal activities were seized, including computers, laptops, mobile telephones, routers,

external hard drives and USB memory sticks. Substantial quantities of cash, illegal firearms and drugs were also seized.

In **Operation PEPSI** law enforcement and judicial authorities have dismantled an international Organised Crime Group trafficking large amounts of synthetic drugs to Finland. An operational centre was launched at Europol for the action day in May 2014; analysts from Focal Point Synergy provided support with the mobile office to the command centre at Eurojust. Operational action in 5 Member States (BE, FI, FR, LT, NL, PL) coordinated from Eurojust and Europol resulted in 12 arrests, 17 house searches and the seizure of 1 kg of amphetamine, 1837 kg of hashish, large amounts of cash, 2 guns, 500 litres of precursor APAAN, 800 litres of precursor Safrole plus 750 litres of other essential chemicals.

Operation JOHN DEERE / TRACTO 87 was aimed at disrupting a Romanian Organised Crime Group based in Spain which committed a series of tractor thefts. The financial damage caused by this OCG is estimated at approximately EUR 3,200,000. The investigation began in France in 2012 following the theft of 3 new John Deere tractors, and was led by an investigating magistrate of Bordeaux. The stolen tractors were loaded onto Romanian trucks heading to Eastern European countries. Focal Point Furtum performed regular analysis of the contributions received. During the action day (21 January 2014) Europol staff performed operational case analysis and Eurojust provided judicial analytical support at the coordination centres set up at Eurojust and in Spain. In addition, an alert report was issued warning EU law enforcement authorities of this modus operandi. The joint operation of FR, ES and RO coordinated by the judicial authorities of the involved countries and supported by Eurojust and Europol, resulted in the arrest of 9 suspects. Additionally, several private premises were searched and significant seizures made, including a large amount of mobile telephones and SIM cards, as well as cash, handguns and ammunition, GPS devices and forged identity cards.

- Secure Communication

At the end of 2014, 27 National Desks and Eurojust's Case Analysis Unit had access to SIENA, with the remaining National Desk awaiting training and installation. This means that almost all National Desks are now in a position to securely communicate with their respective Europol National Units and Europol.

In total, Eurojust exchanged 2,195 messages in 2014. 292 SIENA messages were exchanged by Eurojust National Members, of which 52% were shared with Europol. 196 messages were exchanged by Eurojust AWF Focal Point representatives, of which 78% were shared with Europol.

- Schengen Information System (SIS) II

Eurojust and Europol successfully cooperated with regard to establishing access of both organisations to the SIS II database.

- Eurojust's association with Europol's Focal Points

Eurojust has been associated in 2014 with 21 of the 29 existing Focal Points. In 2014, Eurojust became associated with Focal Point Firearms and was invited to be associated to Focal Point Asset Recovery.

Meetings took place from time to time between Europol Focal Points managers and Contact Points of Eurojust in order to discuss operational issues linked to particular crime areas.

Association of Eurojust to the counter-terrorism Focal Points is pending, awaiting Member States approval.

- Eurojust's attendance at Europol operational meetings

Europol informs Eurojust of operational meetings that are financially supported by Europol. Eurojust was invited to and participated in 39 of the 269 operational meetings organised by Europol in 2014.

- Europol's attendance at Eurojust coordination meetings

Eurojust provides information to Europol on forthcoming coordination meetings. Europol attended 98 of the 196 coordination meetings held by Eurojust in 2014.¹

- Meetings with focus on operational cooperation

Both parties agreed to meet and discuss regularly practical operational cooperation. The first meeting of this kind took place on 10 December 2014.

III. Strategic Cooperation

Cooperation between Eurojust and Europol at strategic level took place within the following framework:

III.1. Meetings

- One meeting was held between Eurojust's Presidency and Administrative Director and the Directorate of Europol;
- The Eurojust-Europol Steering Committee met twice;
- The Eurojust-Europol Task Force met once;
- In the context of the legislative process on the Proposals for Regulations on Europol and Eurojust, several meetings took place, one of them including the European Commission (DG HOME and DG JUST, in April 2014);
- Eurojust regularly participated in the meetings of the Heads of Europol National Units as an observer;
- In September 2014 Europol participated in the strategic meeting on drug trafficking organised by Eurojust;

¹ Eurojust coordination meetings are attended by Europol staff and/or Liaison Officers from Member States posted at Europol.

- Europol's Deputy Director for Operations attended a plenary meeting of the College of Eurojust on 28 October 2014, in particular to present and discuss the results of Operation Archimedes;
- Eurojust was invited to all EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats) meetings dedicated to the implementation and the revision of the Operational Action Plans and participated in 36 of the 55 meetings.
- Regarding terrorism-related matters, the Counter-Terrorism Team of Eurojust and the Counter-Terrorism Business Area of Europol held regular meetings and attended the expert meetings organised by both parties.

III.2. Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)

On 25 and 26 June 2014, the 10th Annual Meeting of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams – organised by the JITs Network Secretariat in close cooperation with Eurojust and Europol – took place at Eurojust. Cooperation with non-EU States has been increasing and the meeting allowed experts to consider the specific legal and practical challenges of the involvement of non-EU States in JITs.

In addition, Eurojust and Europol continued to actively participate in training programmes and seminars (in cooperation with CEPOL and the EJTN) on JITs.

Furthermore, Eurojust and Europol encouraged the setting up and running of JITs by Member States.²

III.3. Cooperation on cybercrime

Eurojust is represented in the Programme Board of the European Cybercrime Centre at Europol (EC3). In 2014 negotiations on the conclusion of a written agreement for the temporary placement of a Eurojust representative to the EC3 culminated with an agreement at working level on a final draft. The College of Eurojust approved the final draft in October and Europol's Management Board endorsed it in December 2014. In addition, in July 2014 Eurojust nominated a College member to visit EC3 regularly with the purpose of facilitating cooperation and exchange of information. In December, Eurojust launched a call for expression of interest to recruit a Seconded National Expert for the primary purpose of supporting and coordinating cooperation with the EC3 at Europol on behalf of Eurojust.

In October 2014 Eurojust presented the fight against cybercrime from the prosecutorial perspective at the Europol-Interpol Cybercrime Conference in Singapore. In November 2014 Eurojust hosted a strategic meeting on cybercrime, where a joint presentation was given by Eurojust and EC3 on cooperation in the field of cybercrime. Three meetings between the EC3 and Eurojust's Task Force on Cybercrime have taken place during 2014 to discuss strategic matters and ways to improve cooperation, such as involvement of Eurojust and national prosecutors in the investigations at an early stage so as to facilitate admissibility of evidence and smooth coordination of the investigations. The future involvement of Eurojust in J-CAT project could help to that end. The two organisations jointly supported a number of cybercrime investigations of the Member States successfully during the year.

III.4. Contributions to Europol strategic reports

² The figures on the JITs supported by Eurojust and the JITs for which Eurojust provided financial assistance will be set out in the Eurojust Annual Report 2014. The figures on JITs supported by Europol will be presented in the Europol Review 2014.

As every year Eurojust contributed statistics and details on terrorist arrests, sentences and prosecutions in support of Europol's annual Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT). Eurojust is also member to the TE-SAT Advisory Board.

Eurojust also contributed to Europol's mid-term Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) and is part of the SOCTA Advisory Group.

III.5. Exchange programme

The exchange programme for post holders of both organisations continued during 2014 with a total of 6 exchange visits, each lasting two days, hosted in reciprocity. The briefings attended during those exchanges were tailored to the specific professional background of the visiting participants. The exchange visits have been regarded as highly valuable by participants.

Eurojust and Europol have agreed to decrease the frequency of exchange visits in 2015.

III.6. Joint press releases

Whenever appropriate, both organisations agreed to issue joint or coordinated press releases on successful joint operational activities.

IV. Conclusion

Both organisations endeavour to enhance cooperation with due regard to transparency, complementarity of tasks and coordination of efforts. The focus of cooperation between Eurojust and Europol in 2014 has been on identifying ways to increase further the effectiveness of joint operational activities in combating serious organised cross-border crime and terrorism. As cybercrime is an ever increasing yet still rather new and often cross-border and complex phenomenon, increased cooperation between Europol and Eurojust will be vital to support practitioners to successfully detect, investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases.
