

Brussels, 25 June 2026
(OR. en)

11145/26
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**Interinstitutional File:
2026/0164 (COD)**

**COPEN 245
EUROJUST 28
JAI 910**

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	25 June 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	SWD(2026) 573 final
Subject:	COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - SYNOPSIS REPORT Accompanying the document Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1727

Delegations will find attached document SWD(2026) 573 final.

Encl.: SWD(2026) 573 final



Brussels, 24.6.2026
SWD(2026) 573 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - SYNOPSIS REPORT

Accompanying the document

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and
repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1727

{COM(2026) 570 final} - {SEC(2026) 570 final} - {SWD(2026) 570 final} -
{SWD(2026) 571 final} - {SWD(2026) 572 final}

Factual Summary Report

Cross-border judicial cooperation – Revision of Eurojust Regulation (impact assessment)

Disclaimer: This document should be regarded solely as a summary of the contributions made by stakeholders in the open consultation on the revision of the Eurojust Regulation (EU) 2018/1727. It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the European Commission or its services. Responses to the consultation activities cannot be considered as a representative sample of the views of the EU population.

A. Objective and Methodology

The objective of the public consultation was to obtain the views of citizens, Member States and other relevant stakeholders on Eurojust and the Eurojust Regulation, thereby contributing to the upcoming impact assessment of a possible revision of the Eurojust Regulation. Eurojust is the EU agency for **criminal justice cooperation**, supporting national authorities in combating serious cross-border crime by strengthening coordination between national authorities. The consultation followed an evaluation of Eurojust¹, published on 2 July 2025, which had already pointed to some problems related to the agency and its legal framework.

The public consultation took the form of an online survey, with a mix of closed and open questions. The questionnaire was published in all 24 EU official languages. Participants to the questionnaire could reply in any of these languages. Contributions were possible from 3 December 2025 to 24 February 2026.

Beyond an introductory part about the person of the respondent, the survey was composed of 10 closed questions about Eurojust and its activities. In some instances, such as when respondents chose the answer option “Other”, they were invited to elaborate further in free-text boxes.

This report summarises the results of the open public consultation.

B. Key findings

The main points raised by the respondents in the survey were the following:

- It found that almost all respondents believed **Eurojust’s role in addressing serious and organised cross-border crime in the EU** to be important, 50% to be very important.
- Some participants stressed the **need to better consider the perspective of victims and witnesses** and to **clarify case allocation between Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN)**.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/evaluation-eurojust_en.

- **Criminal use of the digital space, AI and new technology** was, almost unanimously, seen as **one of the main challenges** that criminal investigations and prosecutions in Europe will face in the coming years.

C. Overview of Respondents

20 stakeholders responded to the public consultation. Respondents represented the following geographic distribution: 17 responses originated from 9 Member States. The largest shares came from Belgium (4; 20%), France (4; 20%). 3 responses were submitted from outside the EU (Bosnia Herzegovina, North Macedonia and the United States).

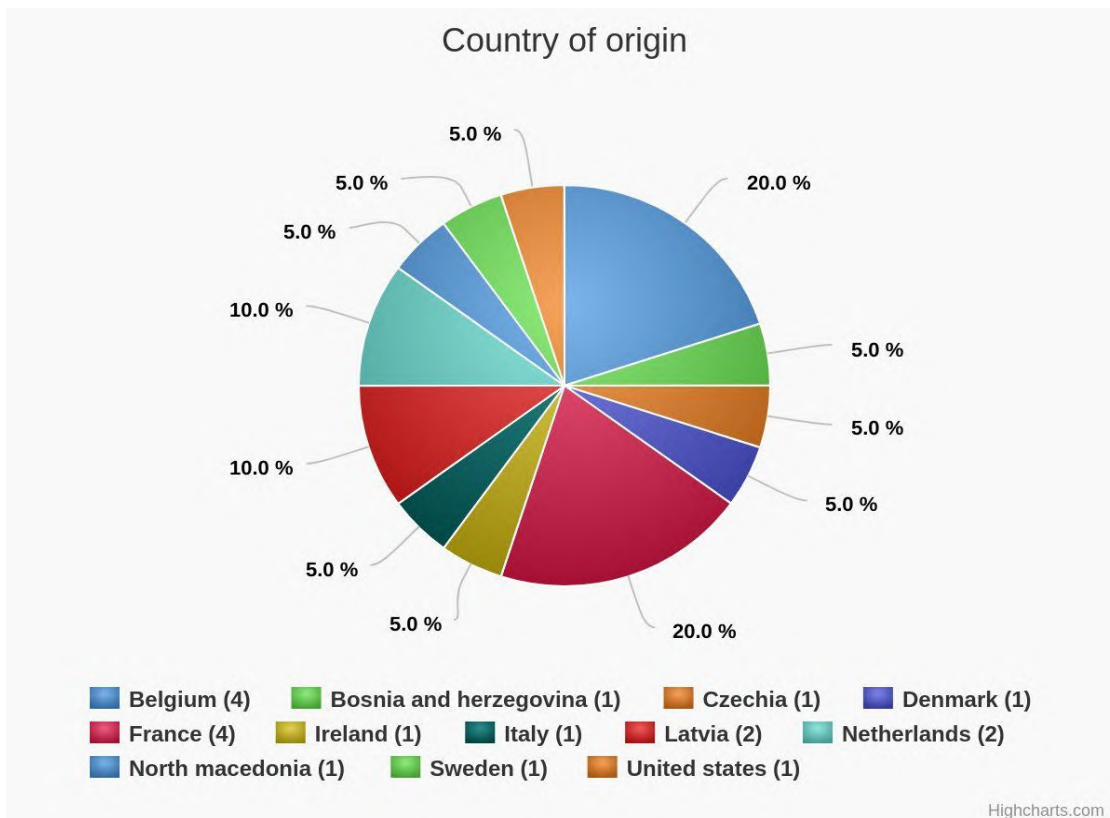


Figure 1: Geographical distribution of respondents

The highest proportion of responses were submitted by public authorities (8; 40%), followed by EU citizens (4; 20%), companies/businesses (3; 15%), non-EU citizens (2; 10%), non-governmental organisation (NGO) (1; 5%), business association (1; 5%) and other (1; 5%). When asked about the size of organisation, 10 participants (50%) identified as large (250 employees or more), 1 (5%) as medium (50 to 249 employees), 2 (10%) as small (10 to 9 employees), 1 (5%) as micro (1 to 9 employees) and 6 (30%) did not provide an answer.

D. Past Evaluation and Role of Eurojust

When asked to **self-assess their familiarity with Eurojust** (Q1), respondents selected a value on a scale from 1 to 4, where: where 1 corresponds to 'I have never heard of Eurojust' and 4 corresponds

to ‘*I have in-depth knowledge of Eurojust, including its structure and Regulation*’). A majority of respondents (11; 55%) reported the highest level of familiarity with Eurojust (level 4). Another significant group (6; 30%) indicated a level of knowledge corresponding to the second-highest category (level 3), while three respondents (15%) selected familiarity level 2. None of the participants chose level 1.

Half of the respondents (10; 50%) considered Eurojust’s role in addressing serious and organised cross-border crime within the EU to be ‘**very important – Eurojust is essential in ensuring effective cross-border judicial cooperation**’ (Q2). A further 45% (9 respondents) viewed it as *important – Eurojust provides clear added value by facilitating coordination*, while only one participant (5%) selected *no opinion/don’t know*. The options *Moderately important - Eurojust adds some value, but effective national coordination would largely be possible without it* and *Not important - national authorities can coordinate effectively on their own without a specialised agency* were not selected by the respondents.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the findings of the **European Commission’s evaluation of Eurojust²** (Q3), conducted to inform potential revisions to the **Eurojust Regulation**. The evaluation concluded that while **Eurojust effectively supports EU Member States in combating crime**, its operations could be **more efficient**. Key findings included:

- Eurojust does indeed support EU Member States in the fight against crime, but it could do so more efficiently.
- Eurojust’s scope of work is broad and not always clearly defined. The Agency often becomes involved in lower-complexity cases that could be dealt with through different cooperation channels (bilateral cooperation or EJN).
- The Agency’s internal organisation and decision-making is complex, with an unclear division of responsibilities. This can result in slow procedures and duplication of work.
- Cooperation with other EU bodies works for individual cases, but coordination at a more general level is still weak.
- The expansion of cooperation with non-EU countries is held back by lengthy and cumbersome procedures to conclude international agreements.

When asked to select the response that best reflected their view, respondents replied as follows:

- **12 (60%) agreed** with the findings,
- **5 (25%) partially agreed**,
- **0 (0%) disagreed**, and
- **3 (15%) selected no opinion/don’t know**.

If partially agreeing or disagreeing, participants were invited to explain which findings they disagree with or to add anything they consider missing.

² https://commission.europa.eu/publications/evaluation-eurojust_en.

Some of the issues raised there were: a preference towards cautious and fine-tuned revisions of the internal decision-making process, more attention to victims and witnesses engaged with Eurojust, improved case allocation between Eurojust and the EJN and scepticism as to whether there is a need to improve cooperation/coordination with other EU bodies at the legislative level.

E. Future Challenges and Prioritisation

Participants of the consultation were asked which – in their view – would be the main challenges that criminal investigations and prosecutions in Europe will face in the upcoming years (Q4). The respondents could choose from a list (*Criminal use of the digital space (19 replies)*, *artificial intelligence and new technologies*, *Globalisation of organised crime networks (10 replies)*, *Blurring of the lines between organised crime and security threats (terrorism, hybrid threats) (5 replies)*, *Greater financial sophistication of criminal groups (cryptocurrencies, money laundering) (7 replies)*, *Deeper infiltration of crime into legal economies and business structures (8 replies)*, *Increase in the use of violence by organised crime groups (1 reply)*, *Rising volume and complexity of cross-border cases) (7 replies)*, or provide their own suggestions if they clicked on ‘Other’ (1 reply). The replies can be visualised as follows:



Figure 2: Challenges. Responses in %.

One respondent added “*Cooperation between states*” as other challenge.

When asked, which areas of crimes should be prioritised by Eurojust (Q5), the following results were gathered. The complete list of options given was:

Terrorism (13 replies), Organised crime (15 replies), Drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in hormonal substances and growth promoters (7 replies), Financial crimes (e.g. fraud, money laundering) and corruption (8 replies), Crimes involving nuclear or radioactive materials (2 replies), Migrant smuggling (2 replies), Trafficking in human beings and trade in human organs (8 replies), Violent crime (murder, bodily injury, kidnapping, hostage taking) (1 reply), Hate crime (racism and xenophobia), Property crime (robbery, aggravated theft, racketeering, extortion), Illicit trafficking in cultural goods (antiquities, works of art), Counterfeiting and forgery (1 reply), Cybercrime and hybrid attacks (12 replies), Arms trafficking (weapons, ammunition, explosives) (1 reply), Environmental crime (including trafficking in endangered species), Sexual abuse and exploitation (including child sexual abuse material) (3 replies), Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (3 replies), Other (3 replies), No answer (1 reply).

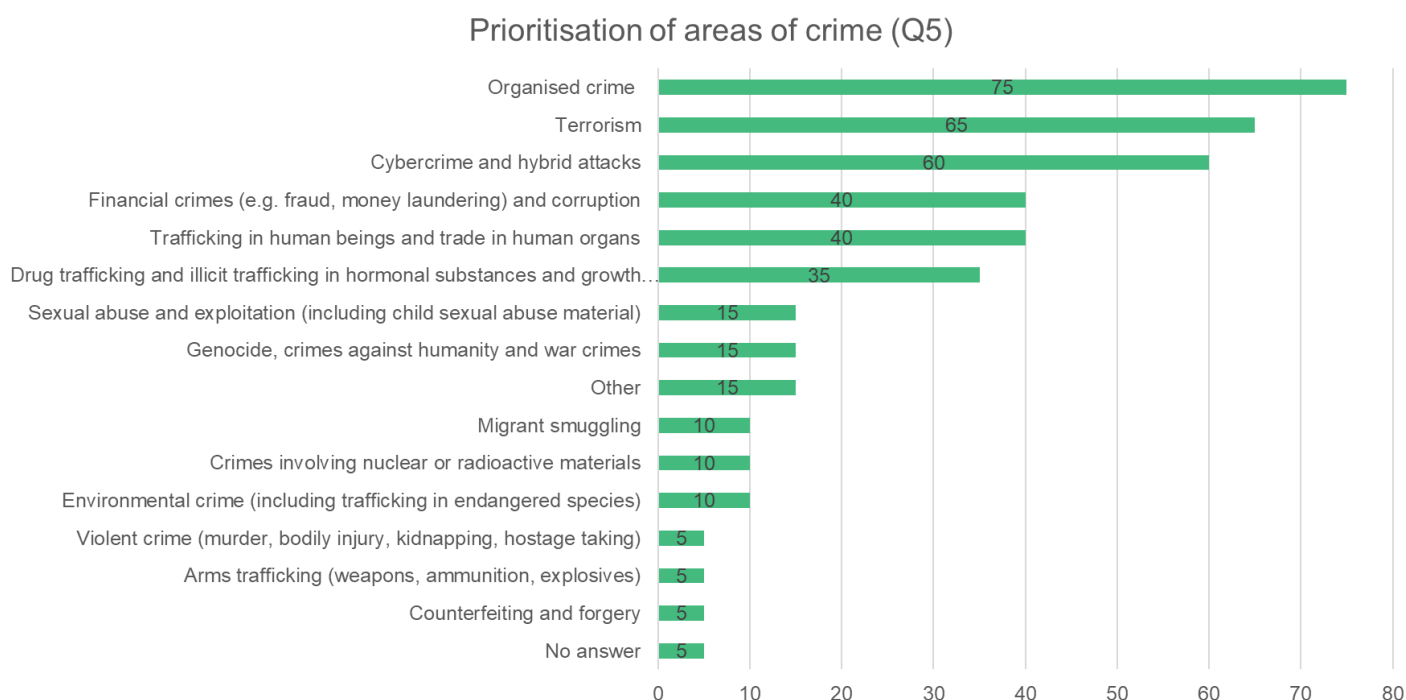


Figure 3: Prioritisation of areas of crime. Answers in %.

When they chose “Other”, participants were invited to specify which area of crimes they had in mind. They replied with: Crimes against states, such as espionage; the implementation of fast online court orders; the prioritisation of the forms crimes listed in Annex I falls under the responsibility of the College of Eurojust.

The public consultation also asked about which of its tasks Eurojust should prioritise in order to fight serious and organised cross-border crime more effectively (Q5). The tasks listed were the following:

Facilitating and coordinating joint investigation teams of authorities from different countries (10 replies), Assisting in the exchange of evidence and information between national authorities (7 replies), Supporting the coordination of prosecutions in cases where multiple jurisdictions are involved (8 replies), Providing advice to national authorities in complex cross-border cases (5 replies), Developing and maintaining standard procedures and best practices for cross-border investigations

(6 replies), Acting as a central hub for cross-border case analysis and trends at judicial level (5 replies), Strengthening cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations to facilitate global cooperation against serious and organised cross-border crime (8 replies), Strengthening cooperation with other EU agencies and bodies (e.g. Europol, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), Frontex) (4 replies), Storing, analysing and making available evidence of serious cross-border crime (1 reply), Other (1 reply), No answer (1 reply).

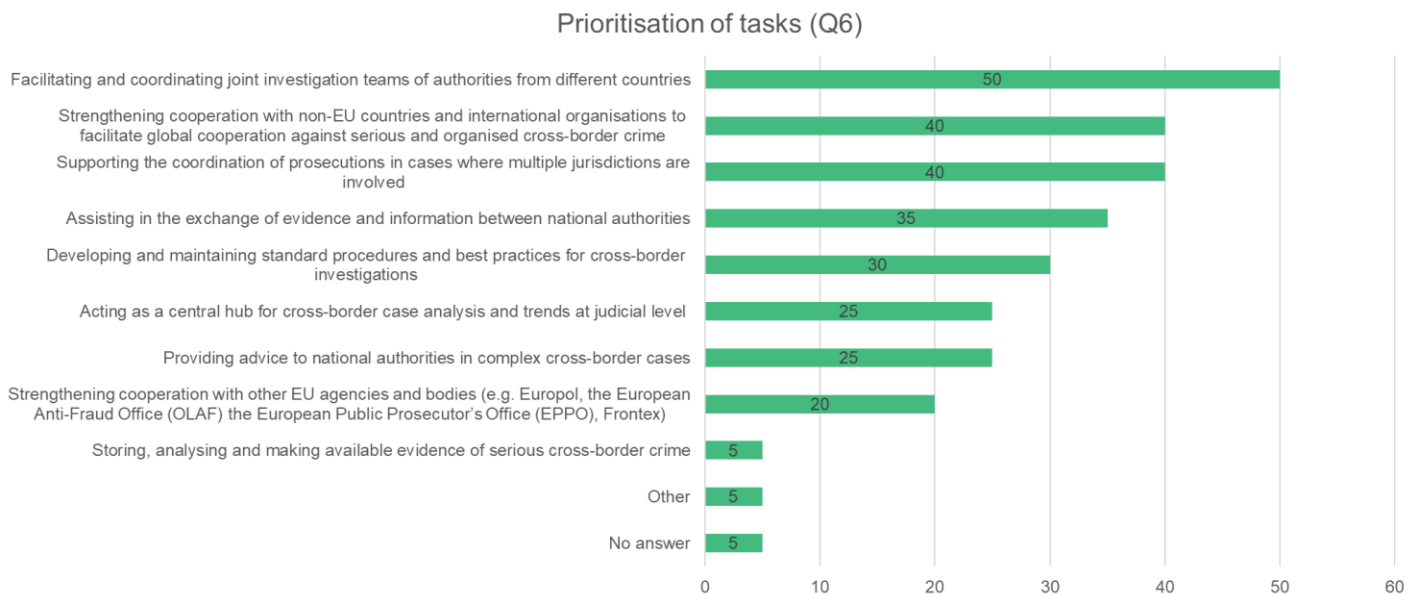


Figure 4: Prioritisation of tasks. Answers in %.

As other task, one respondent mentioned the systematic *early-stage* coordination in complex cross-border investigations.

The consultation also went one step further and asked about additional activities that Eurojust could carry out to improve its support to national authorities. A list was provided suggesting the following tasks, as well as allowing for additional suggestions under the category “Other”:

Providing support to national prosecutors and judges in the use of new innovative tools, including the collection of digital evidence (11 replies), Hosting and supporting judicial networks, bringing together practitioners working in specific areas (e.g. the European Judicial Organised Crime Network, the Genocide Prosecution Network, the Network of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams) (9 replies), Raising awareness among the public and stakeholders about cross-border crime and EU judicial cooperation (6 replies), Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of cooperation by national investigation and prosecution authorities in cross-border cases (3 replies), Providing training programmes for national prosecutors and investigators on cross-border legal and operational issues (7 replies), Operating a think tank or research unit, developing strategies and policies in the field of judicial cooperation (5 replies), Ensuring that victim protection and human rights considerations are taken into account during the coordination of prosecution in cross-border cases (4 replies), Acting as an information hub on procedural matters for national authorities and stakeholders (6 replies) Improving outreach and visibility (3 replies), Other (1 reply).

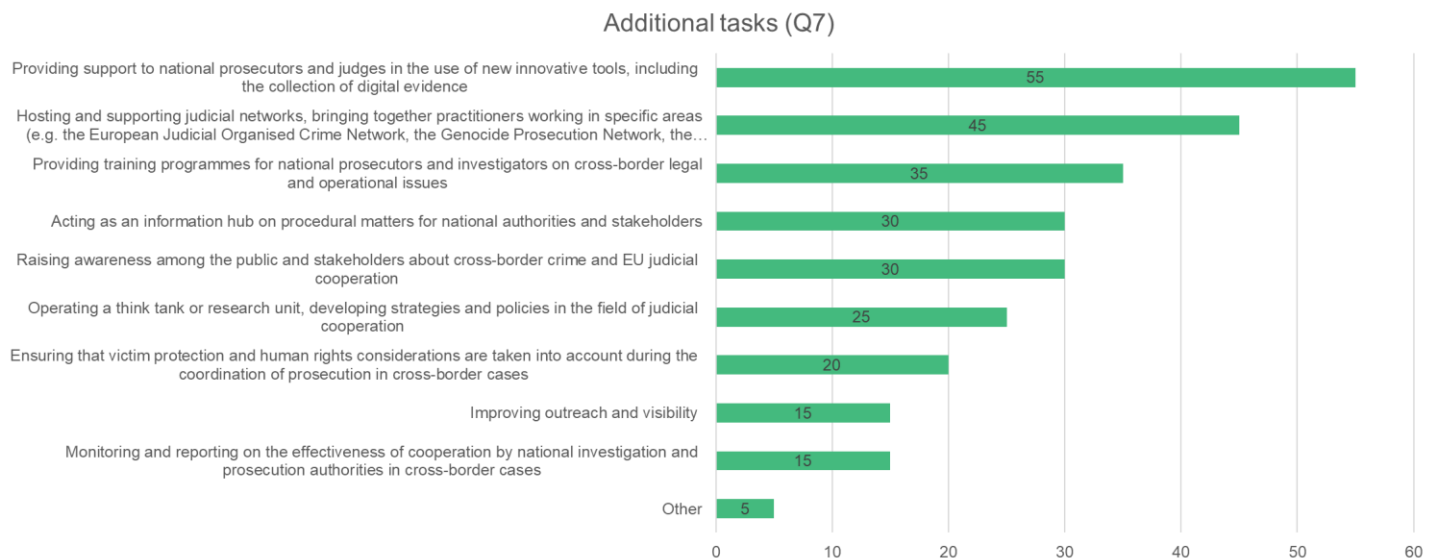


Figure 5: Additional tasks. Answers in %.

F. Proactiveness

The survey also inquired whether the respondents thought that Eurojust should act more on its own initiative (“*In your view, should Eurojust act more on its own initiative? Generally, Eurojust supports national authorities when they request its assistance. It may proactively coordinate cases, for instance by involving EU Member States that might have not been included in the case and by discovering links between cases based on information it receives from Europol, OLAF, EPPO and national authorities. However, it cannot require national authorities to open investigations, establish a joint investigation team, or transfer proceedings on its own initiative. (Please select the answer that best reflects your view)*”). The following picture evolved: The **majority of respondents** were **in favour of more proactive role of Eurojust** (13 replies; 65%), either whenever national authorities cannot react promptly in urgent situation, or entirely on its own initiative. None of the respondents voted for the most restrictive option of Eurojust not acting unless requested by an EU Member State.

OWN INITIATIVE (Q8)

- No, Eurojust should not take any action unless requested by a EU Member State (0 replies)
- No, the current level of flexibility - with Eurojust having limited scope for self-initiative - should remain unchanged (5 replies)
- Yes, Eurojust should be able to act on its own initiative whenever national authorities cannot react promptly in urgent situations (8 replies)
- Yes, Eurojust should be able to open investigations entirely on its own initiative (5 replies)
- No opinion / don't know (1 reply)
- No answer (1 reply)

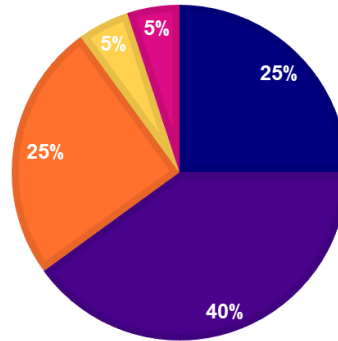


Figure 6: Own initiative of Eurojust.

Asked about Eurojust's role in supporting victims of crime (*"Do you think Eurojust should have a specific role in supporting victims of crime? Currently, Eurojust supports victims of crime indirectly by assisting national authorities in the investigation and prosecution of cross-border crimes. However, the Eurojust Regulation does not provide it with specific competences regarding the protection and support of victims. (Please select the answer that best reflects your view)"*). Respondents gave the following answers:

ROLE IN SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME (Q9)

- No, this should remain the sole responsibility of national authorities (6 replies)
- Yes, Eurojust could serve as an information point for victims of crime who need to interact with authorities across different EU Member States (2 replies)
- Yes, Eurojust should have a specific mandate in relation to victims, for example by facilitating their participation in investigations and trials, and by supporting access to judicial remedies (6 replies)
- Yes, but only in a coordinating capacity, ensuring consistency and exchange of best practices among national victim support services (2 replies)
- Yes, provided that such a role is strictly complementary to the responsibilities of national authorities (0 replies)
- Other (1 reply)
- No opinion / don't know (3 replies)

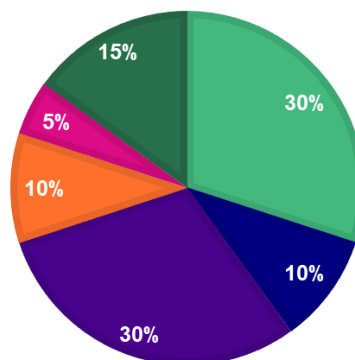


Figure 7: Role in supporting victims of crime.

G. Additional Feedback, Stakeholder Recommendations

In response to the last question (Q10), which invited respondents to provide additional comments, opinions, suggestions or further explanation of their earlier answers or proposals for change, several key themes emerged regarding Eurojust's future role and operations:

One respondent stressed that Eurojust should remain focused on coordinating and facilitating judicial cooperation, such as supporting joint investigation teams, rather than assuming executive powers like initiating prosecutions, and called for adequate financial resources to strengthen national desks by increasing seconded national experts.

Another highlighted the need for special provisions to protect child victims, including child-friendly procedures, legal counselling, and psychosocial support, in line with EU and Council of Europe guidelines.

A detailed submission argued that Eurojust's international cooperation is hindered by the lack of adequacy decisions and cooperation agreements with non-EU countries, proposing a more flexible, risk-based approach to data exchange under the Law Enforcement Directive to better reflect criminal justice realities.

One respondent cautioned against major reforms, advocating instead for targeted adjustments to Eurojust's mandate, while another stressed the importance of clearer cooperation frameworks to benefit non-EU partners and strengthen institutional capacity.

Additional comments included the suggestion that Eurojust should evolve into a more proactive, intelligence-led agency while respecting national sovereignty, and that it could play a critical role in implementing the e-Evidence Regulation through training and coordination.

Finally, a respondent noted that Eurojust should remain an operational tool focused on its core mission of supporting Member States' judicial authorities.