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Photo Credits:
Shutterstock : pages 1-38, 2, 10, 13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23, 24, 26-27, 28-29, 34-35
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FOREWORD

Europe faces increasingly challenging organised crime and terrorist threats. The attacks in Paris in January 2015 were stark illustration of the terrorist threat and of inter-related factors such as violent extremist propaganda on the Internet and weapons trafficking. Just as troubling are the daily acts of violence, blackmail, corruption and fraud carried out by an estimated 3600 organised crime groups across the EU, causing immense economic and emotional harm in their relentless pursuit of illicit profits. Reflecting broader trends of globalisation, terrorist and organised crime activities increasingly go beyond the borders of a single country, and often reach into cyberspace as well.

These threats require an effective and timely law enforcement response. Europol provides a crucial element of that response whenever cross-border cooperation is needed. The increasingly international nature of terrorism and serious crime and the growing recognition of Europol's role are reflected in the significant increase in cases supported by Europol, and of messages exchanged via Europol channels, in 2014.

A highlight of our casework was Operation Archimedes, the largest operation ever coordinated in Europe, supported by the European Coordination Centre hosted by Europol. Interventions took place from 15 to 23 September 2014 in hundreds of locations including airports, border crossings, ports and other crime hotspots in cities across the EU, all of which had featured in Europol's EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA). The operation resulted in more than 1000 arrests through Europe. The unprecedented scale of the operation delivered a clear message: the international law enforcement community is determined to bring down organised criminal groups and protect the safety and wellbeing of our society.

In the field of counter-terrorism, the focus was on the growing phenomenon of 'foreign fighters': EU residents travelling to conflict zones in Syria and elsewhere before returning to the EU radicalised by their conflict experience, increasing the likelihood of terrorist attacks being committed in the EU. A dedicated project on this phenomenon was established in April 2014 which was gaining increasing support from EU Member States and operational partners as the year drew to a close.

As well as supporting operational activities, Europol continues to look ahead, advising on emerging crime threats and anticipating the threats of the future. The European Police Chiefs Convention hosted by Europol in September 2014 gathered more than 300 high-level officials, who focused on issues ranging from terrorism to facilitated illegal immigration. Earlier in the year Europol hosted the inaugural Serious Organised Crime Futures Forum, bringing together law enforcement, academics and industry experts to discuss how societal and technological trends will affect the crime landscape.

The *Europol Review*[1], also available in a fully digital version, has a new magazine format which focuses on our major operations, the strategic progress of the organisation and the goals we have set. The content is arranged in thematic sections and reflects the ways in which Europol staff and European law enforcement officers work together to make Europe a safer place.



Rob Wainwright
Director of Europol



1 The presentation of the Europol review – General report on Europol activities is done in accordance with Article 37(10) c of the Europol Council Decision (Council Decision 2009/371/JHA of 6 April 2009 establishing the European Police Office). The report is submitted to the Council of the European Union for endorsement and the Council forwards it to the European Parliament for information.

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INCREASING COOPERATION TO COUNTER ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM

In 2014, Europol made significant progress and efforts as regards its cooperation with EU bodies, third states, as well as other international organisations. This reflects the ever increasing spread of organised crime and terrorism, and the matching need for law enforcement cooperation, also seen in the 33% increase over 2013 of the number of SIENA operational messages exchanged.

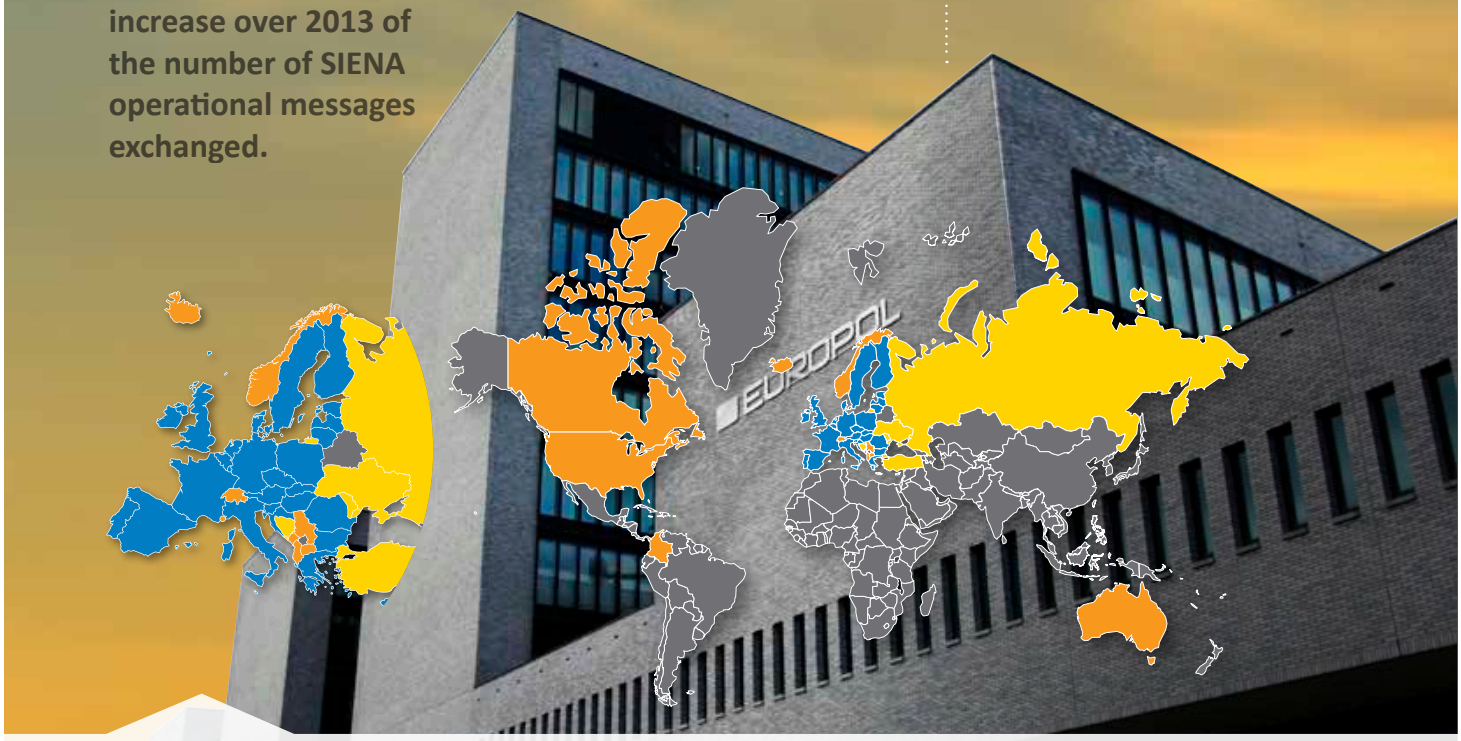
EUROPOL EXTENDS ITS COOPERATION WITH FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

In the past year new operational cooperation agreements with Albania and Serbia entered into force and were also signed with Moldova and Montenegro. Europol also finalised negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The operational cooperation agreement with Columbia also entered into force after their internal ratification procedures were completed. Furthermore, the Council of the EU added Brazil, Georgia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates to the list of countries with whom Europol may enter into agreements with.

INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN EU BODIES

Europol expanded cooperation with the European Central Bank in the area of non-cash means of payment. The Management Board of Europol approved the draft agreement for operational cooperation with Frontex. To further cooperation with Eurojust, a representative of this EU agency will join the team of the European Cybercrime Centre. Europol also furthered its cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS), with OLAF, the European Anti-Fraud Office, and with the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).



28 EU Member States

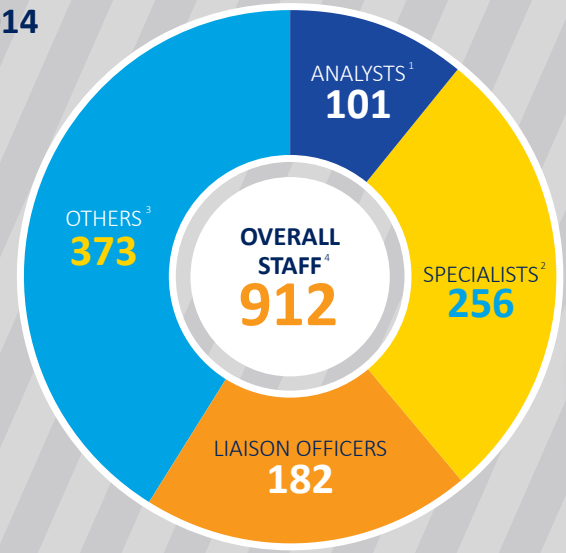
Operational agreements: Albania, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Eurojust, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Interpol, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, United States of America

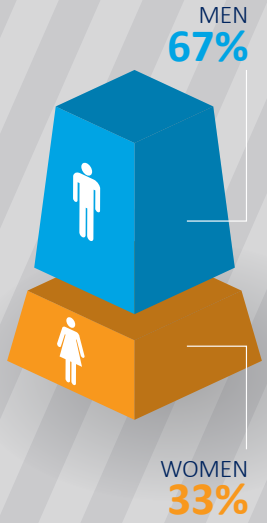
Strategic agreements: Bosnia and Herzegovina, CEPOL, ECB, ECDC, EMCDDA, ENISA, FRONTEX, Moldova, OHIM, OLAF, Russia, Turkey, UNODC, Ukraine, World Customs Organisation

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EUROPOL BASIC FACTS 2014







1 The category 'Analysts' includes assistant analysts, analysts, senior analysts, strategic analysts and senior strategic analysts.

2 The category 'Specialists' includes specialists, senior specialists and specialist translators.

3 The category 'Others' includes Project managers, research officers, technical officers etc.

4 The category 'Overall staff' includes the before mentioned 'Analysts', 'Specialists', 'Liaison Officers and Others'.

EUROPOL AND UEFA TOGETHER AGAINST MATCH-FIXING

Match fixing is a global phenomenon that affects sporting competitions from the premier league to amateur level. To fight international match fixing, UEFA and Europol signed a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2014. Following this agreement, Europol and UEFA are implementing joint activities and projects. The two organisations are exchanging information on suspected cases and the methods used by individuals or criminal organisations to control matches. To fight match fixing, Europol has opened the new 'Focal Point Sports Corruption'.

'EUROPE'S MOST WANTED' ON EUROPOL'S WEBSITE

Europol successfully started the 'most wanted cross check project'. To support the network of European Fugitive Active Search Teams (ENFAST), the operational support initiative conducted an EU-wide check on fugitives. The initiative is the herald of the upcoming EU Most Wanted List - a dedicated part of Europol's public website where EU citizens will be informed about, and asked for their support to find, Europe's most wanted persons.

EUROPEAN POLICE CHIEFS STAND TOGETHER AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM

In September 2014, almost 300 police chiefs, senior law enforcement officers and academic experts from Europe and beyond gathered at Europol headquarters in The Hague for the annual European Police Chiefs Convention (EPCC). During the event, the heads of European law enforcement discussed the experts' findings on core issues in policing which included cybercrime, economic crime, illegal immigration and terrorism. The next EPCC will take place from 23-24 September 2015 at Europol headquarters.

EUR 7 MILLION TO FUND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM THE OPERATIONAL ACTION PLANS 2015

Europol will fund EU Members States' operational activities from the operational action plans (OAPs) 2015. The European Commission granted this budget implementation task to Europol after the signature of a Delegation agreement on 22 December 2014. The amount of EUR 7 million of funding from the EU Internal Security Fund will be available from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2017. The potential beneficiaries are EU Member States and the organisations participating in the OAPs. Profit or non-profit organisations not part of OAPs may also be authorised to participate in the grant project, under the responsibility of the concerned Member States. A second Call for Proposals is expected to be launched before the end of 2015.

EUROPOL REGULATION

During 2014, the legislative process for the adoption of a Europol Regulation continued, with the Council adopting a common position in June, following a joint position of the European Parliament previously. The discussions have now advanced to the Trilogue stage.

EUROPOL FACILITATES PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

A Public Register of Documents is featured on the Europol website. Europol also regularly responds to requests for access to documents, received directly or through consultation by third parties. In 2014, Europol replied to nine applications, and seven consultations. Europol refused access to documents in three cases on the grounds of the exceptions under Article 4 of the applicable Management Board rules[2]* based on the protection of public security, the proper fulfilment of Europol's tasks, international relations, the privacy and integrity of the individuals and Europol's decision making process.

2 Decision 'Laying down the rules concerning access to Europol documents' of 8 July 2009.

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OPERATION ARCHIMEDES: 9 days, 24/7 coordination and analysis



300 law enforcement officers based at Europol support the largest international operation targeting organised crime in Europe.

For more than one week, between 15 and 23 September, Europol headquarters became the coordination centre for the largest police operation ever conducted against organised crime in Europe. More than 300 specialists, analysts and liaison officers supported the operation focusing on eight priority areas. Operation Archimedes had a huge impact on the coordination of large law enforcement actions. During the operation, criminals and criminal groups in a wide range of crime areas were targeted using a horizontal approach. This allowed law enforcement to target crime groups who were operating internationally and involved in poly-criminal activities.

NINE DAYS IN THE EUROPEAN COORDINATION CENTRE (ECC)

A unique European Coordination Centre was set up at Europol to support and coordinate the operation. Workspace for the efficient exchange of information was provided to the delegations from 28 EU Member States, third states, Eurojust, Frontex and Interpol. During the nine days of the operation Europol analysts processed the incoming information on a 24/7 basis for use in field investigations.



24/7 SUPPORT FROM THE IT OPERATIONAL CENTRE

For the operation, Europol's ICT unit reconfigured the network infrastructure of the workspace to a layout never seen before. A large range of technical equipment was installed and configured: 160 PCs and laptops, 70 standard, secure and mobile phones and 11 on-the-spot supporting mobile offices, amongst others.

VALUABLE COOPERATION AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Jouko Ikonen, Detective Inspector, National Bureau of Investigation – Finland:

"We find the joint operational cooperation at European level very valuable. It's great that Europol creates and coordinates it and we are committed to such cooperation in the future."

A CRUCIAL ROLE FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE



Charles Marchon, Swiss liaison bureau:

"In this kind of operation involving a large number of partners in many countries, a 24/7 coordination centre plays a key role. The ability to act swiftly and effectively is crucial. The ECC gave added value from the operational point of view. We have used this facility a couple of times, for instance on a human trafficking case. We had to urgently manage a specific question linked to operations in progress in Switzerland and in Romania. One cup of coffee later with the Romanian liaison officer at the ECC, and we were able to agree on a common strategy and provide our authorities with the requested support!"

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO HANDLE SENSITIVE CASES IN REAL TIME



Digenis Karousos, Head of the Greek liaison bureau:

"The ECC was impressive, well organised and gave us the opportunity to work together closely. We were able to experience how the authorities of different Member States were dealing with similar cases. The particular setting of the ECC gave us the opportunity to handle details of a sensitive drugs case in real time, working with officers from another Member State and specialists from Europol. Operation Archimedes was a clear message that Europe has the willingness and capabilities to fight crime jointly."

RUNNING AGAINST THE CLOCK TO SUPPORT OFFICERS IN THE FIELD



Zoltán Nagy, Business Manager Europol Information Hub Unit:

"The ECC was a special environment we had never before tested. However, the coordination centre largely contributed to establishing new bridges for the cooperation and support of field work. Some colleagues were working up to 7 or 8 shifts during the operation. And this was needed as hectic periods occurred regularly. For example, during one of the night shifts, we received a request from a Member State to check thousands of names. While running against the clock, Europol support enabled officers in the field to select and prioritise possible persons of interest that they had to deal with."

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING TOGETHER



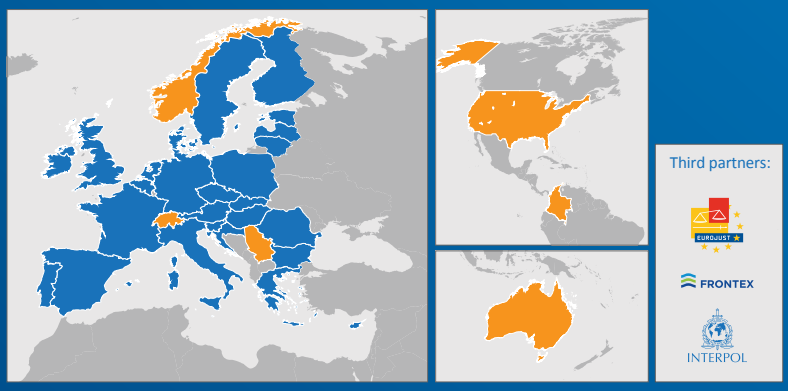
Robert Crepinko, Business Manager Europol Organised Crime Networks Unit:

"It was an unique experience to see representatives from the Member States and other partners sitting together with Europol colleagues in the European Coordination Centre, providing real time support to officers in the field, not only in the EU, but much wider. All of us, working day and night, with the simple aim of fighting serious and organised crime together."

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EUROPOL | OPERATION ARCHIMEDES

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



28 EU Member States Australia, Colombia, Norway, US, Serbia, Switzerland

300+ Actions

260+ Places of actions

MON 15 September to TUE 23 September

EMPACT* PRIORITIES

*European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats

- Facilitation of Illegal Immigration
- Trafficking in Human Beings
- Counterfeit goods
- Excise and MTIC Fraud
- Synthetic Drugs
- Cocaine and Heroin
- Illicit Firearms Trafficking
- Organised Property Crime
- Cybercrime

MAIN FIGURES

20% of the arrested poly crime

1027 individuals arrested

- 57 cocaine trafficking
- 170 facilitation of illegal immigration
- 300+ property crime
- 90+ trafficking of human beings

30 children saved from trafficking

new routes identified

new trends identified

new links identified

339 seizures

- **599kg** of cocaine seized
- **1.3t** of cannabis seized
- **200kg** of heroin seized
- **1m+** euros in cash confiscated
- **13** luxury cars seized
- **40+** parcels of cocaine seized
- **1.5m+** cigarettes
- lab for counterfeit medicines dismantled

OPERATION ARCHIMEDES





STOLEN CARS TRAVELLING ON A CARGO TRAIN TO TAJIKISTAN INTERCEPTED

Latvian law enforcement officers identified vehicles stolen from EU Member States on their way to Central Asia. Several individuals were arrested during the operation. The information collected during the investigation was used by the Latvian police to cooperate with law enforcement in Germany, Sweden and Poland, from where the cars were stolen. The exchange of information helped to identify additional members of the organised crime group, understand their modus operandi and disrupt their future activities.

100 FAKE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS SEIZED

100 stolen or blank Italian identity cards were seized by Greek law enforcement officers. The fraudulent documents had been transported by an Algerian man accompanied by an Afghan woman carrying a fraudulent French passport. Counterfeit documents made from simple blanks are often used by facilitators to smuggle irregular migrants into the EU. They also serve for the secondary movements of the migrants once they've already arrived in one Member State. Through Operation Archimedes, Member States simultaneously addressed all three aspects of facilitated illegal immigration – illegal entry, secondary movements within the EU, and migrant status transition.

18 COURIERS ARRESTED WITH COCAINE CONCEALED IN THEIR BODIES

Law enforcement authorities intercepted 18 individuals carrying condoms filled with cocaine in their stomachs. The couriers





departed from Suriname, Curaçao and Brazil. During Operation Archimedes, local law enforcement authorities intercepted a courier carrying 3.67 kilograms of cocaine at the Rionegro International Airport in Antioquia, Columbia. Organised crime groups continue to rely heavily on individual couriers for smuggling smaller amounts of cocaine. However, due to the low risk involved, their main method often involves shipments using containers and express parcel companies. With four million users consuming 124 tonnes of cocaine annually, Europe remains one of the largest markets.

CARGO WITH 198 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN INTERCEPTED

Bulgarian Border Police intercepted a truck carrying 198 kilograms of heroin. The cargo documents detailed the vehicle's destination and purpose of the trip: transporting goods from Turkey to Poland. The heroin was discovered in 34 false-bottomed boxes documented as containing towels.

CONSIGNMENT OF GRENADES AND FIREARMS SEIZED

Slovakian law enforcement authorities intercepted a cargo vehicle transporting a large number of grenades and firearms, which was trying to enter Slovak territory. The vehicle was travelling from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Sweden. Many firearms trafficked in Europe come from the Western Balkans after being held illegally after recent conflicts in the area. In total, approximately 80 million civilian firearms are legally-held in the EU. Almost half a million lost or stolen firearms remain in the EU. In 2014, Europol opened a new operational Focal Point to support Member States in their fight against the trafficking of illicit firearms.



Operation Archimedes also targeted excise tax fraud. In the UK, law enforcement authorities seized alcohol intended for distribution without paying excise duties.



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One third of the organised crime groups in the EU involved in drug trafficking



About one third of all organised crime groups (OCGs) in the EU are involved in the production and distribution of illicit drugs. The value of the European opiates market has been estimated at approximately EUR 12 billion. The most commonly used drug in the EU is cannabis followed by cocaine. OCGs exploit the demand for drugs in the EU and generate huge profits, often trafficking different types of drugs.

In June 2014, Europol supported Hungarian Operation Sziget. An international OCG responsible for the production and distribution of NPS was targeted. Significant amounts of drugs and production equipment were seized, and six Hungarian suspects were arrested.

47 KILLED BY TWO NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES SINCE 2013

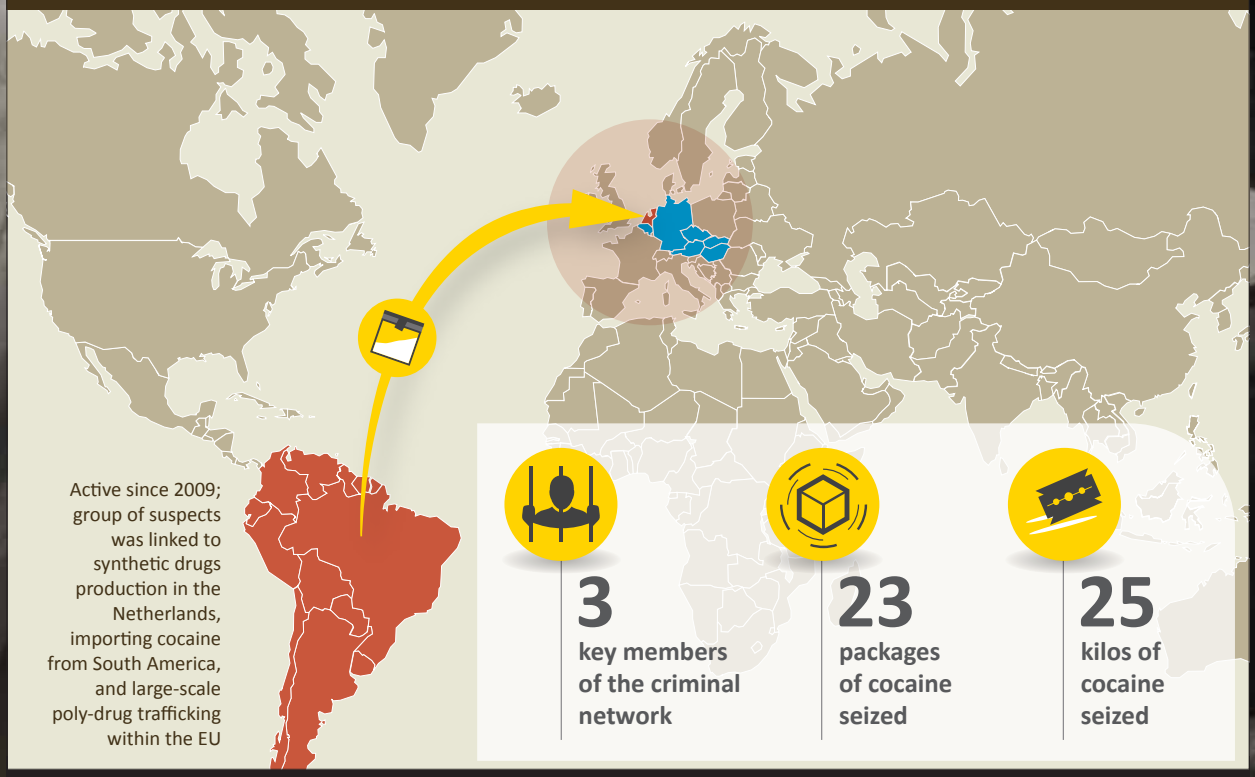
The consumption of new psychoactive substances (NPS) entails significant health risks and has led to deaths throughout Europe. In 2013, a new drug, 4,4'-DMAR, was linked to 26 deaths in Hungary and the United Kingdom. Between November 2013 and April 2014, another new synthetic drug, MT-45, was associated with 13 non-fatal intoxications and 21 deaths in Sweden. Many NPS mimic the effect of 'traditional' drugs like cocaine and cannabis, but are sold at lower prices. Europol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) monitor these threats and work with Member States to identify new trends and combat the distribution of NPS. In August 2014, Europol supported Scottish authorities in the implementation of Operation Redwall, which targeted NPS through nationwide operational activities including an awareness-raising campaign.

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Operation Sina
January 2014

As part of an extensive operation by European police and customs authorities, Europol supported the dismantling of an international organised crime network responsible for large-scale drug trafficking in the European Union.

The operation involved law enforcement authorities in Hungary, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany and Slovakia



Active since 2009; group of suspects was linked to synthetic drugs production in the Netherlands, importing cocaine from South America, and large-scale poly-drug trafficking within the EU

3 key members of the criminal network

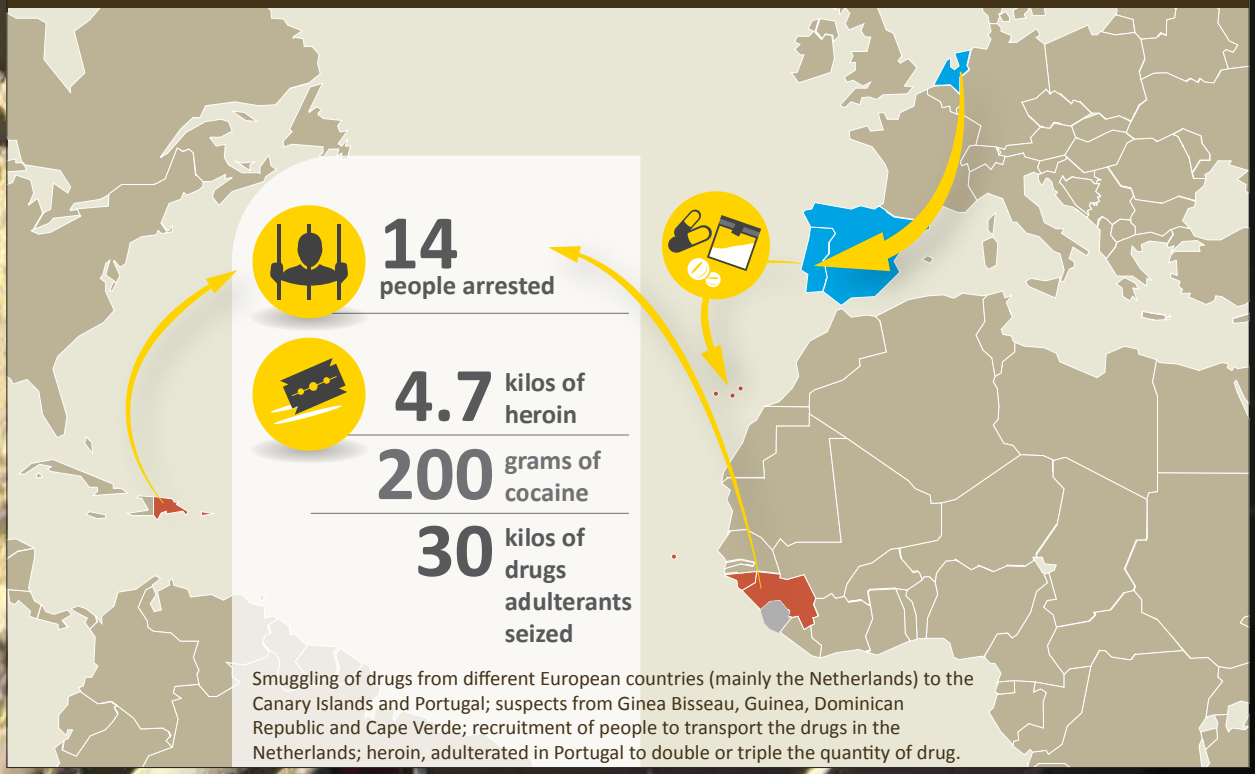
23 packages of cocaine seized

25 kilos of cocaine seized

CRIMINAL GROUPS INVOLVED IN POLY-DRUG TRAFFICKING TARGETED

Operation Caustica
September 2014

Law enforcement authorities from Spain and Portugal, supported by Europol



14 people arrested

4.7 kilos of heroin

200 grams of cocaine

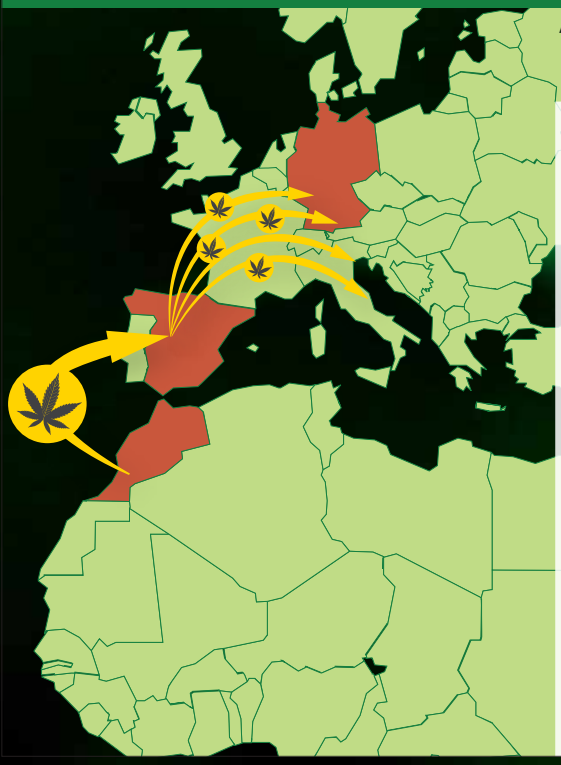
30 kilos of drugs adulterants seized

Smuggling of drugs from different European countries (mainly the Netherlands) to the Canary Islands and Portugal; suspects from Ginea Bisseau, Guinea, Dominican Republic and Cape Verde; recruitment of people to transport the drugs in the Netherlands; heroin, adulterated in Portugal to double or triple the quantity of drug.

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Operation Suaco-Cayenne
October 2014

A joint operation between Spanish and German law enforcement authorities, coordinated by Europol



As well as laundering the drugs money, these companies were used to acquire vessels to transport the hashish. The hashish was trafficked from Morocco to Spain by sea and then on to other EU destinations via land routes.

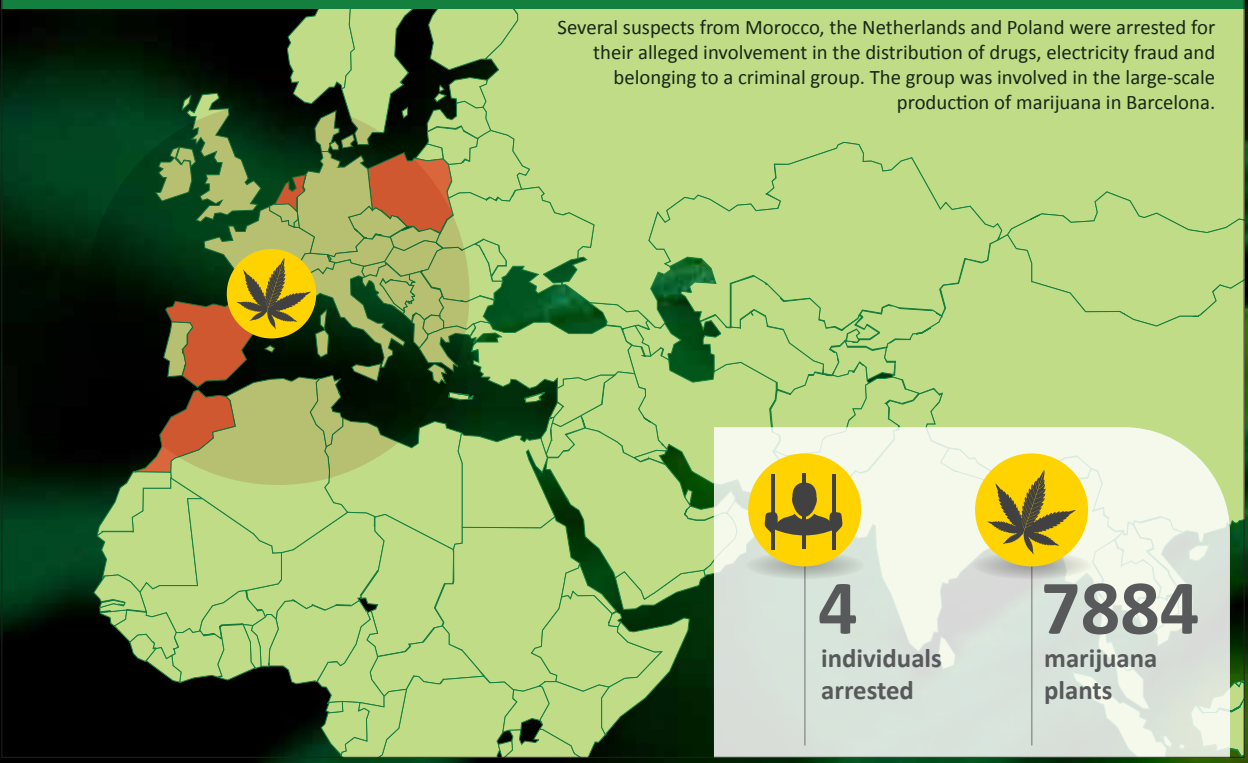
1.1 TONNES OF HASHISH AND ASSETS WORTH MORE THAN EUR 9 MILLION SEIZED

- **20** individuals arrested
- **1.1** tonnes of hashish
- **44** vehicles **+1** sailing boat
- **21** properties
- **27500 €** cash

Operation Bailes
June 2014

Cannabis is the most widely used drug in Europe. Organised crime groups (OCGs) are increasingly involved in the cultivation of cannabis in the EU.

Spain's Guardia Civil, working in cooperation with Europol, uncovered and dismantled two large marijuana plantations



Several suspects from Morocco, the Netherlands and Poland were arrested for their alleged involvement in the distribution of drugs, electricity fraud and belonging to a criminal group. The group was involved in the large-scale production of marijuana in Barcelona.

- **4** individuals arrested
- **7884** marijuana plants

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Irregular migrants used by Vietnamese crime network to run cannabis plantations

Irregular migrants and victims of trafficking are often used as labourers for cannabis plantations. A large operation within the EU uncovered a Vietnamese crime network that facilitated the illegal immigration of Vietnamese nationals for working at cannabis cultivation sites. The operation involved law enforcement authorities from the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Poland and the UK, Europol and Eurojust. 26 individuals were arrested, 15 irregular migrants found and 37 searches were carried out. 1750 cannabis plants worth approximately EUR 1.5 million were discovered. The criminal group, operating since at least 2010, was using real or forged identification documents to facilitate the Vietnamese migrants' entry into the EU. Each migrant paid between EUR 10 000 and EUR 15 000 to the criminal group to get into countries such as the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Poland and the UK. On the action day Europol provided operational analysis reports and deployed mobile offices to Poland and UK to provide real time cross-checks of data.

A JOINT TEAM TO FIGHT NETWORKS TRANSPORTING MIGRANTS IN LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

During 2014, a surge in the number of irregular migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea led to an increasing number of serious incidents and the loss of hundreds of lives. From 2013 to 2014 alone, the number of irregular migrants trying to reach the EU has increased by 332%. Ruthless OCGs organise sea crossings in vessels not sea-worthy and charge migrants thousands of euros for their facilitation services. Europol has been at the forefront of attempts to combating these OCGs and hosts a multi-national team fighting the facilitation of illegal immigration – the Joint Operational Team (JOT) MARE.

JOT MARE makes use of Europol's unique intelligence capacities allowing the exchange of vital information in real time in order to disrupt networks operating from Libya and Turkey as well as other North African countries and responsible for transporting migrants in life-threatening conditions. Europol's partners involved in the JOT MARE are Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Frontex and Interpol.



After entering the EU, the travel of irregular migrants to their final destination countries is often facilitated. In June 2014, a joint investigation team coordinated the dismantling of an Albanian network involved in smuggling people. The operation involved French and British authorities, supported by Europol and Eurojust. Over the last two years the network had recruited around 200 migrants in Albania, transported them to France and then to the UK. The main suspects earned several thousand euros per migrant.



"From 2013 to 2014 alone, the number of irregular migrants trying to reach the EU has increased by 332%"

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A victim of sexual exploitation sold for EUR 20 000

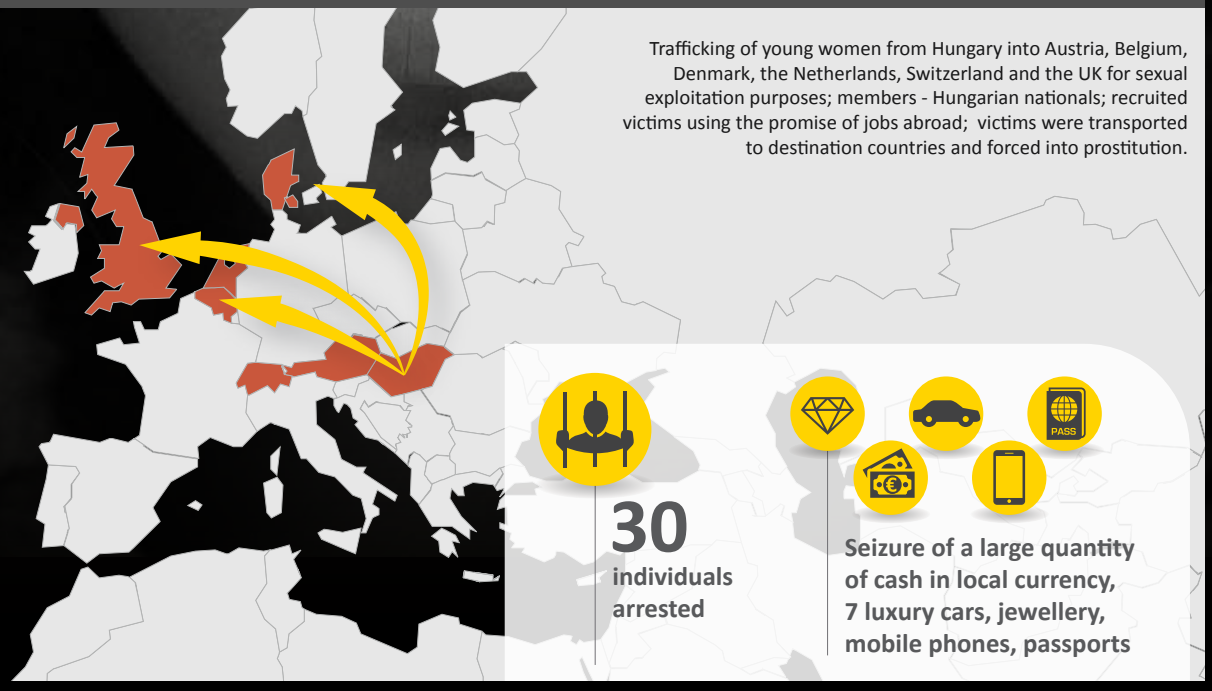


Witness protection is an important tool in cases of human trafficking and, in general, is crucial in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe and abroad. A dedicated network on witness protection is led by Europol to facilitate the exchange of expertise - through Europol's documentation in this area - and capacity building. The network includes representatives from 67 countries from all over the world, all international tribunals and the UNODC.

OPERATION GALATON/APUS 2014

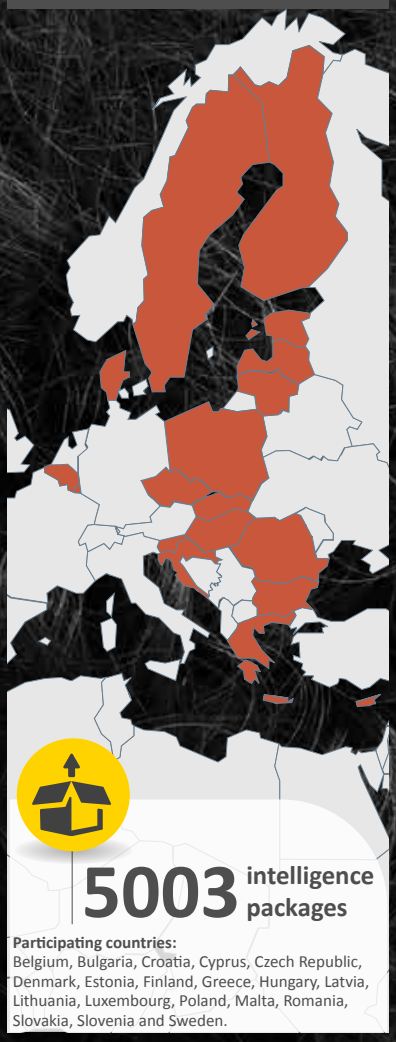
Organised criminal groups (OCGs) target thousands of human victims and traffic them for sexual or labour exploitation in the EU. In 2014, Europol supported Operation Galaton/Apus, targeting an organised crime group involved in the trafficking of young women

A joint investigation team (JIT) supported by Europol and Eurojust, field operation carried out by the Hungarian National Police



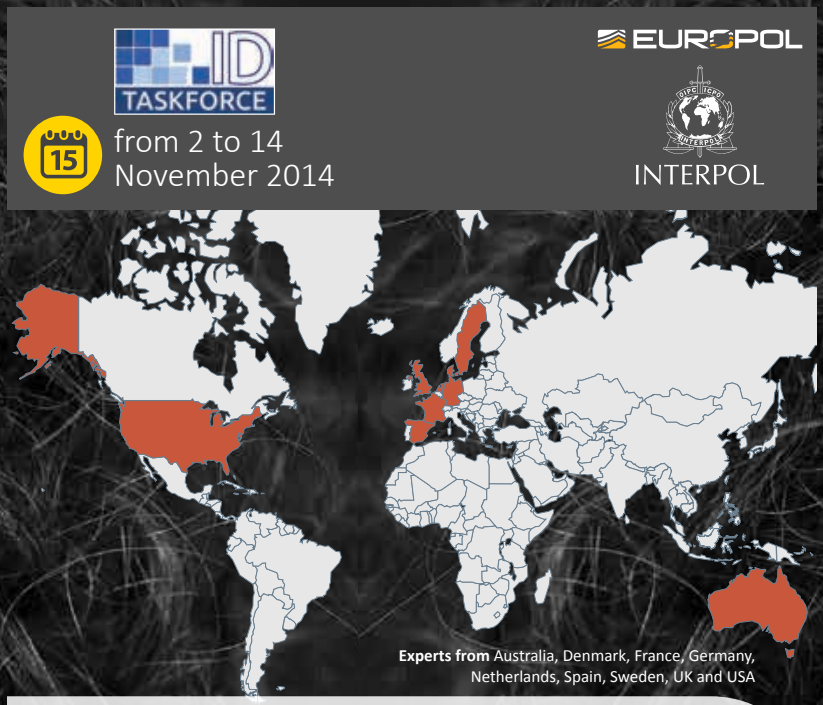
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New Europol Initiative to Fight Online Child Sexual Abuse



5003 intelligence packages

Participating countries:
Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.



240 new collections of material uploaded to the International Child Sexual Exploitation image database hosted by Interpol

made additions to more than **100** collections already existing in the database

22 children have been saved and other investigations significantly advanced.

Industry reports child abuse material encountered online to the CyberTipline, the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children's reporting mechanism for suspected child sexual exploitation. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) provide Europol with information from the tipline. Europol cross-checks and provides intelligence packages to the concerned EU Member States. A total of 5003 intelligence packages have been sent since November 2013.



In November 2014 Europol, at the request of EU Member States and third parties, hosted a Victim Identification Taskforce (VIDTF) to harness cooperation in a new way. Over 12 days experts in victim identification worked on an unprecedented amount of child sexual abuse and exploitation material gathered from seizures in some of those countries.

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DARK MARKETS TAKEN DOWN 6 Nov. 2014

Stop the sale, distribution and promotion of illegal and harmful items, including weapons and drugs, which were being sold through online dark marketplaces

Law enforcement and judicial agencies around the globe undertook a joint action against dark markets running as hidden services on Tor* network. The operation was coordinated by Europol, and supported by the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) and Eurojust.



17 arrests of vendors and administrators of online marketplaces

EUR 180 000 in cash, drugs, gold and silver were seized

USD 1 million bitcoins

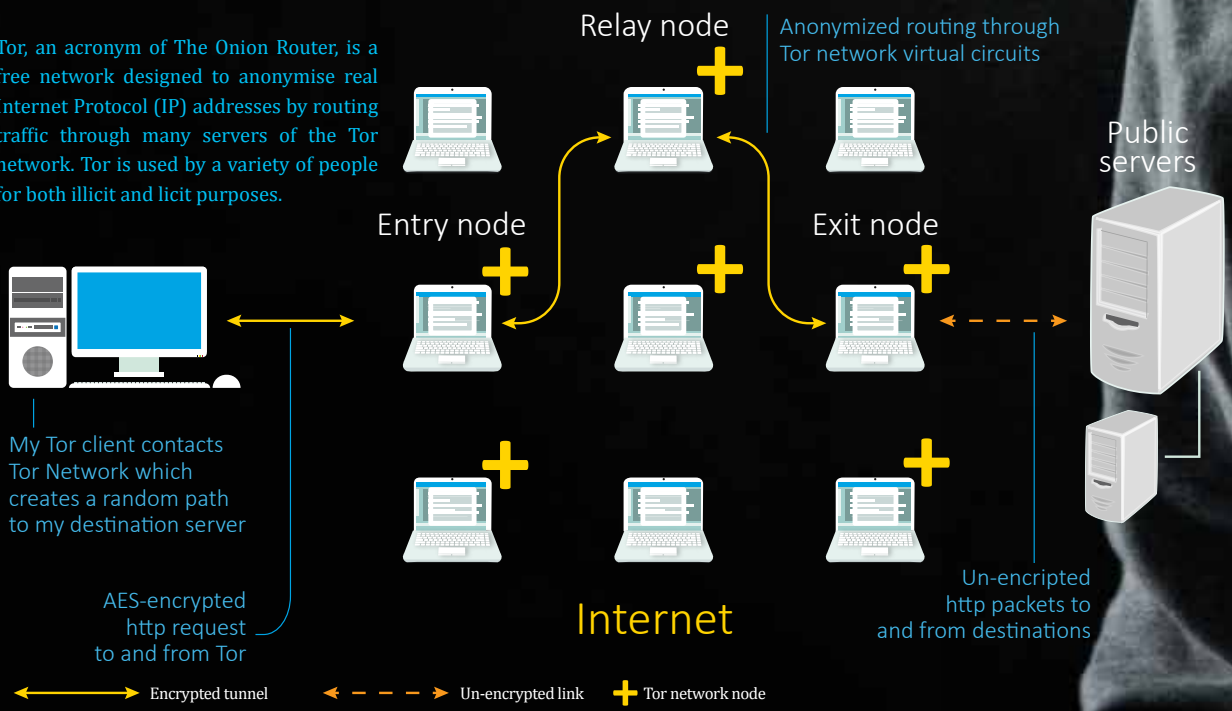
410 hidden services were successfully taken down

2.0 Silk Road was also taken down by US authorities

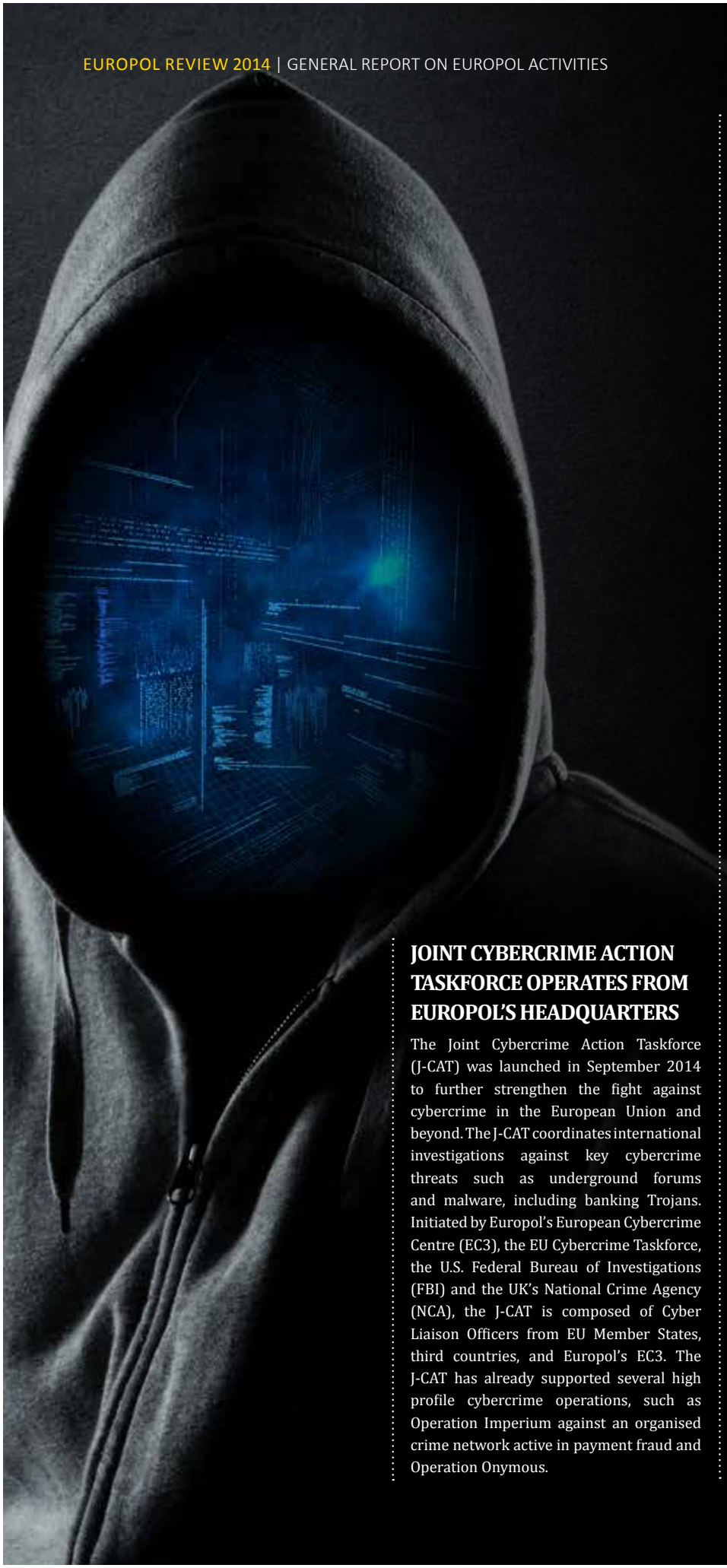
Participating countries:
Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the USA

THE ONION ROUTER (TOR)

Tor, an acronym of The Onion Router, is a free network designed to anonymise real Internet Protocol (IP) addresses by routing traffic through many servers of the Tor network. Tor is used by a variety of people for both illicit and licit purposes.



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JOINT CYBERCRIME ACTION TASKFORCE OPERATES FROM EUROPOL'S HEADQUARTERS

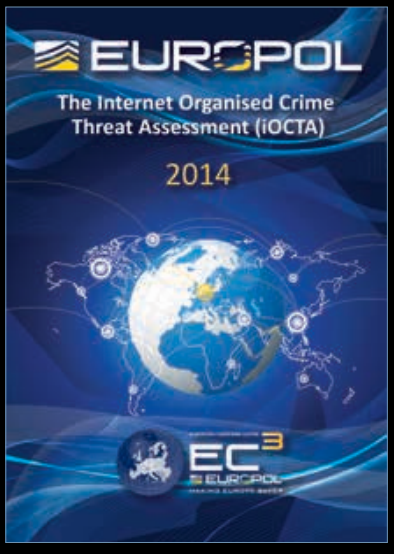
The Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) was launched in September 2014 to further strengthen the fight against cybercrime in the European Union and beyond. The J-CAT coordinates international investigations against key cybercrime threats such as underground forums and malware, including banking Trojans. Initiated by Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), the EU Cybercrime Taskforce, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), the J-CAT is composed of Cyber Liaison Officers from EU Member States, third countries, and Europol's EC3. The J-CAT has already supported several high profile cybercrime operations, such as Operation Imperium against an organised crime network active in payment fraud and Operation Onymous.

RAT SPYWARE EXPOSES PERSONAL DATA

Operation Mousetrap, led by France, targeted the users of remote access Trojans (RATs) - malware used to spy on victims' computers. The operation was supported by Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Romania and the UK, and resulted in 15 arrests of mainly young adults in France, Romania and the UK. Those arrested were suspected of misusing RATs to commit various cybercrimes such as theft of personal information, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks and extortion. One of the major goals of the operation was to raise awareness about the threat of RATs used to commit serious crimes.

IOCTA: CRIME-AS-A-SERVICE BUSINESS MODEL FLOURISHES IN CYBERSPACE

Cybercrime is developing along the lines of international business, as evidenced by the increased commercialisation and the development of a virtual underground economy using the so called 'Crime-as-a-Service' business model. The 'hidden Internet', the Deep Web including Darknets, and the abuse of legitimate services it offers have become driving factors behind the evolution of this trend, but also of cybercrime in general. These new trends are analysed in the 2014 Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (iOCTA) report. This Europol EC3 flagship strategic product informs decision makers about on-going developments and emerging threats in this field.



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Fighting property crime across the EU

Organised crime groups commit property crime across the entire EU including organised vehicle theft, burglaries, armed robberies, metal and cargo theft. Relatively low punishments for most property crimes, their diversity and the fact that these crimes are often investigated at a local level make them attractive to criminal groups.



THEFT NETWORK SPECIALISED IN STEALING LUXURY GOODS DISMANTLED

In June 2014, the French Gendarmerie, supported by Europol, hit Moldovan crime networks involved in organised property crime. The criminal group was stealing jewellery, boat engines and expensive racing bicycles in France. Operation Capalest resulted in 10 arrests which included the leaders of the criminal groups. They are known to have transported the cash and property they stole from France back to Romania and Moldova using minibuses.

INCREASE IN THE THEFTS OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

As a response to ongoing investigations and following an increased number of reports from Member States, Europol issued an Early Warning Notification on thefts of agricultural machinery. The numbers of thefts of agricultural machinery such as tractors as well as other heavy farming equipment have been increasing across many Member States. In January 2014, a joint operation between the French Gendarmerie, Spanish Guardia Civil and the Romanian National Police, coordinated and supported by Eurojust and Europol, resulted in the arrest of nine suspects and stopped a group stealing tractors in France, Romania and Spain. Europol deployed staff to Spain and provided real-time analysis and cross-checking of data from its coordination centre.

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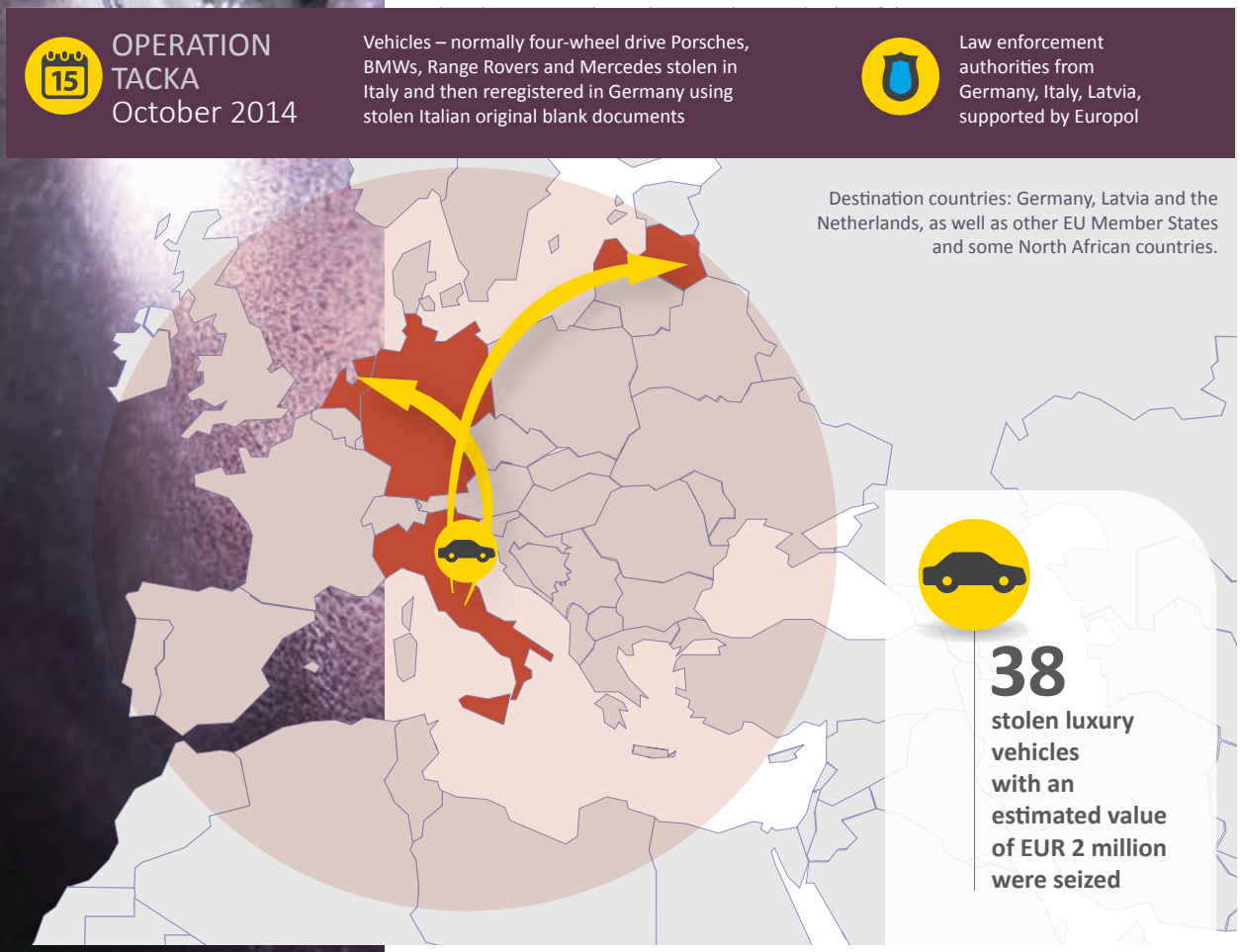


CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THREATENED BY METAL THIEVES

Metal theft is an increasing problem for many Member States and threatens critical infrastructures such as electricity supply networks or railways. The copper found in wires is a particularly sought-after and valuable commodity. Metal thieves risk lives by disconnecting electricity or removing overhead cables on train lines. In May 2014, European law enforcement authorities sent a strong signal to the gangs of organised metal thieves who operate all over Europe, and the many scrapyards that accept all kinds of metal with 'no questions asked'. A joint operation supported by Europol and involving 20 European countries resulted in 271 arrests, identified 146 cases of theft and checked 8300 scrap metal dealers. Checks were carried out at scrapyards, on construction sites, along border roads, railway tracks and other hot spots for metal theft. Stolen metal is often transported across several borders and sold as scrap, or for recycling, far away from the scene of the crime. The operation was driven by the Belgian Federal and Judicial Police and was the result of an initiative launched during the 2nd conference on metal theft held at Europol at the end of April 2014.

CRIMINALS USE "TROJAN HORSES" TO STEAL FROM LORRIES

In 2014, Europol reported on a new modus operandi used by criminals to steal goods from lorries. The thieves hide in wooden boxes and then arrange for their pick-up by parcel delivery companies. During the journey, they leave the boxes during transport in the backs of lorries and steal valuable items such as jewellery, phones or electronics. To leave the vehicles, the team contacts accomplices who simulate an accident to stop the lorries. The thieves hidden in the lorries escape via holes cut out of the roofs of the lorries and are then picked up by other accomplices.



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More than EUR 27.5 million worth of potentially dangerous medicines seized

Europol is working together with partners across the world to combat the distribution of counterfeit goods. In 2014, several successful operations highlighted the threat of counterfeit pharmaceuticals, food and drinks to consumers in the EU.



EUROPOL TARGETS THE SALE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS ONLINE

In June 2014, Europol and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), together with 11 law enforcement agencies from eight countries, seized 188 domain names that were illegally selling counterfeit merchandise online to unsuspecting consumers. The operation was coordinated by Europol for the participating EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom) and the HSI-led National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) in Washington, DC for the US.

Counterfeit products sold online not only rip the consumer off and provide shoddy products, but also put their personal financial information at risk. The most popular counterfeit products concerned include headphones, sports jerseys, personal care products, shoes, toys, luxury goods, cell phones and electronic accessories.

EU JOINT OPERATION PREVENTS 11 278 TONNES OF WASTE BEING DUMPED IN THE ENVIRONMENT

In November 2014, over 2500 law enforcement officers from 13 EU countries were engaged in a massive operation targeting illicit waste trafficking. Italian Carabinieri led the operation, with the support of Europol and law enforcement in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.



Law enforcement officers targeted both waste transporters and waste producers and seized 11 278 tonnes of waste and 13 vehicles. 58 investigations, supported by Europol, will be launched by the national authorities.

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PANGEA VI
May 2014

Operation Pangea VII resulted in the shut down of thousands of illicit online pharmacies in the largest-ever global operation targeting fake medicines.

Europol, together with nearly 200 enforcement agencies across 111 countries*



237
arrests worldwide

27.5
million EUR

1235
investigations

19 000
adverts for illicit pharmaceuticals removed

10 600
websites shut down

3
illicit laboratories dismantled

*Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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Europol coordinates three operations against ticketing fraud

2nd Airline Action Day
8-9 April 2014

International Air Transport Association (IATA); Frontex, Eurojust, Interpol, Europol; Visa Europe, MasterCard and American Express.

1

According to Visa Europe, criminals commit airline fraud every three minutes. Every day 800 airline tickets in Europe are bought in fraudulent transactions.

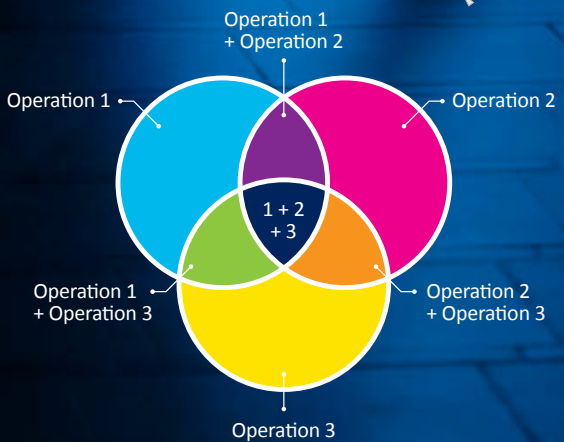
68 airports

35 airlines

70 individuals arrested

32 countries worldwide, including 24 EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom), Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, USA, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Ukraine

Criminals commit airline fraud EVERY 3 MINUTES



Every day 800 AIRLINE TICKETS in Europe are bought in fraudulent transactions

Operation Archimedes Airline Action Day Low cost airlines

22 September 2014

Europol; Visa Europe, MasterCard and American Express.

2

Card-not-present (CNP) fraud causes approximately EUR 900 million in losses per year. The main issue with CNP fraud is the purchasing of airline tickets with compromised credit card data

14 airports

6 airlines

38 passengers travelling with fraudulent tickets

12 individuals intercepted

9 Countries: Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom

Global Airline Action Day

26-27 November 2014

Interpol, Ameripol, Europol; Visa Europe, Visa Inc, MasterCard, American Express and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

3

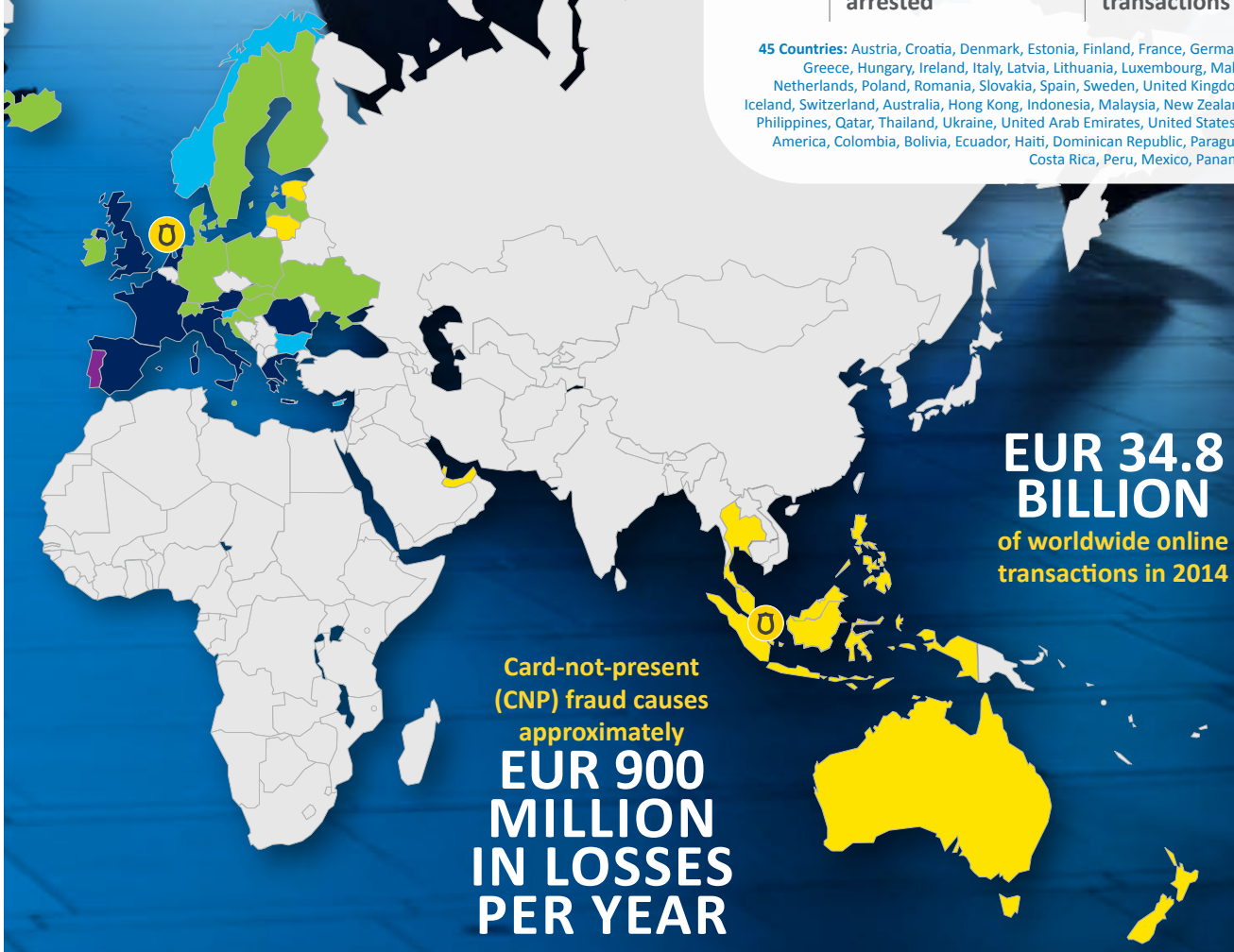
+80 airports

+60 airlines

118 individuals arrested

281 suspicious transactions

45 Countries: Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Qatar, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Panama.



EUR 34.8 BILLION

of worldwide online transactions in 2014

Card-not-present (CNP) fraud causes approximately

EUR 900 MILLION IN LOSSES PER YEAR

According to Visa Europe

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The EURO, an attractive currency for counterfeiters

The global acceptance of the euro as a stable currency with low rates of inflation makes it an attractive currency for counterfeiters. Europol works with partners across the world to fight the counterfeiting of the euro.

THE BIGGEST SEIZURE OF COUNTERFEIT EURO BANKNOTES IN THE WORLD INITIATED BY EUROPOL

Italian authorities seized counterfeits amounting to approximately EUR 78 million in an operation initiated by Europol. Based on the forensic examination and technical investigation performed by Europol, the Italian authorities disrupted a criminal organisation and prevented huge economic damage. Two print shops and a depot were discovered along with counterfeit banknotes of 50 euro denomination. The seizure and the success of the joint operational efforts prevented these counterfeits entering into circulation.

As the European Union's central office for combating euro counterfeiting, one of the key functions of Europol is to act as the worldwide contact point for combating counterfeiting of the euro. Europol is involved in all major euro counterfeiting investigations in the EU, including joint investigation teams providing financial, forensic support and on-the-spot assistance.

In November 2014, Italian law enforcement authorities, with the support of Europol, arrested 53 individuals suspected of being part of an organised crime network responsible for the global distribution of counterfeit money. Following an extensive investigation beginning in 2012, supported by Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), Carabinieri were able to piece together the methods by which the criminal group gained complete control of the international counterfeit euro market. They distributed significant quantities in Italy and all over the world through their close-knit network.

CRIMINAL NETWORK COUNTERFEITING EUROS DISMANTLED IN BOGOTÁ

Working with Europol, Spain's Brigada de Investigacion del Banco de Espana (BIBE) and the US Secret Service, Colombian National Police dismantled an illegal digital print shop producing counterfeit currency. On 13 March 2014, 50 police officers raided seven premises in the suburbs south of Bogotá. Six Colombian citizens were arrested. Europol provided analytical, financial and forensic support to the investigation, with a Europol specialist present in Bogotá to examine seized currency and equipment.

Italian organised crime groups continue to be involved in the counterfeiting of the euro. Europol works with law enforcement authorities in Europe to disrupt these groups.



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Profession: Money Launderer

When money talks, you listen. That is the first thing you learn when you get involved in financial investigations. And money will never fail you, it will always talk. Even when all your sources dry out, when witnesses are afraid to come forward, when suspects respect their 'Omerta', and when there is no surveillance, no documents or telephone interceptions to help you, money will always talk. You just need to know how to listen.

CODE NAME STAUEN

The high degree of sophistication of money laundering networks remains sometimes unconceivable even for investigators in financial and organised crime. Such syndicates operate on a global scale, involving an army of accomplices and are capable of laundering several hundreds of millions of euros per year. One remarkable example: project Stauen, undertaken by law enforcement authorities from the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, and supported by Europol. The project aims at dismantling a money laundering syndicate and at identifying the principals of the organised criminal groups that were using its services. Significant links to several other European jurisdictions (Belgium, France, Italy and Spain) were detected.

THE MONEY LAUNDERING PROCESS

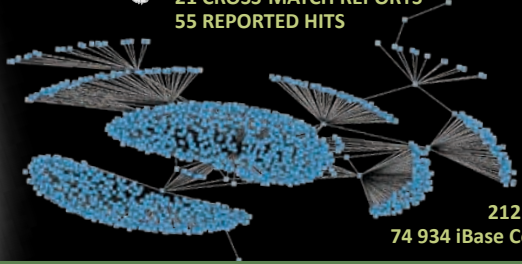
There would be one sole individual responsible for organising the collection of the 'dirty' money, for their delivery to a layering destination[3], for providing further transfers and for facilitating the physical disposal of funds to the criminal group when needed. And the flows would be balanced through compensation systems whereby illegal proceeds are substituted for legitimate funds and no physical cross border movement of cash would ever take place.

3 The layering creates difficulties in tracing back financial flows to its illicit origin and usually involves the wire transfer of funds through a series of bank accounts often passing through offshore accounts.

Members of network positioned in India, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Hong Kong



7 OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORTS
21 CROSS-MATCH REPORTS
55 REPORTED HITS



90 701 iBase Links
4953 iBase Entities
212 iBase Contributions
74 934 iBase Communication Links

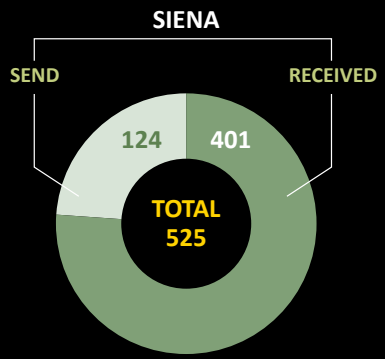
Satellite networks based in: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia.

Criminal areas suspected of using the services of this network

DRUGS TRAFFICKING
(heroin, cocaine and synthetic)
Carousel (mtic) fraud
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
Mobile Organised Criminal Groups
FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

Information delivered to Europol for analysis

TELEPHONE BILLS & CONVERSATIONS
Email Messages CASH SEIZURES
SURVEILLANCE REPORTS
CONTROLLED DELIVERIES FINANCIAL DATA
House Search Results



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APPROXIMATELY EUR 6 BILLION FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES FROZEN AND SEIZED ANNUALLY IN THE EU

Organised crime activities are profit driven, therefore confiscation is a strategic priority in the EU's fight against organised crime. The confiscation and recovery of proceeds from crime deprives criminals of what they have worked hard to acquire. Europol estimates that criminal proceeds to the value of approximately EUR 6 billion are frozen and seized annually in the EU. But before criminal proceeds can be confiscated by courts, they need to be traced and identified by law enforcement. Europol actively supports EU Member States to trace these criminal proceeds in Europe but increasingly also on a global level with the support of the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) of asset recovery experts from 54 countries.

EUR 21 MILLION IN PAYMENTS FOR COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES IDENTIFIED

In the spring of 2014, Europol supported an operation tackling the distribution of prescription-only counterfeit medicines via the Internet in the EU. Along with investigations on the supply and online distribution of counterfeit medicines, the money laundering activity of the organised criminal group was also targeted. The Europol Criminal Assets Bureau traced and identified the criminal proceeds mainly by following the financial flows, in cooperation with the Asset Recovery Offices of the countries concerned. Payments of EUR 9 million in France and EUR 12 million in the UK were identified in transactions involving counterfeit and unlicensed medicines. In Austria, six people managed to sell the fake pharmaceutical products to at least 120 000 people via the Internet. One of the main perpetrators confessed that he had earned more than EUR 9000 per month by selling the fake drugs.





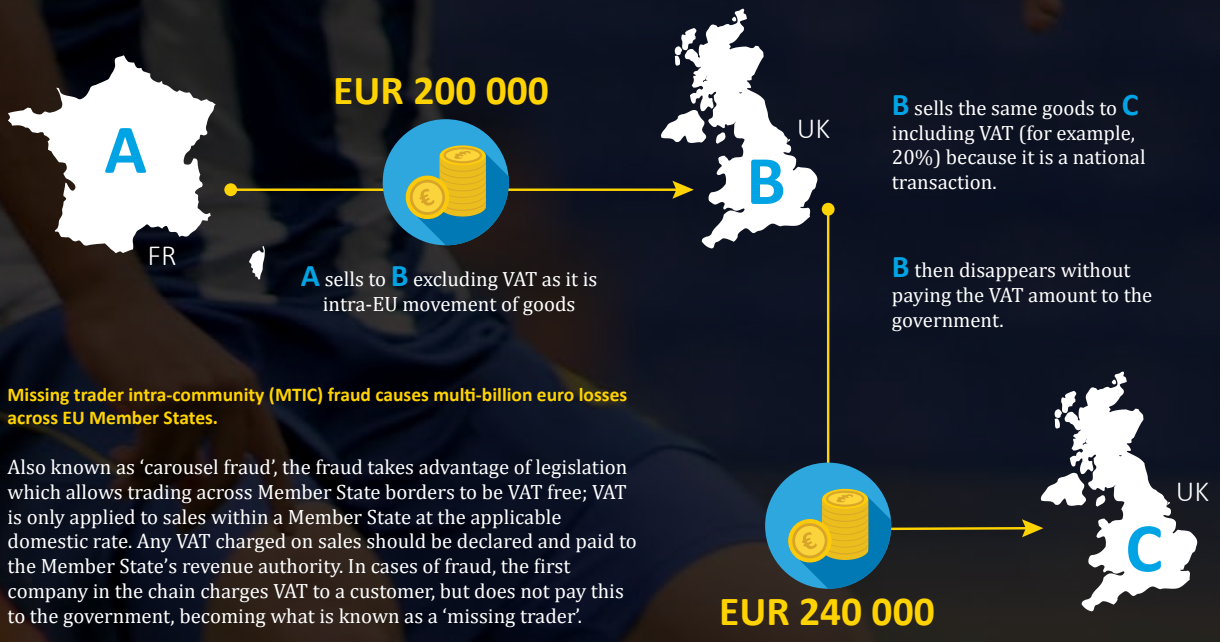
THE CEO FRAUD: EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CLUB TARGETED

A fraudster pretending to be one of the club's executives instructed an employee of a European football club to pay EUR 100 000 for a player transfer. The administration of the football club realised the fraud a week later. However, Europol in close cooperation with the relevant authorities in the Czech Republic, managed to freeze the money. This fraud - the CEO fraud - is a new trend increasingly threatening businesses across Europe. Fraudsters call subsidiaries of multinational companies impersonating a company executive, such as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). They instruct an employee to carry out an urgent and confidential money transfer to another country. The money is then immediately routed further, in many cases to bank accounts in Asia. Europol closely co-operates with Member States to freeze the bank accounts as soon as possible, before the money is transferred.



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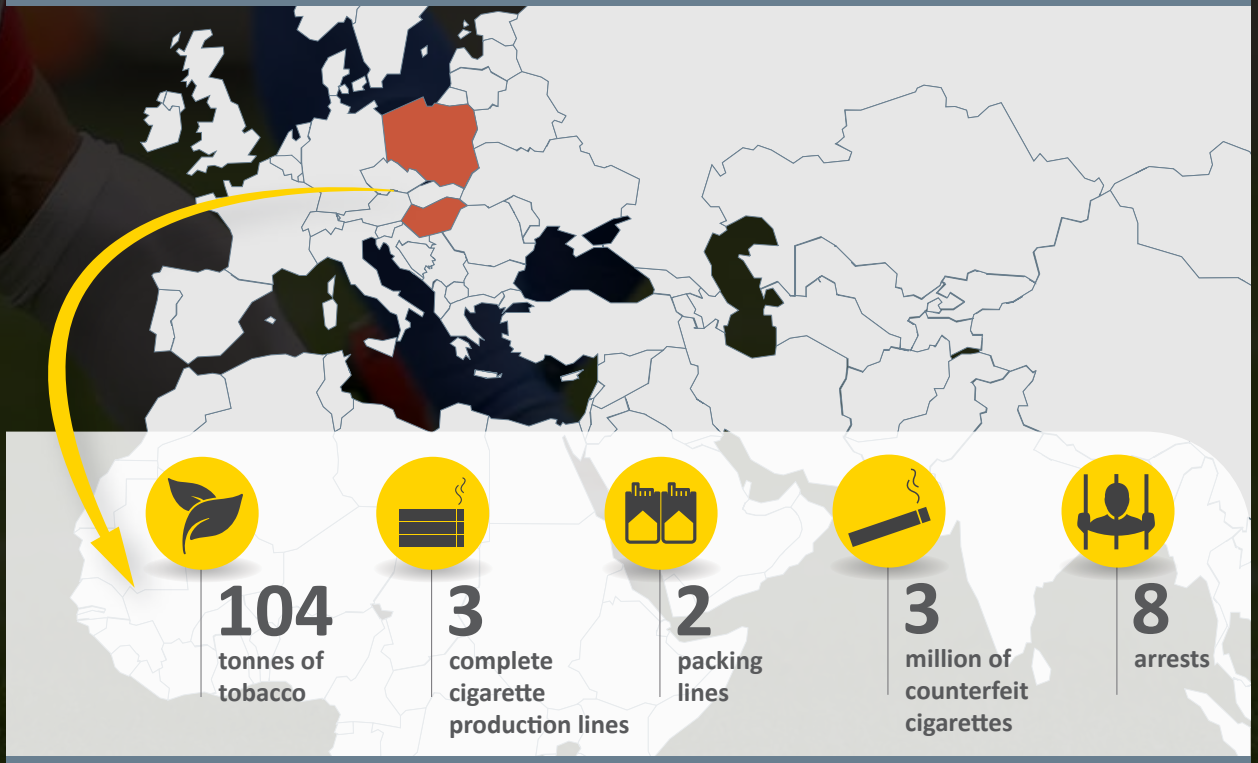
MISSING TRADER INTRA-COMMUNITY FRAUD



Missing trader intra-community (MTIC) fraud causes multi-billion euro losses across EU Member States.

Also known as 'carousel fraud', the fraud takes advantage of legislation which allows trading across Member State borders to be VAT free; VAT is only applied to sales within a Member State at the applicable domestic rate. Any VAT charged on sales should be declared and paid to the Member State's revenue authority. In cases of fraud, the first company in the chain charges VAT to a customer, but does not pay this to the government, becoming what is known as a 'missing trader'.

THE EU LOSE BILLIONS OF EUROS ANNUALLY FROM TAX FRAUD 2014



In 2014, Europol supported an operation by Hungarian and Polish law enforcement which resulted in the dismantling of an organised crime group involved in the production and distribution of illegal cigarettes.

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Foreign fighters: a threat of rising proportion

Young Europeans, having returned from Syria and other conflict areas where they had joined rebel groups, are of serious concern for the EU. A number of them have radicalised and have gained hands-on experience in acts of extreme violence. This particular group of foreign fighters may be capable of conducting terrorist attacks in the EU, fired up by 'mujatweets', videos and other social outreach by the groups they had joined and sympathise with. Europol's 'Check the Web' portal enables EU Member States to share information on the Internet activities of religiously inspired terrorist groups. 'Islamic State', known for its highly developed and effective media strategy, motivates jihadists to fight for its cause in conflict areas or at home in Europe. In cases of major terrorist incidents or threats, Europol can set-up a First Response Network. Within this network, counter-terrorism experts from the Member States are supported by experts from Europol and on-the-spot access to the Europol counter terrorism tools and services.



EUROPOL INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

The fight against terrorism, along with the fight against serious and organised crime, is Europol's core business. During the European Police Chiefs Convention 2014, a clear political statement was made: the fight against terrorism is a major priority for European law enforcement. Europol fully supports the work of the national units by providing intelligence and, in

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case of a major incident, by assisting investigators 24/7. On 7 January 2015, the French satirical magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' was attacked by two jihadists. During the attack in Paris, 12 people were killed. In a video released at a later stage, Al-Qaeda in Yemen took responsibility for the attack. This attack was followed by another in a kosher supermarket in Paris. The gunman of the second attack pledged allegiance to the Islamic State terrorist group. A few days later, Belgian authorities successfully disrupted another terrorist group, which was planning an imminent attack in Belgium. After the attacks and raids, and during the investigations conducted by local authorities, Europol's counter-terrorism experts and analysts were available around the clock to further assist in the investigations. Europol immediately performed cross checks in its databases on the names of the identified perpetrators to look for possible accomplices, produced a significant number of unique financial intelligence leads, monitored extremist propaganda online and offered these and other operational services, including weapons trafficking expertise, to the French and Belgian authorities. Both terrorist attacks led to worldwide outrage and demonstrated the relevance of intensive international police cooperation.

INTELLIGENCE TRACKS FINANCING OF TERRORISM

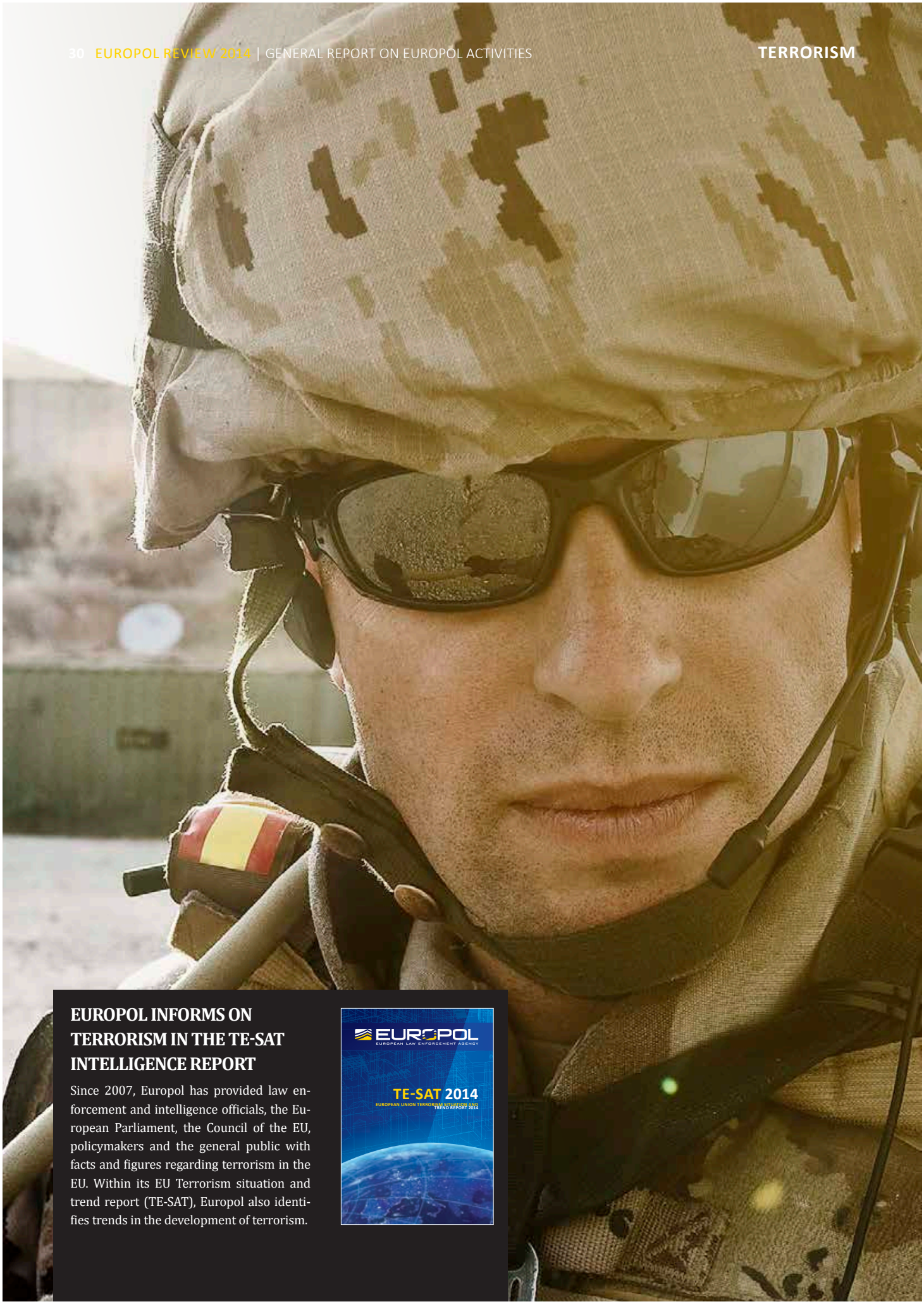
Terrorist groups depend on regular cash flows. With those they finance travelling, the training and recruitment of members, forging of documents, acquiring weapons, and staging attacks. Europol's Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) tracks activities associated with suspected acts of terrorist planning and financing. With over 6300 TFTP derived intelligence leads on counter terrorism investigations delivered to EU Member States, Europol helps to track terrorists and their support networks worldwide.



700 EU EXPLOSIVES AND CBRN SPECIALISTS SHARE INTELLIGENCE

The EU Bomb Data System provides a platform for the timely sharing of relevant information and intelligence on incidents involving explosives and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials. Over 700 experts from almost all EU Member States, Europol, Norway and the United States are already connected and using the system. The cooperation among CBRN specialists is facilitated by the European Explosive Ordinance Disposal Network. Experts meet at least once a year to compare their respective protocols. This work is highly important for the response to incidents with cross-border aspects.

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EUROPOL INFORMS ON TERRORISM IN THE TE-SAT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Since 2007, Europol has provided law enforcement and intelligence officials, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, policymakers and the general public with facts and figures regarding terrorism in the EU. Within its EU Terrorism situation and trend report (TE-SAT), Europol also identifies trends in the development of terrorism.

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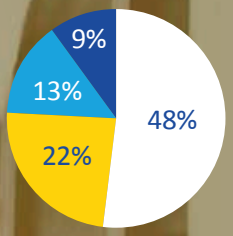
Terrorist attacks in the EU in 2014

201

the death of **4** people

& the injury of **6**

Arrests in the EU in 2014



389 arrests for religiously inspired terrorism

90% were younger than 40 years

52 female arrestees compared to only 6 in 2013

Terrorist attacks and arrests in the EU in 2014



All figures are reported by national competent authorities for the Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2014

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The Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)

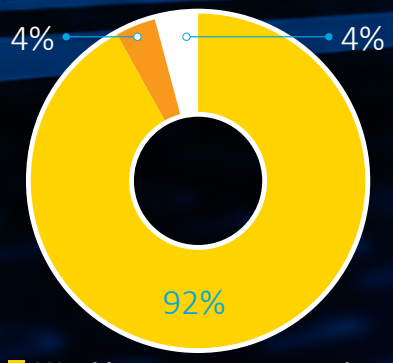
enables the swift and secure exchange of operational and strategic crime-related information and intelligence between Member States, Europol and cooperating third parties.

SIENA

34 472 CASES were initiated

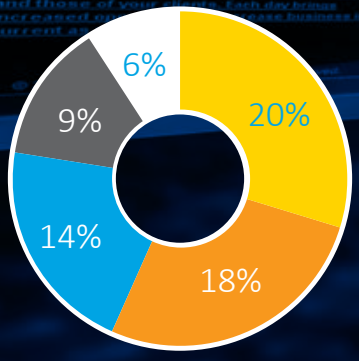
Increase of approximately 13%[5] over 2013

OF THE SIENA CASES INITIATED IN 2014:



- 92% of the new cases were initiated by Member States
- 4% by Europol
- 4% by third parties

CRIME AREAS OF NEW CASES



- 20% related to other crime areas
- 18% related to drug trafficking
- 14% related to fraud and swindling
- 9% related to robbery
- 6% related to money laundering and illegal immigration

605 245 OPERATIONAL MESSAGES were exchanged

+33% over 2013

On average **50 437** messages were exchanged **EACH MONTH**

573 competent authorities are configured in SIENA

+27% over 2013

There are currently **4663** USERS

+12% over 2013

28 MEMBER STATES & **34** third parties connected to SIENA

(15 third parties connected directly and 19 third parties connected indirectly). (Figures as at 7 January 2015)

LARGE FILE EXCHANGE (LFE)

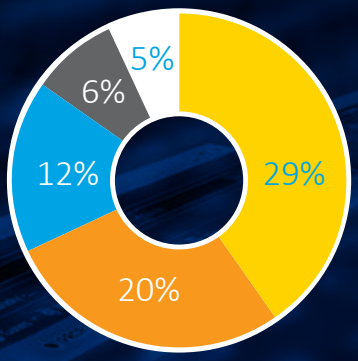
The LFE solution enables the secure exchange of large files that exceed the size limit (50MB) of the Europol Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) when the need arises (for example sending an image of a hard drive or copy of a server).

The Europol Information System (EIS) stores information about offences, individuals involved and other related criminal data.

236 606 objects

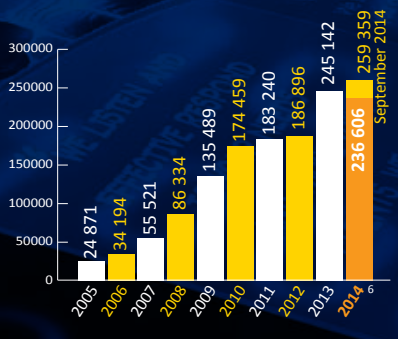
61 885 suspected criminals

Major crime areas related to objects:



- 29% related to drug trafficking
- 20% related to robbery
- 12% related to illegal immigration
- 6% related to fraud and swindling
- 5% related to trafficking in human beings

NUMBER OF OBJECTS IN THE EIS EACH YEAR SINCE 2005:



5 In January 2014 the Euroregional Police Information and Cooperation Centre (EPICC) in Heerlen started using SIENA as its main means of information exchange which doubled the number of the SIENA cases. The increase of 13% is provided excluding the 13,693 cases initiated by the EPICC in Heerlen.

6 A certain decrease in the numbers of objects and suspected criminals in the EIS was observed between September and December 2014. This is due to the planned deletion of a large amount of data by one Member State; a consequence of technical changes. The data is expected to be re-inserted in 2015.

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More than 30 specialists and analysts work in Europol's Operational Centre staffed 24/7. This unit manages the constant flow of data between Europol and its operational partners, assesses the data to be included into Europol databases and supports law enforcement operations across the EU and beyond. Europol's Operational Centre maintains a centralised cross-checking service and produces analytical reports when common elements are found. New trends in the criminal landscape of the EU can then be identified. The Operational Centre is a part of Europol's Info Hub, which also provides coordination support and engages in capacity building, and consists of a team of more than 50 experts.



Béla Vonnák
Senior Specialist in Europol's Operational Centre

City: Budapest
Education: Hungarian Police College in Budapest
Working in law enforcement since: 1997
Experience: 17 years
Specialised in: cross-border operations, international law enforcement cooperation, information management

Béla Vonnák, Senior Specialist in Europol's Operational Centre

Béla Vonnák started his career with the Hungarian National Police as an investigator in the Criminal General Directorate, where he gained international experience. He was responsible for operational information and intelligence exchange on an international level, dealing directly with bilateral liaison officers posted in Hungary during investigations. He also spent one year as a chief investigator of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) on Sinai in Egypt. In 2007 he was promoted to deputy head of the Interpol NCB at the International Law Enforcement Cooperation Centre in Hungary. He started working at Europol in 2009 as a Head of the Hungarian Liaison Bureau, where he had a chance to prepare, organise and coordinate several successful cross-border operations that benefited from Europol's operational support. Since 2012 he has been working as a Senior Specialist in Europol's Operational Centre. Béla believes that Europol is a "very unique agency among all law enforcement agencies, not only in the EU but beyond it, too." He is convinced that his belief in the organisation has enabled him to wholeheartedly promote Europol to other EU law enforcement officers.

EUROPOL MALWARE ANALYSIS SYSTEM (EMAS)

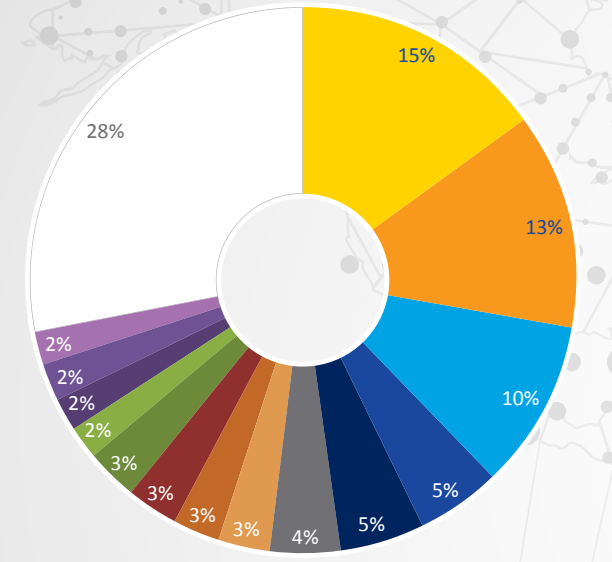
EMAS is a dynamic malware analysis tool provided by Europol to the European Union Member States (EU MS). This innovative solution is used to automatically detect and analyse malicious files and to enrich cybercrime-related intelligence on malicious software in the EU. To date, 186 094 files have been analysed in EMAS, out of which 38 562 were identified as malicious.

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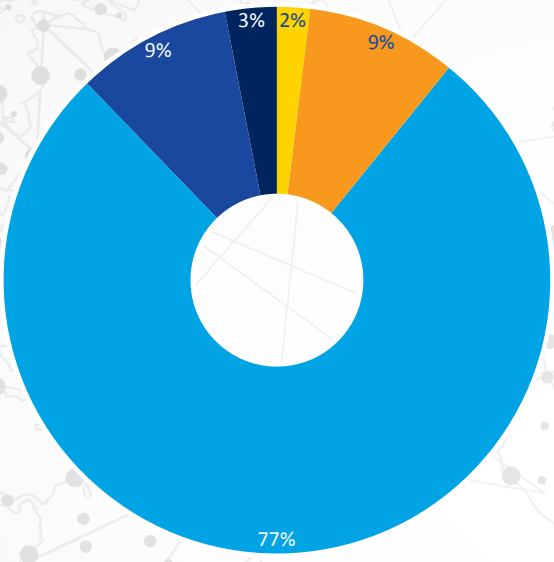
More than 6000 experts connected via the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE)

The EPE is a secure collaboration web platform for experts in a variety of law enforcement areas. It facilitates the sharing of best practices, documentation, innovation, knowledge and non-personal data on crime. More than 6000 users from 70 countries can interact and collaborate with each other in virtual communities. In 2014, an instant messaging capability was integrated into the EPE to facilitate communication.

COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN 100 USERS:



DISTRIBUTION OF USER TYPES IN THE EPE:



TOP 3 COMMUNITIES IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF USERS:

THE SECURE PLATFORM FOR ACCREDITED CYBERCRIME EXPERTS (SPACE)

1200 registered members

The Secure Platform for Accredited Cybercrime Experts (SPACE) allows specialists from a variety of law enforcement areas, private industry and academia to share knowledge, expertise, best practices and non-personal data on cybercrime.

THE FINANCIAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTRE (FCIC)

1100 registered members

The Financial Crime Information Centre (FCIC) platform provides a support service to investigators and judicial authorities by collating information from various sources on financial crime that might be relevant for practitioners in their daily work. It mainly focuses on money laundering and asset recovery.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) CRIME

430 registered members from academia, law enforcement and private industry

The purpose of this platform is to develop strategic analytical knowledge and best practices on IP criminality and counterfeit products.

With the ARGOS (Assembly of Regional Groups On Surveillance) initiative, Europol brings together covert surveillance experts from Central and Eastern Europe. Issues discussed by the operational partners are the widening and optimised use of the dedicated EPE, inclusion and diversity in recruitment and the conduct of common exercises in preparation for operational deployment abroad.

The kidnapping of EU citizens abroad and the extortion of businesses are serious crimes requiring a specialised approach. The European Network of Advisory Teams (EuNAT) provides immediate international cooperation when responding to these threats where life is at risk.

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Blaž Mamuza, one of the 182 liaison officers at Europol

Europol is constantly in touch with its operational partners through their liaison officers based at the headquarters. This is how Europol is connected to nearly two million law enforcement officers in the EU and beyond.

Meet Blaž, Croatia's liaison officer at Europol. Croatia joined the EU in July 2013 but their liaison bureau at Europol was established in early 2008. Blaž has been working from Europol headquarters for nearly two and a half years now. Before him, only one other officer had occupied this function. Blaž's daily routine involves the coordination of information and intelligence related to criminal investigations that have links to Croatia. His work consists of dealing with SIENA messages and responding through the secure line, but also quickly responding to requests from other liaison officers working in the same building at Europol's HQ. "Since 2010, the exchange of information has tripled. This is the due to the increased operational cooperation, but is also a result of Croatia's entry into the EU", affirms Blaž. "I really appreciate not only Europol as an organisation, but also all the colleagues working here. The close personal approach which we have at Europol helps us deal with complicated criminal cases quicker and more efficiently."

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Fighting serious and organised crime does not only entail responding to crimes that have occurred or investigating modi operandi once they have been reported. In order to understand how the threat of serious and organised crime might evolve in the future, Europol engages with experts from across the EU and beyond. The Serious and Organised Crime Futures Forum held at Europol in March 2014 explored the potential future of threats together with experts from government, the private sector, think tanks and international organisations as well as a large number of law enforcement experts from various Member States and third states associated with Europol. The outcome of this conference was a report that clearly sets out how serious and organised crime will remain a threat to the Member States of the EU.

Organised crime is dynamic and adaptable and Europol, together with law enforcement authorities across the EU, is challenged with keeping pace with the changing nature of this substantial and significant threat.

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LOOKING FORWARD

EUGENIO ORLANDI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CAPABILITIES DEPARTMENT

"In 2015 Europol's Finance Unit will continue supporting and monitoring the implementation of the budget, with the aim of confirming the achievements of 2014 in terms of commitment (99.7%) and payment (93%) rates. The Human Resources (HR) Unit will work on consolidating the new EU Staff Regulations in sensitive areas such as staff assessments



Oldřich Martinů

WIL VAN GEMERT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

"The need and request of Member States for Europol support and more specifically by the Operations Department is strongly increasing. The trend of increasing contributions to our databases, the amount of operational reports, expertise and intelligence notifications, and on-the-spot support, will probably keep growing over the year, as was the case in 2014.

For the first time the Operations Department will support the Operational Action Plans of the Member States, with grants coming out of the Delegation Agreement, and will coordinate even more operational actions under the EMPACT priorities. The call for operational preparation and analysis of possible investigations will be supported through evaluation and new initiatives, such as the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) and Joint Operational Team Mare (JOT Mare), but probably also with similar activities in the area of foreign fighters.

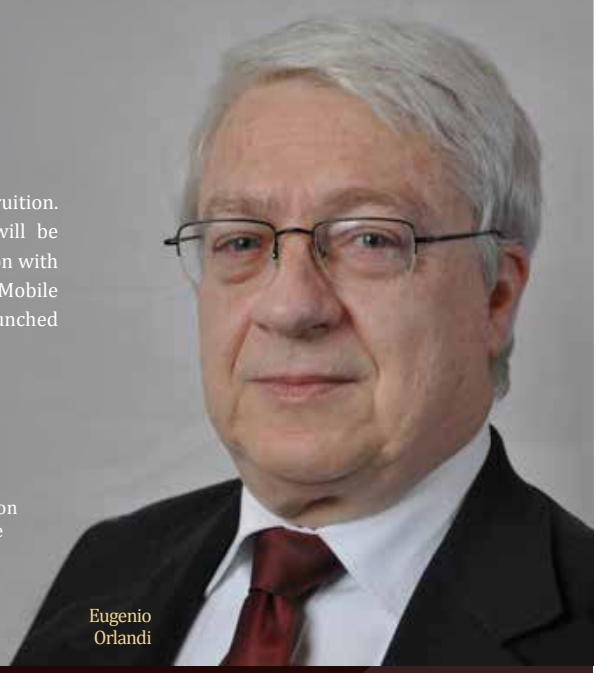
An interim SOCTA report and a report on the future of organised crime will be published alongside other regular products, such as Cyberbits and the iOCTA. Cooperation with other relevant third parties like Interpol, Frontex and Eurojust among others will be intensified at the operational level.

The growing digital world will require even more support by EC3, both to Member States but also in working with private partners, such as the financial institutions and the IT industry, to attack digital crime.

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and reclassification. New investments are foreseen by the Administration Business Area to develop support systems, namely facilities management and HR systems, in order to partially mitigate the decrease of staff in support functions. The ICT Business Area will continue providing a reliable operational IT environment while ensuring the evolution of core systems. 2015 will be also a pivotal year in which many initiatives in the 2010-2014 strategy roadmap, such as the Europol Analysis System (EAS), network transformation and ICT security improvements, will come to fruition. New initiatives, such as FIU.net[6] will be introduced. An updated EMAS version with a portal for Member States and a Mobile Malware Analysis Solution will be launched in 2015.

6 FIU.net - a computer network which facilitates the exchange of information between FIUs (Financial Intelligence Units).



Eugenio Orlandi

OLDŘICH MARTINŮ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT

"2015 will be a year of transition for Europol, in which the agency's development according to the current strategy will be completed, giving way to a new phase of the organisation's growth facilitated by an expected new legal framework. Apart from providing continuous support to the organisation, in particular the operational department in the delivery of core business products and services, Europol's Governance Department will start working on the assessment of the impact and changes stemming from the Europol Regulation. A main focus will be on the preparation of a proposal on the new Europol Strategy for the years to come. Cooperation with relevant third countries and other EU agencies and bodies will remain a priority in 2015 as well as the implementation of the Delegation agreement to support Member States in the achievement of EMPACT priorities.

Following the assessments of current security threats, the Governance Department will continue addressing them via the further improvement of security arrangements in place."

Europol's Operations Department will also face a new challenge by recruiting new staff and seconded national experts to improve the support that can be provided to Member States. We will do our utmost to support Member States in making Europe safer."



Wil van Gemert

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EUROPOL 2014 LAW ENFORCEMENT PHOTO COMPETITION



1st prize Alfred Effenberger, Austria. Europol 2014 law enforcement photo competition

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2nd prize Alessandro Grasso, Italy.
Europol 2014 law enforcement photo competition



3rd prize Ciaran McGowan, Ireland.

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ISBN 978-92-95200-53-1
ISSN 1681-1569
DOI 10.2813/04040

QL-AB-15-001-EN-E

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