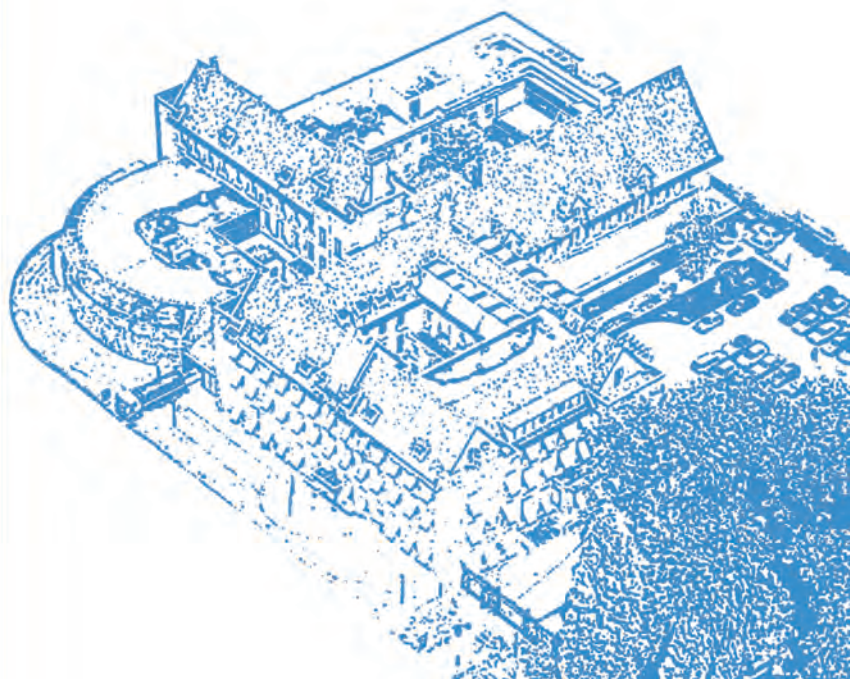


EUROPOL

# Europol

## Annual report

# 2002



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Europol  
Public Relations  
Postbox 90850  
2509 LW The Hague  
Netherlands

Tel. (31-70) 302 50 00  
Fax (31-70) 345 58 96  
E-mail: [info@europol.eu.int](mailto:info@europol.eu.int)  
Internet: [www.europol.eu.int](http://www.europol.eu.int)

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## **Jürgen Storbeck**

Director  
Europol

# Director's foreword

It is a great pleasure to present the *Annual report 2002* of Europol's activities.

In fact, Europol's activities have progressed well and its services and products have been well received by the competent authorities of the Member States. In the pages to follow, you may find all the details concerning our activities in fighting international organised crime. However, I hereby set out a brief summary covering Europol's main mandated areas and priorities.

As the work programme was adopted in spring 2001, some unforeseen events following 11 September forced the organisation to reprioritise its work. However, Europol completed the majority of the tasks assigned in the work programme 2002 as well as meeting the challenges presented to it following this terrible event.

The goal of Europol is to reach a situation where two thirds of all activities are operational, a balance that obviously this young organisation has not yet achieved. Activities and results in 2002 demonstrate that the organisation is on its journey towards this goal.

## **Counter-terrorism**

Despite some practical difficulties the overall results achieved in counter-terrorism by Europol's own staff and the counter-terrorism task force were good as the cooperation and mutual understanding improved between the different agencies involved. Useful products and services such as threat assessments, strategic reports etc. could be provided. The scope of analysis work developed well and provided useful intelligence to the concerned parties.

## **Counterfeiting of the euro**

Europol took up its responsibility as the central contact and coordination point for combating counterfeiting of the euro. Europol initiated, coordinated and supported, by analysis and expertise, common international investigations and operations of Member States and non-EU States against criminal groups counterfeiting the euro and other currencies, so that several groups could be identified, dismantled and arrests could take place.

## **Drugs**

With respect to the combating of drug-related criminality, Europol was able to support the Member States in the detection and dismantling of illicit production sites. The 2002 *Ecstasy catalogue* and CD were produced, with 15 000 printed copies and 5 000 CD-ROMs distributed globally. Also, in other areas such as cocaine, heroin and cannabis, concrete operational results were achieved within the work carried out by the liaison officers and Europol experts.

## **Financial crime**

The majority of efforts were focused on combating the financing of terrorism, however, without reaching operational results in 2002. In the field of stolen vehicles, good success was achieved with the European vehicle identification database (EuVID).

## **Crimes against persons**

Europol supported, with considerable success, several high-impact operations related to controls at airports and of

containers, as well as common international investigations of Member States, which also involved accession and Schengen States.

### **Analysis**

A core activity for Europol is to provide the Member States with analytical services; consequently a great deal of operational resources have been devoted to this area. Due to several successful operational analyses, the demand of Member States exceeded the capacity to provide the requested services. As a result, careful prioritisation was undertaken in consultation with the heads of Europol national units (HENUs) to ensure that the correct resources could be allocated to the desired priority project.

### **Operational support**

Open sources continued to play an important role in obtaining timely and useful information in all fields of intelligence-related work.

### **ICT**

The Europol information system (EIS) made progress despite delays in the delivery and some problems in the performance. The in-house application (v0.1) for information and intelligence on counterfeiting of the euro is operational and accepted by the users in-house despite being a prototype and still not sufficiently user-friendly. The second generation (v0.2) was delivered at the end of 2002 for testing.

### **New developments**

Europol strengthened its links and established new relationships with a number of important partners in the fight against crime. In particular, the agreement concluded with the United States at the end of 2002 is expected to facilitate cooperation between Europol and the US law enforcement agencies.

The organisation's general framework and corporate governance changed considerably due to the extension of the mandate at the beginning of 2002 and the progress made in the amendment of the Europol Convention.

The organisational infrastructure and procedures were further developed and partly implemented in line with the overall change plan including the financial action plan, and the personnel policy plan. Work also began on developing quality control and other new performance management procedures.

### **Europol liaison bureaux**

The exchange of information and intelligence increased considerably in quality and quantity. The Europol liaison officers and Europol national units were strongly involved in the initiation and organisation of common investigations and operations and in major analytical projects.

*During the presidency the Danish Minister for Justice, Lene Espersen (centre) visited Europol. She was welcomed by Europol Director, Jürgen Storbeck (right).*



*Also in the second semester of 2002, the police chiefs' task force (PCTF) met in Copenhagen.*

# Contents

1. Introduction .....	7
2. General crime-related activities .....	8
3. Crime-related activities in specific areas .....	9
3.1. Terrorism .....	9
3.2. Euro counterfeiting .....	12
3.3. Drugs .....	14
3.4. Financial and property crimes .....	18
3.5. Crimes against persons .....	20
3.6. Analysis .....	24
3.7. Operational support .....	25
3.8. Training .....	25
4. Europol national units and liaison bureaux .....	26
4.1. HENU .....	26
4.2. European Union liaison bureaux .....	27
5. General support .....	28
5.1. Information and communication technology (ICT) ....	28
5.2. Other logistical and administrative tasks .....	29



6. New developments . . . . .	30
6.1. Corporate development . . . . .	30
6.2. European Union . . . . .	32
6.3. Non-European Union States and international bodies . . . . .	32
Annex — Annual report 2002	
Liaison bureaux activities . . . . .	34
7. European Union Member States . . . . .	34
7.1. Austria . . . . .	34
7.2. Belgium . . . . .	35
7.3. Denmark . . . . .	35
7.4. Finland . . . . .	35
7.5. France . . . . .	36
7.6. Germany . . . . .	36
7.7. Greece . . . . .	37
7.8. Ireland . . . . .	38
7.9. Italy . . . . .	38
7.10. Luxembourg . . . . .	39
7.11. Netherlands . . . . .	40
7.12. Portugal . . . . .	41
7.13. Spain . . . . .	41
7.14. Sweden . . . . .	42
7.15. United Kingdom . . . . .	43
8. Non-European Union States (NEUS) liaison bureaux . . . . .	44
8.1. Norway . . . . .	44
8.2. Hungary . . . . .	45
8.3. Slovenia . . . . .	45
8.4. Estonia . . . . .	45
8.5. Czech Republic . . . . .	45
8.6. Poland . . . . .	46

# 1. Introduction

## Priorities in 2002

In the work programme 2002, it was stressed that the activities should be steered progressively in a more crime organisational-related direction and concentrate on a reduced number of core priorities while aiming to obtain essential operational results. The development of a permanent process of quality control should also commence.

The Europol information system was another priority. The full implementation of the intelligence model in the Member States and relevant new partners among non-EU States was regarded as an important task.

In respect of activities in specific competencies, the fight against terrorism had highest priority as well as a full implementation of the planned actions related to the conversion period of the euro currency.

Other crime priority areas were:

- drugs,
- money laundering,
- illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings,
- counterfeiting of money and forgery of other means of payment.

Other goals were:

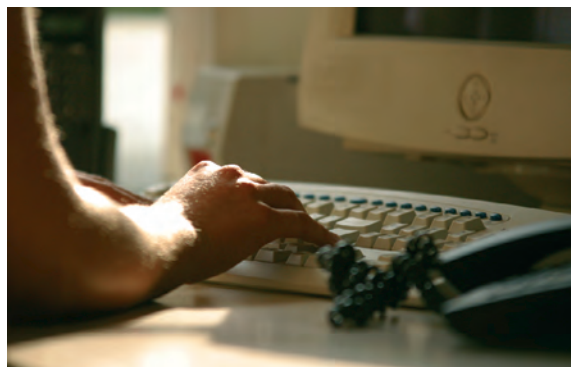
- to improve Member States' use of Europol analysis work files,
- to improve the flow of intelligence to and from Europol,
- to initiate, conclude and implement agreements with selected non-EU States and other selected organisations, and
- to strengthen the use of the Europol liaison officers in operational activities.

## 2. General crime-related activities

### General trends

Since the Europol mandate was extended, the organisation has striven to develop an organised crime group-related approach instead of only focusing on crime areas. Progress has been made, but far more work has to be done to comply with this policy.

The information flow from Member States, and also for the first time from non-EU States, improved. Within the intelligence model project, guidelines were elaborated and training for the procedures of the information flow to the EIS was given. Work was also carried out to improve the procedures related to the analytical work files.



A good deal of work has concentrated on developing functions in areas such as cyber-crime.

### Main activities

#### Eastern European organised crime

Europol played a strong support role within joint investigations and operational activities based on analysis. This was especially so since, focusing on five top targets, Europol was able to initiate and support investigations allowing the investigators to arrange operative activities against east European criminal top-targets, as demonstrated by the arrest of a main target in Italy.

Several cooperation activities with non-EU States are in place.

The 'European Union situation report on EEOC' (translated into all 11 Member State languages) and the threat assessment 'The impact of EEOC on the EU' were distributed to the 15 Member States.

## Organised motorcycle criminal groups

Organised motorcycle criminal groups (OMCG) are involved in drug trafficking, mainly cocaine and amphetamines, but also very active in arms trafficking, money laundering, cyber-crime, vehicle crime, trafficking in human beings, contract killing, racketeering and extortion. As a result of a specific analysis project, two joint teams supported operations against large-scale OMCG events. During the first operation in Spain in 2002, a considerable number of members were controlled. The information gathered during the joint investigation in Spain has been used for other ongoing investigations in the Member States.

In addition, four analytical operational projects (phenomenon studies regarding drug trafficking, money laundering, cyber-crime and contract killing by OMCG) have been carried out.

## Ethnic Albanian criminal groups

Ethnic Albanian criminal groups are involved in international drug trafficking, arms trafficking, illegal immigration, traffic in human beings and extensive money laundering. A threat assessment was produced early last year and translated into all the 11 EU languages.

## Cyber-crime

Europol and Member States have studied the need and the possibility of establishing a high-tech crime centre at Europol. Some very basic support services can now be offered by Europol. In addition, the first European Union-wide threat assessment on cyber-crime was elaborated.

# 3. Crime-related activities in specific areas

## 3.1. Terrorism

### Strategic objective

Within the original work programme 2002, Europol was tasked to deliver several technical and professional products and a special

focus was given to the production of threat assessments. The attack of 11 September 2001 led to the formation of a task force and most other work was temporarily frozen, as the majority of resources were put into efforts made by the task force on focusing on extreme Islamic terrorism.



### General trends

In accordance with the conclusions of the Special JHA Council of 20 September 2001, a counter-terrorism task force was set up in order to deal with the specific threat post 11 September 2001. The implementation of such an innovative structure within the European Union demanded substantial involvement and effort at Europol and in the Member States all over 2002.

At the same time, Europol established relations with its counterparts in the United States, posting liaison officers to Washington, and an FBI liaison officer was posted to Europol for the first half of the year.

### Main activities

#### Counter-terrorism task force

The counter-terrorism CT task force at Europol successfully dealt with an enormous amount of information and intelligence received

from law enforcement agencies and security services of Member States as well as of third States and from open sources. Specific outputs were:

- strategic analysis products such as the European Union threat assessment document on Islamic extremist terrorism and several more specific threat assessment and risk analyses;
- operational analysis evaluating the enormous amount of raw data material (in up to 20 different languages) from ongoing investigations in Member States, other European countries and the USA, and through this identifying possible links between suspected persons, organisations, addresses, telephone and bank account numbers, modus operandi etc.;
- an overview on security measures within the European Union.

The task force also worked on different other projects, based on initiatives or requests from the Member States or other bodies such as the European Union police chiefs' task force covering a wide range of issues in relation to the current threat.

Despite serious gaps in completeness and timeliness of the flow of information and intelligence in both directions, the task force was finally able to deliver a number of well-received products and services as concluded by an independent evaluation committee established by the management board.

### **Other counter-terrorism activities**

In addition to this specific response to Islamic terrorism, Europol undertook the majority of the ordinary tasks described in the work programme 2002.

Within the Modus Operandi project, the establishment of Europol's bomb database was refined, bringing together the expertise of those Member States that have particular experience in that field. It now acts as a central point of reference for the relevant agencies of the European Union. Other points of reference are, for example:

- *Directory of counter-terrorism centres of excellence* (an independent application of the Europol knowledge management system);

- *Directory of counter-terrorism competences;*
- *Directory of counter-terrorism legislation;*
- *Glossary of terrorist groups.*

Europol made wide use of open source material evaluated and confirmed with the competent authorities with the objective of producing reports for the benefit of Member State agencies such as:

- *Weekly Open Source Digest on Terrorism;*
- *Monthly Assessment on Islamic Terrorism;*
- specialist briefing papers.

Europol was the major partner in the production of the European Union situation and trends report (TE-SAT) presented during the Danish Presidency of the European Union. This document, among other things, was intended to inform the European Parliament of the current terrorist threat.

## **3.2. Euro counterfeiting**

### **Strategic objective**

To act as the central European Office for law enforcement agencies for currency counterfeiting and particularly the euro currency.

### **General trends**

The full extent of euro counterfeiting is relatively small, considering that 7.5 billion genuine banknotes were in circulation at the end of 2002. The rate is one counterfeit per day for every 16 million genuine notes in circulation. The total number of counterfeits for the year 2002 totalled 167 532.

The developments in the field of euro counterfeiting showed that the major threat currently comes from non-European Union countries, and here particularly from the east European countries, such as Bulgaria. It was also noticed that, after a rather calm first four months, both the quality and quantity of the euro counterfeits

increased constantly. The main focus of counterfeiters was placed on the € 50 banknote. The involvement of Europol in operational issues increased dramatically.

In combating counterfeit currencies, Europol has a continuously improved partnership cooperation with the General Secretariat of ICPO Interpol and the European Central Bank (ECB).

## **Main activities**

### **Euro counterfeiting database**

The first element of the Europol information system (EIS) in development contains relevant information for the euro and other counterfeit currencies affecting the European Union. It became operational with limited functionalities offering a database to collect all information and intelligence resulting from investigations on counterfeiting and merge it with the technical description of the counterfeit banknotes from the CMS database (ECB). A positive impact has already been recorded as, on a daily basis, Member States and non-EU States with Europol agreements request Europol to check data already stored in the EIS.

### **Targeting criminal organisations**

Three different investigations, coordinated with Europol support, and common investigative measures in quite a number of States inside and outside the EU (partly based on rogatory letters) have been facilitated by the intelligence provided by Europol. The intelligence was elaborated based on the data provided by the participant's partners, comparison with own data in the EIS and analysis. The outcome of the analysis report produced by Europol made the identification of several groups possible and targeted by the competent law enforcement agencies, which resulted finally in a considerable number of arrests by the Member State and non-EU State law enforcement authorities.

### **Early warning messages (EWMs)**

Early warning messages (EWMs) are disseminated by Europol in order to constantly monitor the phenomenon and make our



partners aware of the potential danger. The EWM describes dangerous counterfeits and new modus operandi. Detailed images together with important information (both operational and technical) are sent via liaison officers to the concerned parties, rapidly disseminating the technical and/or operational data to those concerned in protecting the euro. During 2002, approximately 35 messages were circulated, in order to prevent the further distribution and acceptance by financial institutions of such counterfeit euro.

### **3.3. Drugs**

#### **Strategic objective**

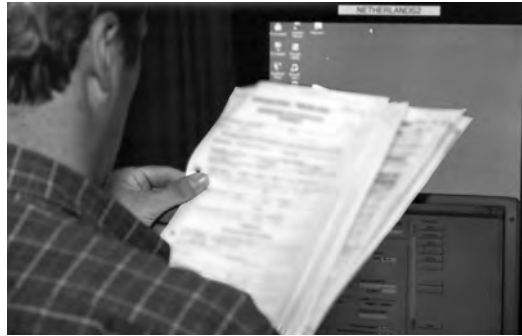
Europol contributes significantly to European Union law enforcement action against drugs trafficking. When planning the activities for 2002, the intention was to increase efforts to combat heroin, cocaine and in particular synthetic drugs, for example, to locate synthetic drugs laboratories and to identify and dismantle criminal groups in relation with this production.

#### **General trends**

According to Europol's most recent organised crime report, the level of organised crime in the European Union is still on the increase, with drug trafficking remaining its principal activity. This also impacts on the work of Europol when providing operational support. However, the level of cooperation and feedback from some Member States to drug-related projects at Europol is still not satisfactory.

#### **Main activities**

Political decisions influenced the work in 2002. In cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), parameters for the mid-term evaluation of the European Union action plan on drugs 2000–04 were drafted. Preparatory work was carried out to create the European precursor joint team to be located at Europol as a result of an action plan on synthetic drugs implemented under the Danish Presidency.



*Initiated by France and co-organised by the Netherlands, France and Germany, operation Mercure was carried out in March 2002 in Europol's headquarters. The operation control room was led by the Dutch customs. The result was 410 000 seized xtc pills and 13 arrests in several States involved.*

## Ecstasy

An updated ecstasy logo system (ELS) was installed in late 2001 which enables the efficient storage and retrieval of appropriate information, including photos plus basic forensic data. This helps Member States to identify links between live investigations, such as on tableting locations, and/or to initiate new investigations. Consequently, the use of the system and reporting thereto, by Member States and non-EU States, doubled in the second half of 2002.

Reports are regularly received from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. This is largely a result of success during an international customs operation hosted at Europol, on ecstasy trafficking from the European Union to Australia and North America. The ELS was a significant support tool in this operation and many links continue to be identified between seizures worldwide. In one case, over 3.5 million tablets with common logos and packaging were identified being trafficked to seven countries worldwide. This trafficking involved Israeli organised crime and investigations continue globally.

The 2002 *Ecstasy catalogue* and CD were produced, with 15 000 printed copies and 5 000 CD-ROMs distributed globally.

## Illicit synthetic drug laboratories

Europol, at the request of Member States, has on many occasions supported actions against illicit synthetic drug laboratories mainly by providing expertise to coordinate on-site dismantling and the collection of evidence.

Europol has developed the illicit laboratory comparison system (EILCS). Information and comprehensive photos from over 150 production sites have been collected, processed, evaluated and, when appropriate, Member States have been informed of new developments. Links identified via the EILCS, between common equipment, materials and chemicals found in different production sites, have resulted in substantial and successful multilateral investigations with active Europol participation, targeting producers and facilitators. Europol, through their activities in combating

production facilities, is the focal point for Europe in relation to a new United Nations initiative on the tracking of tableting machines.

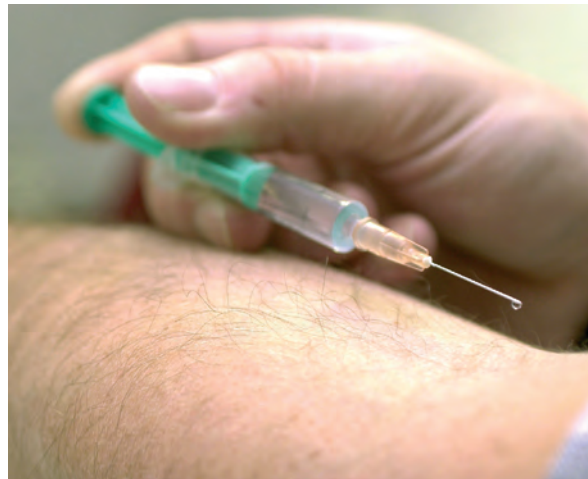
The success of projects such as the ecstasy logo system and the illicit laboratory comparison system has encouraged Member States to increase the flow of information to Europol.

A Swedish initiative aiming at establishing matches between criminal investigations and amphetamine production sites was developed through 2002. Law enforcement information on seizures of amphetamine is being collected at Europol. This pilot project has already led to the initiation of enquiries plus joint operational meetings between certain Member States and Europol.

### **Targeting of criminal organisations**

Europol provided coordination and/or support to activities of law enforcement agencies aimed at the identification and targeting of criminal organisations operating towards and within the European Union and involved in the trafficking of drugs, primarily heroin, and other related crime. Analysis has identified links between over 150 different operations, most of these are ongoing.

The identification of international matches continues to initiate contacts and information exchange between different operational teams. Specific analysis of data has led to the dissemination of analytical reports to several teams in participating Member States. A project has been set up to improve the cooperation between Member States in cross-border drug investigations. It covers drug trafficking and drug flows between at least two Member States and the criminal groups involved in these activities.



Coordination and/or support of activities by law enforcement agencies in participating Member States against cocaine trafficking is provided by Europol, aimed at identifying and targeting Latin American criminal groups, operating towards and/or within the European Union and suspected of or having been involved in cocaine trafficking and other related crime. This project made significant and positive progress during the last few months as regards the flow of contributions received and the matches established. However, Member States should send more live data from ongoing investigations.

### **3.4. Financial and property crimes**

#### **Strategic objective**

The general aim was to support international operational money laundering investigations and fight against all forms of property crime. The main objective in 2002 was to support Member States in the area of combating financing of terrorism, in order to improve knowledge and expertise.

#### **General trends**

The financing of terrorism became a new priority in 2002 and impacted on the other financial crime activities. Several small operational activities were initiated resulting in additional financial intelligence being developed and disseminated to Member States.

Money laundering remains a major concern within the European Union. Organised crime reacts with more sophisticated modus operandi and towards an increased use of alternative remittance systems to channel cash money, probably due to improvements on the reporting of suspicious transaction mechanisms within the Member States. Despite all efforts, the operational cooperation via Europol has not yet reached the expected level and intensity.



Cooperation has increased with ICPO Interpol, mainly with regard to the universal classification system for counterfeit credit cards. Partnerships have also been established with European vehicle manufacturers to obtain necessary information to complete the European Union identification database.

## **Main activities**

### **Combating the financing of terrorism**

Based on the concept (1999 UN Convention) of combating the financing of terrorism, the exchange of operational and strategic information between the Member States through Europol has given law enforcement agencies the possibility to better understand the fundamental mechanisms and methodologies used for terrorism funding. Projects developed by the Member States and Europol favoured the exchange of best practices on complex financial investigations. On request, technical training sessions have been provided by Europol to the Member States on the most difficult technical issues, such as investigations in the stock exchange environment.

### **Suspicious transactions**

Europol has developed a software programme to receive and analyse the information on particular suspicious transactions received from the 14 participating Member States. So far only the Netherlands and Belgium are active partners within this system.

### **Money laundering**

The European Union money laundering manual describes the legal and organisational aspects of the anti-money laundering and asset seizure measures and systems in the Member States. It is being developed by the Dutch authorities, with support from Europol and is now continuously updated by Europol. Currently the manual covers the situation in 10 Member States.

## **Bank card fraud**

Europol, together with the Member States, created a network of technical points of contact to monitor the latest developments in the area of bank card fraud. An early warning system has been established to speed up and improve communications between the Member States on new modus operandi, or on the emergence of new criminal groups. Due to the data provided by the Member States, but also by private companies, a more accurate EU situation report on this crime area was produced. The exchange of operational information on currently active criminal networks in the Member States has been a good opportunity for Europol to facilitate ongoing investigations such as an investigation in Italy. As a direct result of Europol exchange of operational information and analysis, the Italian investigators have identified several active targets.

## **Motor vehicle crime**

The European vehicle identification database (EuVID) which collates identification information on different types and models of vehicles has been updated. The EuVID also includes descriptions and images of vehicle registration documents from 40 European countries currently in use, the guidelines 'How to investigate motor vehicle crime' as well as a catalogue containing a description of original keys sold with the vehicle. A total of 4 270 EuVID CD-ROMs have been distributed to specialised law enforcement agencies in the Member States, some eastern European countries, and some vehicle registration departments. This project was deemed highly appreciated by Member States in the recent Europol client survey.

## **3.5. Crimes against persons**

### **Strategic objective**

To prevent illegal immigration, combat trafficking in human beings, and fight against sexual exploitation, child molester networks and child pornography.

## General trends

Political interest among the Member States in relation to illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings was extremely high during 2002. A number of high-impact operations related to illegal immigration were launched as a result of the Seville Summit during the Spanish Presidency. Europol held two conferences on homicide issues and, due to the concerns shown by the Member States in relation to contract and ritual killings, a preliminary meeting was held to set up the homicide working group.



The police chiefs' task force (PCTF) action plan became a valid basis for Member States, accession countries and Europol in combating illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. Among the partnerships with accession countries Hungary has had a key role in the action plan working group on illegal immigration.

## Main activities

### Illegal immigration – High impact operations

#### Operation RIO I and II

Europol coordinated and supported the Spanish Presidency's operational initiative RIO I (risk immigration operation), focused on illegal immigration networks targeting Member State airports which ran from 2 to 4 April 2002. The total number of migrants intercepted during the three-day operation RIO I was 410 with a total of 69 different nationalities. Four facilitators were detected during this operation.

A second operation, RIO II, also including non-EU States' airports, was launched as a result of a joint initiative by Italy and Spain from 24 April to 21 May. A total of 34 incidents on the facilitation of



migrants were reported by the participating countries during the reporting period. Operation RIO II resulted in the detection of 30 individual facilitators. There were a total of 4 597 interceptions reported during the operation from a total of 140 different nationalities.

Both operations, RIO I and RIO II, were deemed successful in terms of portraying a wider overall picture of the illegal immigration situation at the airports, in both of the participating countries, as well as on a much wider scale. Both operations allowed the development of a comprehensive picture of the routes travelled by particular migrants, as well as providing some interesting facts on the modus operandi used by facilitators.

### **Operation Pegasus**

Operation Pegasus was another Spanish initiative during their Presidency. Europol prepared the operation with a threat assessment and the coordination centre was placed and operated from Europol.

The aim was to combat the illegal migration networks' use of containers as a means of transport. The operation was carried out at a large number of checkpoints on roads and railways, as well as at major international ports throughout the European Union during a three-day period in May. Law enforcement authorities of all the Member States of the European Union checked almost 30 000 containers during the operation, resulting in the interception of 10 facilitators in Belgium, France, Italy and Spain. These individuals — originating from Albania, Argentina, Iraq, Morocco, Portugal and Spain — are under further investigation by the relevant authorities.

A joint team to identify European-wide clandestine immigration networks was set up by the Member States that are severely affected by illegal immigration. Analytical reports identified criminal groups active all over Europe and revealed links between them and described the modus operandi used. The analysis enabled the national law enforcement agencies to dismantle some of the groups and to arrest their members.

## Trafficking in human beings

### Operation Girasole

The activities carried out at Europol together with the leading Member State, Italy, succeeded in identifying a highly-active criminal network involved in the trafficking of women and composed of a large number of Ukrainian travel companies in cooperation with partner travel agencies and hotels, mainly based in Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Austria, involved in trafficking in human beings and impacting on several Member States. The analysis determined the major links between the travel companies, hotels and executives and their modus operandi, identifying the most important members and their potential international connections. During the whole operation, Europol worked successfully as the central coordination point for all operational activities which had to be carried out outside Italy. As a result, over 80 facilitators were arrested simultaneously in several countries.

### Child pornography

The project on child pornography on the Internet was the result of a 12-month intelligence-led operation focused on a criminal organisation, whose activities included the production and distribution of child pornography.

Europol played a supporting and coordinating role in the operation. Information was processed daily from investigations carried out in the different participating States. The data reviewed during the investigation included thousands of images and videos depicting hundreds of child victims.

Raids carried out simultaneously across seven countries targeted members of a criminal network producing and distributing child pornography over the Internet. Several arrests were made and 46 house searches were executed. This project led to the identification of a large number of suspects and saved children from further abuse and is considered one of the most successful projects in which Europol has been involved to date.

## Kidnapping and hostage taking

In 2002, Europol facilitated Member State investigations in kidnapping and hostage-taking situations through secure communication and coordination during sensitive live cross-border operations. At the request of the chiefs of police task force and the third pillar police working party, on a proposal from Germany, Europol established a network of experts from Member States' competent authorities in this area. Likewise on a UK initiative, Europol started to assist in the development of a European Union risk/threat assessment on kidnapping and extortion.

### 3.6. Analysis

There has been an increase in the number of operational projects during the year reaching a total of 20 major projects needing operational analysis and numerous small-size and short-term projects. In general, analytical projects developed in a very positive way and led to operational results, such as the identification of targets, the initiation of operational activities in the Member States, arrests and the initiation of new cases.

Europol has continued to support Member States, accession and Schengen countries and the police chiefs' task force and third pillar working groups with strategic analysis from a European Union perspective by producing annual situation reports, threat assessments and risk assessments, as well as a monthly intelligence briefing and ad-hoc assessments.

Strategic analysis reports focused in particular on emerging areas of crime such as cyber-crime and child pornography, and sectors and opportunities which lend themselves to be exploited by organised crime.

These reports were developed in the form of threat assessments and risk assessments and linked to the European Union organised crime report (EUOCR) which was published in November 2002. The report was elaborated using a new methodology compared to the

previous years. This report has and will serve as an important source of information when planning activities for the law enforcement services.

### **3.7. Operational support**

Europol produced the manual on law enforcement practices and techniques used by competent authorities in the Member States to improve and enhance European Union cross-border cooperation.

Open sources are playing an important role in obtaining timely and useful information in all fields of intelligence-related work. Therefore, through the further development of structured searches and improved dissemination of information in 2002, all specialised operational units within Europol and in the Member States are benefiting even more from this type of support.

### **3.8. Training**

Wherever possible, Europol supported training activities initiated by the newly created European Police College (CEPOL) as this new partner will enable Europol to give up the actual leading role of training in some areas and to focus even more on intelligence-related activities.

#### **Synthetic drugs**

A two-week training course on the combating of illicit production sites of synthetic drugs has been given both at Europol and in Member States. A training course on the dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories was given in February in Greece.

#### **Combating child pornography on the Internet**

Europol organised its third training course on combating child pornography on the Internet from 13 to 19 October 2002 at the Police Training Centre in Selm, Germany, bringing together experienced investigators who carry out investigations on child pornography. Almost all European Union Member States and, for the first time, the USA, Switzerland and Poland were represented.

## Analysis

The development of the strategic analysis course was completed by Europol staff and held at Europol three times in the second half of 2002, with participants from Europol and the Member States.

For the operational analysis course, the experience gained during support to operational projects was a valuable asset and facilitated Europol to refine the traditional analytical course provided to several Member States.

Europol also assisted with the development of training programmes and/or expertise on use of technical equipment for various types of cross-border operations for Member States and European Union-sponsored training initiatives for accession countries.

## **4. Europol national units and liaison bureaux**

### **4.1. HENU**

Acting in their capacity to advise Europol and the Europol management board on operational and other related issues, the heads of Europol national units (HENUs) met six times in 2002 to discuss a range of subjects. Among the most significant were issues connected with proposed changes to the Europol Convention. In particular, a HENU sub-group carried out a detailed study of problems concerning the provision of sensitive data to Europol. The group undertook inspection visits to national units and other law enforcement agencies in many Member States and produced a final report that was adopted by the HENUs and issued to the management board for its information. A smaller group carried out similar work specifically in relation to analysis work files, by developing recommendations made under the Belgian Presidency in 2001. The product of all this work assisted the management board in its consideration of the proposed changes to the Europol Convention, many of which directly concern issues regarding the provision and handling of sensitive data, and has also since led to the implementation of practical changes at Europol and within national units.

On operational matters, the HENUs influenced the progress of significant proposals concerning, for example, the work and future of the counter-terrorist task force and the proposed establishment of a hi-tech crime centre. The HENUs also assisted the development of analysis work files and other operational projects. On policy matters, the HENUs developed proposals concerning the use of Member States' liaison officers in third States, adopted a policy for the attendance of representatives of non-European Union States at all HENU meetings from December 2002 onwards, and have begun work to help Europol develop an overall and comprehensive marketing strategy.

## 4.2. European Union liaison bureaux



Cooperation between Europol and the liaison bureaux (LB) was enhanced during 2002. Meetings were given a new structure and regular schedule and were held eight times during the year. This was further enhanced by holding a 1.5-day external meeting for the heads of unit of the serious crime department and the heads of the liaison bureaux.

The total number of initiated cases increased by 50.5 % from 2 268 (in 2001) to 3 413 (in 2002). There was not only an increase in the amount of initiated cases, but also the complexity of the cases resulted in a greater and more challenging workload for the liaison officers. All this is, of course, reflected in the fact that the total amount of messages exchanged increased by 54.4 % from 45 222 (in 2001) to 69 822 (in 2002).

A detailed compilation of the LB activities can be found in the annex.

## **5. General support**

### **5.1. Information and communication technology (ICT)**

Europol faced an increasing demand of support to the operational units throughout the whole of 2002 in providing the required technology to internal and external operational projects.

With a view to sharing its experience and knowledge related to ICT services, Europol has been in close cooperation in the field of ICT with some of its EU partner organisations.

An important part of the ICT activities within the organisation are devoted to the support and the maintenance of the hard- and software, including accounts management, monitoring and preventive maintenance of the various systems, fault detection, diagnostic and configuration restoration of the network (LAN and WAN), the back-office infrastructure, the security equipment, the databases and the users' ICT environment, and the corrective and evaluative maintenance of Europol's systems and corporate applications.

#### **Europol information system**

The development of the EIS was delayed due to unexpected technical problems (anomalies) that could not be handled by the consortium in the planned time schedule. The bankruptcy of one of the sub-contractors of the consortium caused additional problems in restructuring the project architecture. A technical review was started in 2002 to establish any major technical errors. Version 0.2 (euro counterfeiting) was released for testing at the end of 2002. Preparations for version 1 show that this version could be ready for deployment in 2003.

#### **Analysis system (OASIS)**

Version 1 of the new analysis system (OASIS) was developed throughout all 2002 and its final delivery is planned in 2003. Several Member States showed their interest in the product and indicated their intention to adopt it nationally.

## **5.2. Other logistical and administrative tasks**

### **Human resources**

The activity of recruiting and selecting qualified personnel has a huge impact on Europol's activities as in any knowledge-based organisation the personnel is the most important asset. A total of 90 officials were recruited in 2002.

A personnel policy plan together with a related action plan have been developed and adopted by the Europol management board. Likewise a professional standards policy has also been approved and is now pending implementation.

### **Finance**

The events of 11 September 2001 meant that the Europol budget for 2002 proved to be insufficient. Therefore, the Council adopted on 28 February 2002 a supplementary and amending budget for new counter-terrorism activities. The Europol budget for 2002 was EUR 48 504 000, and supplementary budget was EUR 3 160 000, totalling EUR 51 664 000.

The total expenditure in 2001 was EUR 34.7 million and the expenditure for 2002 was provisionally EUR 45.7 million, including the supplementary budget. The increase from 2001 to 2002 was explained by a strong rise in the number of personnel, the costs in relation to the VPN and the investments in the Europol computer system (TECS) as well as counter-terrorism related costs. The action plan to improve the financial administration was approved and implementation initiated. Later in the year, the plan was updated to take into account the financial controller's and the financial audit report on 2001.

### **Public relations**

Europol has focused its public relations efforts on increasing the awareness of Europol in the public, academic and law enforcement fields. More than 100 visits from the international academic community and from other public sectors were welcomed and over 1 000 public requests, mostly via Internet, were received and



properly handled in the framework of promoting transparency and openness. In December 2002, Europol revamped its Internet web site, considered one of the most sophisticated tools of daily communication with the public.

The numbers of media enquiries are constantly increasing due to the fact that Europol's role and mandate in combating organised crime was extended at the beginning of the year. As the media is of paramount importance in promoting public awareness, over 700 press requests were handled during the year regarding various Europol mandated areas and activities.



*In 2002, Europol's premises were extended with a container-based building.*

## **6. New developments**

### **6.1. Corporate development**

#### **Business excellence**

The organisation is continuously developing its business excellence model in order to ensure the best possible return on investment towards the Member States. The organisation is working towards improved performance management, through the elaboration of its

own balanced scorecard (BSC), and, linked to this, the use of the concept of the European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) to serve as an overall umbrella for the various management tools in place. During 2002, the Europol corporate model (BSC) was designed and an extensive study and analysis of the proposed measurements was completed. It is foreseen that the scorecard at corporate level will be built up gradually, providing the first report by the end of 2003 and the whole project completed by 2005.

Europol also supported Finland in organising a conference for Member States related to performance management within the intelligence framework. The seminar concluded that benchmarking exercises should take place between Member States and Europol for the common benefit of all parties.

## **Change plan**

Over the past years, a number of recommendations originating from different evaluations/audits have been issued identifying initiatives relating to the improvement of Europol's organisational infrastructure. As a result, a change plan was developed outlining the structures and methodologies for managing the implementation and reporting of results to the management board. This important project is to be completed by mid-2005.

## **Corporate governance**

A working group on corporate governance was established by the management board and chaired by the Portuguese representative in the management board. The objective of the first phase was to elaborate the most suitable concept of a corporate governance relationship for Europol and its bodies, namely the management board, the director, the financial controller and the joint audit committee. As a result of the group's findings and recommendations, the management board decided to request the group to continue its work on a second phase. As a result, the management board decided to adopt a number of improvements related to technical aspects on how to handle the decision-making process and their implementation.

## **6.2. European Union**

### **Cooperation agreement with Eurojust**

Negotiations to formalise an agreement with Eurojust also progressed well but was not concluded before the end of the year and therefore will continue in 2003.

## **6.3. Non-European Union States and international bodies**

### **Other cooperation agreements**

Cooperation agreements with 10 countries and international organisations came into force and were implemented, including the exchange of information. Secure communication links were established and liaison officers from six countries took up their task at Europol. A training seminar and an induction seminar for new cooperation countries were held. In addition, 10 agreements were completed and are awaiting ratification.

During 2002, the further development of formalisation of the relationship with Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia and Turkey continued. Data protection reports were produced on Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia.

An important achievement during 2002 was the successful conclusion of the agreement between Europol and the United States. Europol opened a liaison office in Washington DC and seconded two liaison officers to help facilitate this important cooperation.

Europol recruited a liaison officer for its planned office at the ICPO Interpol general secretariat in Lyon. Europol participated in activities aimed at producing a feasibility study for a database of child pornography at the general secretariat of Interpol, under the auspices of the G8 group.

## Cooperation between customs authorities and Europol

Cooperation both at strategic and at operational level, between the European Union customs services and Europol, increased due to the extension of Europol's mandate with a number of crime areas that are related to customs. Europol participated in meetings of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and of the customs cooperation working party and developed an action plan for a better cooperation between customs authorities and Europol. A number of joint customs operations were supported by Europol in 2002. A customs meeting, organised by the Dutch and UK authorities, was held at Europol on drug smuggling from the Caribbean into the European Union.



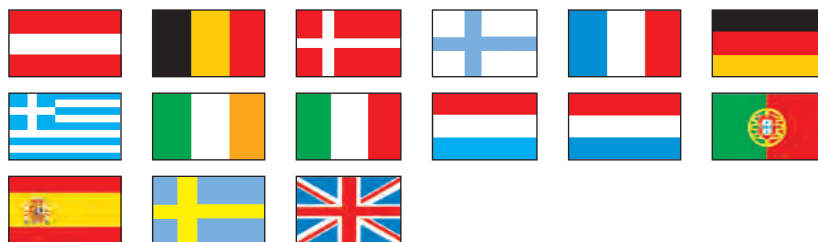
*The Joint Supervisory Body of Europol continue to control the data protection regime within Europol.*



## Annex – Annual report 2002

### Liaison bureaux activities

#### 7. European Union Member States



##### 7.1. Austria

The Austrian desk succeeded in its efforts to raise awareness of Europol amongst the competent departments in the BKA.

The figures in the information exchange multiplied in the last year. The highest increase could be noticed in the AWFs or MSOPES established in the traditional Europol areas such as drugs, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and forgery of money, whereas Austria still lacks a significant amount of contributions in the new mandated areas.

The awareness measures were mainly undertaken by direct contacts between the members of the desk and the national experts in the different areas. Also, several meetings between national experts and Europol staff were initiated and supported by the ENU or the desk itself.

An increasing cooperation with the liaison officer from third States could be noticed throughout the year. Austria paid special attention to getting them as close as possible to the AWFs too.

## **7.2. Belgium**

Whereas the number of cases initiated by Belgium remained more or less at the same level (+ 5.2 %) compared to 2001, the Belgian liaison bureau received 34 % more requests from other correspondents at Europol. A large part of this increase is attributable to the activities of the third States' liaison officer bureaux.

There are good reasons to believe that the amalgamation process of the different Belgian police forces into one integrated police service, structured at two levels, is still the determining factor explaining the relative stabilisation of the number of cases initiated by Belgium via the Europol channel of international police cooperation.

## **7.3. Denmark**

Danish-initiated investigations in the EU resulted in an increased number of cases. This increase is mainly in crime areas such as drugs, illegal immigration, forgery of money and terrorism.

The extended mandate also increased the number of murder cases. This was mainly in one particular case with strong links to international organised crime.

Satisfactory results were achieved in the operative information exchange on behalf of the Danish national unit and the Danish investigative units. There is a growing awareness in the Danish police for the usefulness of the Europol channel and this is reflected in the increasing number of cases initiated by the desk. An increase of initiated cases from 2001 to 2002 of about 70 % was noted.

## **7.4. Finland**

The workload has increased as several long and short-term operations have been handled via the liaison bureau. Cases initiated totalled 75 (73 in 2001), but transactions sent totalled 770 (675 in 2001). This indicates that the cases/operations handled via the liaison bureau are increasingly complicated and long-term operations. Finland also received more requests: 547 (332 in 2001).

Most of the cases are drug (27) and illegal immigration (24) related.

The liaison bureau is asked much more frequently for coordination and instructions, especially for *commission rogatoires*, and coercive means etc., during the operations. This service has been highly appreciated by the investigators/inspectors.

## **7.5. France**

In 2002, the French liaison bureau dealt with a growing number of requests which mostly dealt with drug trafficking and illegal immigration. On the whole, 1 158 inquiries were made from other Europol units and, in return, the French desk supplied them with 1 283 answers. The French liaison bureau made 634 inquiries and obtained 690 answers. Thus, the French department proceeded with 3 765 information exchanges through the Europol channel. It is worth pointing out that the French desk was a party to 421 bilateral files and 748 multilateral files.

Out of the 16 Europol analytical work files, France took part in 14. The French desk's contribution to the counterfeited money files and counterfeit credit card AWFs was proven to be very positive. The French liaison bureau took also part in many controlled deliveries; from which two were very successful leading to seizure of drugs and an arrest of the traffickers.

In the framework of the awareness programme, the French liaison bureau organised visits to Europol for several high-ranking officials from national departments as well as the visit of an operational coordination meeting at the end of October on behalf of the financial crime department of the French national board of judicial police.

## **7.6. Germany**

There was again a noticeable upward trend in 2002 as far as quantity and quality of cases and other areas of engagement were concerned. The overall number of transactions exceeded 7 000

which is an increase of 40 % compared to 2001. The number of initiated cases was 451 which represents a 29 % increase compared to 2001.

Whilst in 2001 a third of all initiated cases were multilateral, in 2002 more than half of those cases were of a multilateral nature, a sign of the increasing complexity of the cases. Most of the requests were related to the area of drugs and illegal immigration followed by forgery of money. A number of operational meetings have been organised as a result of the information exchange. Within the new mandates the majority of cases have occurred in the area of fraud and swindling.

Germany is participating in all analytical work files except for one and is one of the top contributors to all of them. The liaison officers take an active part in this context. The most successful engagement in AWFs has been in the area of child pornography and heroin trafficking.

The German liaison office and the national unit contributed to the Europol awareness programme with almost 100 presentations in-house at Europol and in Germany to large numbers of specialised officers and partly high-level delegations.

## **7.7. Greece**

During 2002, Greece initiated 162 new cases across all serious crime areas. The activity of the Hellenic desk increased by over 370 % compared to 2001

The Hellenic desk was mainly involved in activities related to illegal immigration, drugs, fraud, forgery, forgery of money and stolen vehicles.

Illegal immigration cases (121) dominated to a large extent, which was due to the situation in the Balkans and the general pressure of illegal immigration trends towards the EU.

There was also a significant rise in the number of drug cases, as well as in fraud. The increase could be attributed to an improved level of awareness of Europol, within the Greek law enforcement area.



In addition, the Greek desk continued to support analysis work files and other Europol projects. In the capacity of representatives of Greece, the Greek liaison officers were involved in several expert meetings and provided advice to their national authorities.

## **7.8. Ireland**

The staff of the liaison bureau was increased from one person to two. This corresponded with a considerable increase in the volume of Info-Ex transactions when compared with 2001.

Ireland also made a considerable contribution to the counter-terrorism area through a temporarily assigned liaison officer to the CTTF. There was also an increased involvement in participation at meetings, both internal and external. The Irish liaison officer also participated as an ELO representative in the Info-Ex improvement project. Ireland was also one of the four Member States which participated in the OISIN-sponsored Europol awareness seminars.

The year 2002 was a progressive one with much valuable cooperation in the area of law enforcement. There is also a greater awareness of Europol in Irish law enforcement though this is an area that must continue to receive attention in all Member States as it is key to Europol's role.

## **7.9. Italy**

The work done by the Italian desk in 2002 as compared to 2001 led to a significant increase (30 %) in information exchange. The information exchange varied from 2 606 in 2001 to 3 554 in 2002, rendering Italy one of the more committed Member States in this activity. In our opinion this is the consequence of three factors:

- the new mandate areas concern new fields of evolution for organised crime, and most of the Italian groups want to have an international leadership in the sector (many new investigations are, in fact, about vehicle trafficking and illegal immigration);

- some successful operations conducted by Italy with Europol support (such as Girasole, East Money) renewed trust toward Europol potentiality;
- the widening of Europol towards the third States, which consented to an extension of national investigations to those countries.

A more active role of Italy and of the Italian desk was also seen in the field of operational projects, AWFs and in high-impact operations, where the country had a very active role both in terms of invested personnel (many experts in different subjects came from Italy for meetings, workgroups, presentations), and data contributions, where a constant and remarkable flow delivered by all Italian police forces was noted.

A considerable contribution was also given in the field of terrorism, where Italy decided to send three experts for the CTTF, representing all Italian police forces.

The recognition of the value of Europol in supporting national investigations also emerged in the perfect coordination between Italian investigators and Europol staff during the Italian-led Operation Girasole. This concerned an international criminal group specialised in trafficking in human beings, and 80 arrests and several searches were made in various European countries via the coordination of an operational room at Europol.

## **7.10. Luxembourg**

In 2002, there was a general increase of about 17 % on 2001 in requests sent from the Luxembourg national unit to Europol. The largest increase was noted in the area of forgery of money, and a large fall was seen in the area of drugs. Activities in the other crime areas were about the same as in 2001.

In relation to the requests received from the other liaison desks, the Luxembourg desk had to treat about 37 % more than in 2001. The large majority of the requests received by the Luxembourg desk have been in the areas of drugs, illegal immigration, forgery of money and vehicle crime.

## 7.11. Netherlands

The extension of the Europol mandate on the one hand and the introduction of liaison with non-European Union countries on the other hand have contributed to an overall increase of about 50 % in the number of operational cases in which information was exchanged during 2002, compared to the previous year. An additional reason for this was the increase in the number of analysis working files as well as a different way of working within the analysis work files.

In about 82 % of the cases initiated by the Netherlands, information was exchanged on a bilateral basis. Just over 52 % of the cases were drug related. Contrary to the figures related to the proportions of received cases from the other participants in the Info-Ex system, the Europol liaison network was used by the Netherlands mainly for the initiation of cases with non-direct-neighbouring countries such as Italy (over 25 %) and Spain (over 24 %).

The main areas in which the Netherlands was involved in the exchange of information were drugs, forgery of money, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and terrorism.

About 18 % of the cases initiated by the Netherlands could be linked to a crime area falling under the extension in 2002 of the Europol mandate.

The Netherlands was involved in over 34 % of the cases initiated by all participants within the framework of Europol. This percentage is about equal to the percentage over the previous year, but this meant a tremendous increase in the factual number of cases received, with about 25 % compared to 2001.

The main numbers of cases initiated towards the Netherlands were received from the direct-neighbouring countries like Germany (over 15 %) and the United Kingdom (over 18 %).

Besides this, all the Dutch liaison bureaux developed during 2002 a more active approach of operational teams in the Netherlands that could contribute to the running of analysis working files. This resulted in a huge increase in the volume of information provided towards the AWFs by the Netherlands.

## 7.12. Portugal

There has been an increase of around 10 % in the new requests from the Portuguese law enforcement agencies. During 2002, Portugal initiated 208 new cases and exchanged a total of 2 735 information transactions, which shows the commitment of Portugal to make the best use of Europol.

The quality of these requests has also improved in terms of operational content. This trend is due to an effort carried out by the Portuguese national unit in close coordination with the Portuguese desk to promote Europol as a swift and reliable channel for the exchange of operational information.

The major areas concerned are, in order of importance, drug trafficking, car crimes, forgery of money and illegal immigration. Taking into account the extension of the Europol mandate to all serious crimes, the Portuguese desk for the first time exchanged information related to crime areas such as robbery, kidnapping, paedophilia, murder and even trafficking in endangered species.

The desk was also involved in two *commission rogatoires* and the Portuguese liaison officers participated in several operational meetings related to ongoing investigations and to the analytical work files in which Portugal participates.

Portugal tried to speed up the exchange of information related to operational matters, insisting with the national unit and with the other liaison bureaux to get swifter and more complete answers to the requests from the investigation teams.

## 7.13. Spain

There was an increase of 19 % in the new cases initiated from the Spanish desk, and an increase of 31 % in the requests received from other desks. This means that Spain is the second country to be receiving requests similar to previous years.

During the first semester of 2002, under the Spanish Presidency there was an increase on several long and short-term operations, especially for illegal immigration and drugs, and these crime areas,

together with stolen vehicles, still remain a high priority. The money laundering cases dropped this year in comparison with last year. Around 50 % of the new cases were bilateral, confirming the trend from the past years.

From the new mandated areas, we have to highlight the increase of fraud and swindling followed by robbery and theft. Other cases are not significant or are inexistent.

We also have to point out the increase in the quality of the cases Spain was dealing with. In this respect, there were some controlled deliveries involving a great deal of personnel working from the several countries involved.

#### **7.14. Sweden**

We have seen an increase (56 %) in the number of cases initiated by Sweden during the year.

The reason for this is probably twofold. One reason is the extension of the mandate and another is the work that has been done in the field of awareness. When it comes to crimes within the new mandates, Sweden has been handling fraud and swindling, murder, kidnapping and hostage taking and environmental crime. It should also be mentioned that Sweden has seen an increase in the quality of its cases. Still drugs crime is the most frequented mandated area and Sweden has had a number of successful operations within this mandate. The second most frequent crime area is illegal immigration.

The bureau has been very much involved in the ongoing analytical work files. One of the work files that started during the year — the AWF case, to deal with criminal groups involved in the production, trafficking and supply of amphetamine — was initiated by Sweden. The Swedish National Laboratory of Forensic Science is carrying out impurity profiling analysis of amphetamine on behalf of the participating Member States and all communication between Europol and the laboratory is done via the Swedish desk. A representative from the desk is also a member of the analytical project group.

Another analytical work file in which Sweden has been much involved is 'Twins'. This work file has been focusing on child abuse on the Internet and affecting seven Member States. The operational result has been satisfactory and several members of the network have been arrested. This work file started as a Member State operation with Europol analytical support and with Sweden as the leading Member State.

## **7.15. United Kingdom**

The trend in recent years towards the UK making increasing operational use of Europol's services continued strongly in 2002. A total of 548 UK investigations were supported by or through Europol during the year, which represents a significant 23 % increase on the corresponding figure for 2001. For the second successive year, this UK total is the highest among all the Member States. In all, almost 7 000 intelligence transactions were exchanged at Europol involving the UK, over 40 % more than the amount for 2001.

The work of the UK liaison bureau in 2002 also showed a noticeable increase in quality. Significant successes were recorded in support of many drug trafficking investigations and an increased impact made in supporting the investigation and disruption of illegal immigration networks. The UK was also responsible for leading the development of a major new initiative at Europol to establish a European joint team to combat illicit trafficking in precursor chemicals.

The increase in the UK's performance levels at Europol is the result of a sustained marketing effort by the UK national unit to raise the profile and awareness of Europol in the UK. Highlights of this, in 2002, include the hosting at Europol of two major awareness seminars for over 150 investigators in total from four Member States including the UK. The seminars were planned and managed by the UK. Major international law enforcement conferences, for example on the threat of a chemical/biological terrorist attack and on contract murders, were also planned and co-hosted by the UK at

Europol. Finally, the profile of Europol in the UK was given a further boost with the visit by a UK government minister to Europol in October.

## 8. Non-European Union States (NEUS) liaison bureaux



Over the first 12 months of activity a total of 2 917 messages were exchanged involving NEUS. These figures represent the exchange of operational information between Europol (including Member States using the Europol channel) and those non-European Union States (NEUS) with which there are cooperation agreements.

The potential is much larger and an awareness programme in the NEUS demonstrating the possibilities of Europol will increase the exchange of information.

### 8.1. Norway

Norway was the first country with an operational agreement that established a liaison bureau at Europol. This was in early May 2002. The activity shows a growing number of operational cases in different criminal areas as well as several analytical projects.

*Stein Arnesen (right) became the first liaison officer of a non-EU country. He was welcomed by Deputy Director Mariano Simancas.*



## **8.2. Hungary**

The Hungarian liaison bureau was opened in May 2002. Since September 2002, both a police officer and a customs liaison officer have been improving the cooperation between Hungary and Europol. During 2002, the cooperation resulted in more than 170 cases with the Hungarian law enforcement organisations via the liaison bureau and the main areas were forgery of money, drugs trafficking and illegal migration.

## **8.3. Slovenia**

The Slovenian liaison bureau at Europol was established at the beginning of June 2002. The Slovenian liaison officer represents the Slovenian police, customs administration and the Office for Money Laundering Prevention. In seven months of activity, about 620 different messages of information with Europol, Member States and NEUS were exchanged, and from this figure about 400 related to operational matters. The main areas were drugs trafficking, forgery of money and illegal migrations, with valuable information for the IIS and AWF being provided.

## **8.4. Estonia**

Estonia sent its liaison officer to Europol on 26 June 2002. From this date on, information exchange between Europol and Estonia has become more intense and the number of exchanged messages has grown from month to month. The trend is for the information exchanged to become more up to date and precise with a large part consisting of intelligence.

Estonian law enforcement authorities were also engaged in Europol activities. Many specialists participated in Europol meetings and special officers attended Europol for operational purposes.

## **8.5. Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic liaison bureau started at Europol in September 2002. During this short time the effective cooperation between



Member States and Czech law enforcement agencies was developed. More than 50 operational cases were dealt with via the Czech ELO concerning mainly forgery of money, illegal immigration and drugs.

## **8.6. Poland**

The activity of the Polish liaison bureau started on 2 September 2002. Over 100 Polish officers visited Europol in the general framework of the awareness programme. A special seminar concerning cooperation with Europol was organised in Poland.

The general headquarters of the Polish national police force issued special guidelines concerning Europol's procedures of handling and sharing of information. All chiefs of general headquarters' departments, responsible for combating crime, were informed about ongoing AWFs.



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