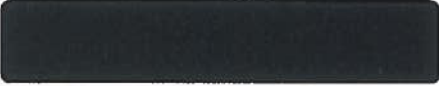


Europol Unclassified – Basic Protection Level



The Hague, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Ref: EDOC # 748951



Subject: Operation Onymous, Global action against dark markets on the Tor network

Dear [REDACTED],

As you are already aware of, on 6 November, law enforcement and judicial agencies around the globe undertook a joint action against dark markets running as hidden services on the Tor<sup>1</sup> network. 16 European countries,<sup>2</sup> alongside counterparts from the United States, brought down several marketplaces as part of a unified international action from Europol's operational coordination centre in The Hague.

The action aimed to stop the sale, distribution and promotion of illegal and harmful items, including weapons and drugs, which were being sold on online 'dark' marketplaces. Operation Onymous, coordinated by Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), the FBI, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Eurojust, resulted in 17 arrests of vendors and administrators running these online marketplaces and more than 410 hidden services being taken down. In addition, Bitcoins worth approximately USD 1 million, EUR 180 000 euro in cash, drugs, gold and silver were seized. The dark market Silk Road 2.0 was taken down by the U.S. FBI, ICE and the HSI, and the operator was arrested.

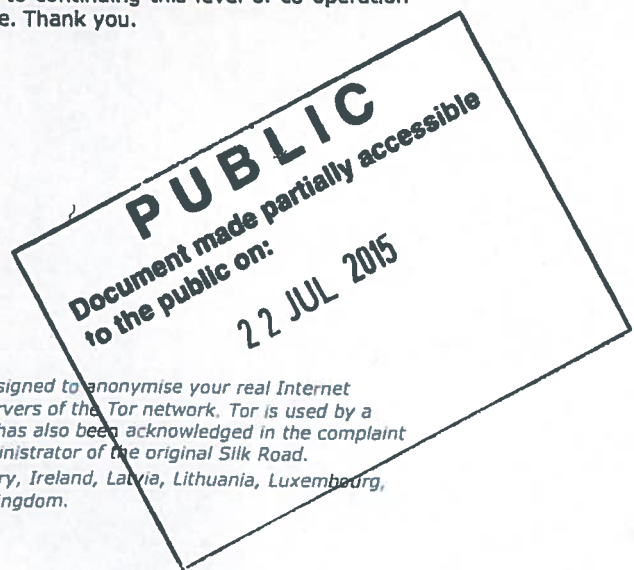
The Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), located at Europol's headquarters, supported the operation. The J-CAT was created to serve as a platform for targeted operations against global criminal networks and infrastructure, carried out by EC3 and our colleagues in EU Member States and beyond.

In summary, it was demonstrated that it was possible to efficiently remove vital criminal infrastructures that are supporting serious organised crime located, not just on the open Internet, but also on the Darknet, using Tor, where previously criminals have considered themselves beyond reach.

At this point, for me it is most important and vital to recognise our appreciation for the outstanding contribution made by your specialist cyber investigators to this action. Europol/EC3 wishes to formally thank you and the national authorities and compliment your National Expert [REDACTED] for his outstanding contribution and commitment to the work of operation Onymous to date. We look forward to continuing this level of co-operation and repeating it through similar operations in the future. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Troels Oerting  
Assistant Director  
Head of European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)



<sup>1</sup> Tor, an acronym for The Onion Router, is a free network designed to anonymise your real Internet Protocol (IP) address by routing your traffic through many servers of the Tor network. Tor is used by a variety of people for both illicit and licit purposes, a fact that has also been acknowledged in the complaint against Ross William Ulbricht, accused of being the main administrator of the original Silk Road.

<sup>2</sup> Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.