

EMPACT JOINT ACTION DAYS GENERATE BIG RESULTS IN 2018

21 Dec 2018

[Press Release](#)





1 026
cases/investigations
initiated

- 141 payment card fraud
- 56 trafficking in human beings
- 4 facilitation of illegal immigration
- 663 drug trafficking
- 15 document fraud
- 7 firearms trafficking/possession
- 140 others



1 137
suspects arrested

- 141 payment card fraud
- 93 trafficking in human beings
- 207 facilitation of illegal immigration
- 329 drug trafficking
- 41 document fraud
- 52 firearms trafficking
- 274 others



337
human trafficking
victims identified

52 minors



Firearms seized
207
weapons

20
explosive substances,
devices, parts



1 004 kg
high-value goods seized
worth €33 000



520
document fraud
cases detected



2 500 litres
alcohol seized



€1 444 816
cash seized



500
vehicles seized
324 vehicle parts
26 motorcycles
1 trailer



13 495 kg
tobacco seized
5 076 399 cigarettes



13 301 kg
cannabis seized
1 243 cannabis and
marijuana plants



92 kg
cocaine seized



729 kg
heroin seized



Synthetic drugs seized
5.45 kg
amphetamines

0.43 kg
methamphetamines

0.2 kg
MDMA

675 litres
BMK

321 111
ecstasy pills



6 885
irregular migrants
intercepted

1 552
illegal stays

612
clandestine entries

3 663
refused entries

143
overstays

In 2018 the Member States of the European Union joined forces with Europol and its institutional partners to fight organised crime groups active in the ten priority crime areas which fall under the [European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats](#) (EMPACT). The outcomes of the Joint Action Days exemplify the tremendous impact that they had on some of the EU's most threatening organised crime groups.

2018 EMPACT RESULTS:

- 1 026 investigations initiated;
- Over €1.4 million in cash seized
- 1 137 suspects arrested;
- 337 victims of human trafficking identified (including 52 minors);
- 730 kg of heroin seized
- 207 firearms seized.

Over the course of 2018, eight cross-border law enforcement operations targeted serious international and organised crime in the EMPACT priority crime areas of:

- › cybercrime;
- › drug trafficking;
- › facilitation of illegal immigration;
- › organised property crime;
- › trafficking in human beings;
- › excise and MTIC fraud;
- › illicit firearms trafficking;
- › environmental crime;
- › criminal finances and money laundering;
- › document fraud.

Europol's Executive Director Catherine De Bolle: "I am very pleased to see this year's results of the Joint Action Days 2018. They are more than just numbers and figures, as they clearly show how successful strategically planned international cooperation with strong partners can be. The EMPACT priority crime areas are the major crime threats facing the EU and the Joint Action Days involve complex international investigations. Every day we at Europol strive to provide analytical and operational support to the Member States in combating his kind of international and organised crime."

The European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos: "Security threats today are rapidly evolving and multiplying. Whether it is fighting cyber or organised crime, drugs or firearms trafficking, or terrorism, the only way we can do this effectively is through joint efforts. This is precisely what the intensified cooperation between Member States and Europol has demonstrated over the past year. Europol has been an essential partner in targeted and joint actions on the ground, delivering a Europe that effectively protects its citizens."

European Commissioner for the Security Union Julian King: "The most dangerous security threats we face today are cross-border in nature – criminals and terrorists are no respecters of national boundaries. That's why we need strong and committed cooperation in the EU between all actors, as the excellent results of the EMPACT Joint Action Days show. Europol is a vital part of this cooperation, and I look forward to a similarly successful 2019."

Herbert Kickl, Austria's Minister of the Interior on behalf of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018: "This is another example of the outstanding results EU law enforcement can achieve together with Europol and international partners. These operations are also the final highlight of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU, whose motto "a Europe that protects" has been turned into reality."

As the European law enforcement platform for information exchange, Europol supported the Joint Action Days with operational coordination, secure information exchange, cross-checking of data and operational analysis, as well as on-the-spot support. The EMPACT Joint Action Days 2018 are the fifth in a series of Joint Action Days as part of the EU Policy Cycle and the first under the new [2018 – 2021 EU Policy Cycle](#). The policy cycle is a methodology adopted in 2010 by the EU to address the most important criminal threats affecting the EU. Each cycle lasts four years and optimises coordination and cooperation on chosen crime priorities.

The EMPACT Joint Action Days 2018 follow the successful operations 2017 [Dragon](#); 2016 [Ciconia Alba](#); 2015 [Blue Amber](#); and 2014 [Archimedes](#). The Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) of the Council of the EU has provided strategic guidance for the planning of the Joint Action Days and is monitoring their implementation. For the current EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021, Europol will use the EMPACT brand name to promote the Joint Action Days in the fight against international crime.

CRIME AREAS [Trafficking in Human Beings](#) · [Facilitation of Illegal Immigration](#) · [Drug Trafficking](#) · [Cybercrime](#) · [Economic Crime](#) · [MTIC \(Missing Trader Intra Community\) fraud](#) · [Excise fraud](#) · [Money Laundering](#) · [Illicit firearms trafficking](#) · [Environmental Crime](#) · [Organised property crime](#) · [Forgery of Administrative Documents and Trafficking therein](#)

TARGET GROUPS [General Public](#) · [Law Enforcement](#) · [Academia](#) · [Professor](#) · [Students](#) · [Researcher](#) · [Press/Journalists](#) · [Other](#)

GENERAL TERMS [EU Police Cycle \(EMPACT\)](#)

OPERATIONS [Joint Action Days \(JADs\)](#)

SUPPORT & SERVICES [Operational coordination](#) · [Operational support](#) · [Information exchange](#) · [Forensics](#) · [Analysis](#) · [Operational](#)

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