



EUROPOL

MAKING EUROPE SAFER



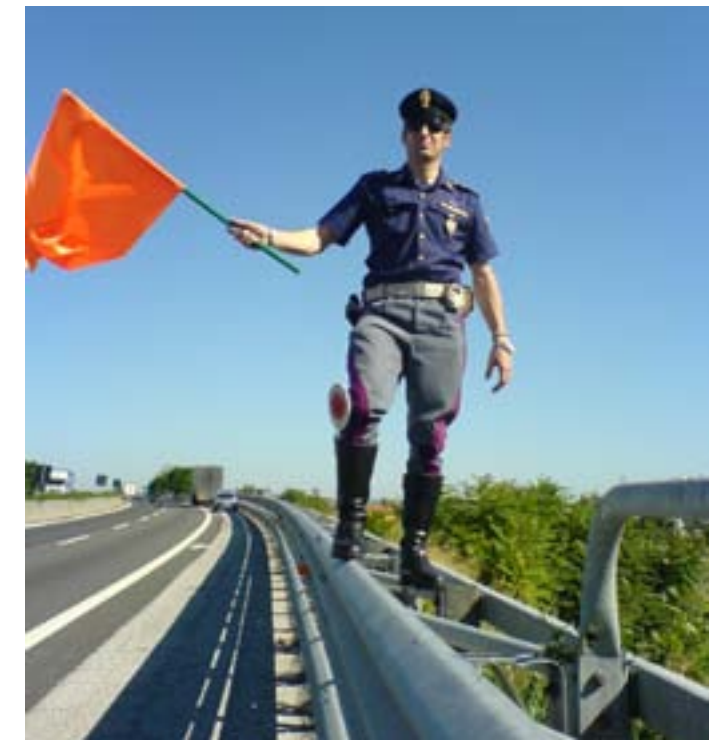
EUROPOL is the law enforcement agency of the European Union. **Our aim is to help achieve a safer Europe by supporting European Union law enforcement agencies in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism.** More than 700 staff at Europol headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, work closely with EU law enforcement colleagues towards this common goal.

This album gives us the opportunity to **showcase some of the talented European law enforcement photographers** who have participated in the annual Europol photo competitions.

The competition invites entries depicting the challenging and rewarding work of the police, customs, border guards and security services. We hope that this publication will raise awareness of the work carried out by Europol and its colleagues across Europe.



Europol personnel come from **different kinds of law enforcement agencies**, including regular police, border police, customs and security services. This multi-agency approach helps to close information gaps and minimise the space in which criminals can operate.



From our position at the heart of the European security architecture we offer a unique range of services.

Europol is a support centre for law enforcement operations, a hub for criminal information, and a centre for law enforcement expertise.



AT THE HEART OF EUROPEAN SECURITY



As Europol officers have no direct powers of arrest, we support law enforcement colleagues by **gathering, analysing and disseminating criminal intelligence** and **coordinating operations**. Our partners use this input to prevent, detect and investigate offences, and to track down and prosecute those who commit them. Europol experts and analysts also take part in **Joint Investigation Teams** which help solve criminal cases on the spot in EU countries.

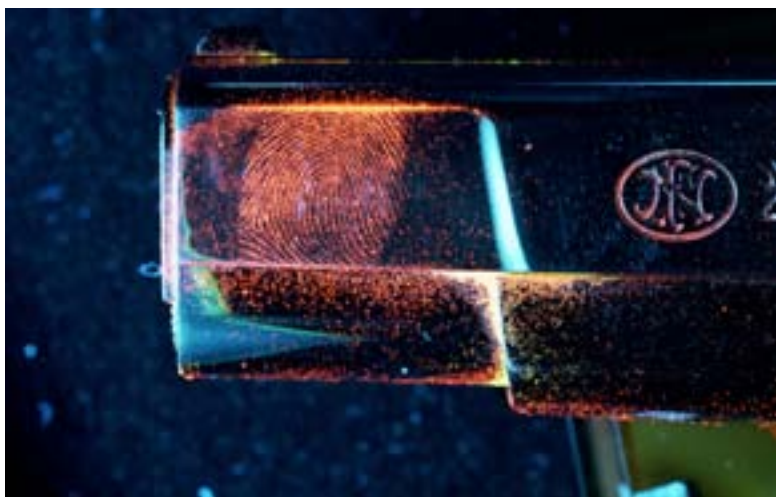


Europol has a live 24/7 connection with the Europol National Units based in the 27 EU Member States. This permanent exchange of communications and criminal data is possible thanks to the Liaison Bureaux located at Europol headquarters. It is a crucial and effective way of maintaining contact and support to around 2 million EU law enforcement officers and, most importantly, to all investigators whose operations could benefit from Europol's support.



Europol serves as an EU **centre of expertise**, providing a central platform for law enforcement experts from the European Union countries.

Europol is also a **high-security operational centre**. We deal with more than 12 000 cases a year, turning high-quality analysis into operational successes. This flexible service centre operates non-stop: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



EXPERTISE



AGAINST CRIME AND TERRORISM

To give our partners a deeper insight into the criminal problems they are dealing with, Europol produces regular assessments which offer comprehensive and forward-looking analyses of crime and terrorism in the European Union.

The **European Organised Crime Threat Assessment** (OCTA) identifies and assesses emerging threats. The OCTA describes the structure of organised crime groups and the way they operate, and the main types of crime affecting the European Union. The **EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report** (TE-SAT), published annually, gives a detailed account of the state of terrorism in the EU.





The European law enforcement memorial (above, centre) at Europol headquarters in The Hague is dedicated to EU law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.





AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

With up to two million problem drug users, illicit drugs are one of the major threats to the health and security of EU citizens. Europol's experts support Member States to disrupt criminal organisations engaged in the production and trafficking of drugs.



We also have a specialist team to help dismantle synthetic drugs laboratories on-the-spot.



AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS



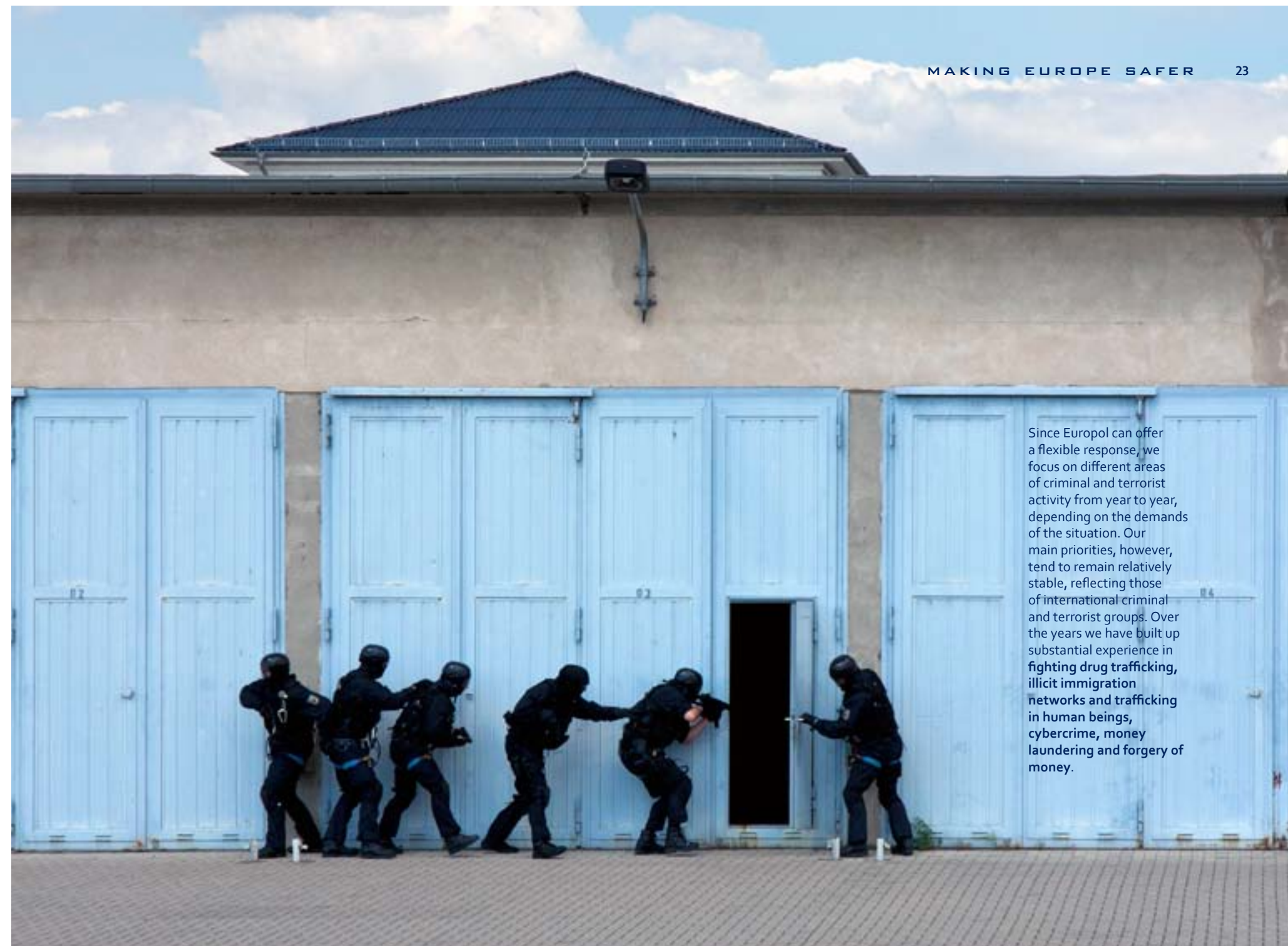
Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime affecting all EU countries, where men, women and children are exploited by both individual criminals and organised crime groups on a daily basis. Although establishing the exact scale of human trafficking in the EU and worldwide is currently impossible due to a lack of a harmonised data collection system, the number of victims just in Europe is estimated to be hundreds of thousands.





International crime and terrorist groups operate worldwide and make use of the latest technology. **To ensure an effective and coordinated response, Europol needs to be equally flexible and innovative,** and make sure its methods and tools are up to date. We have state-of-the-art databases and communication channels, offering fast and secure capabilities for storing, searching, visualising and linking information.

Gathering, analysing and disseminating this information entails the exchange of large quantities of personal data. Europol sets and adheres to the highest standards of data protection and data security.



Since Europol can offer a flexible response, we focus on different areas of criminal and terrorist activity from year to year, depending on the demands of the situation. Our main priorities, however, tend to remain relatively stable, reflecting those of international criminal and terrorist groups. Over the years we have built up substantial experience in **fighting drug trafficking, illicit immigration networks and trafficking in human beings, cybercrime, money laundering and forgery of money.**





Illegal consignments of tobacco products and other counterfeit goods are frequently detected at EU borders. Europol assists customs authorities and other law enforcement agencies to share intelligence, resulting in the detection of illicit cargo and identification of the organised crime groups involved.





Italian State Forest Police and their black horses oversee a protected reserve in southern Italy.

A person in a blue inflatable boat is on a calm lake at sunset. A dog is sitting in the boat with them. The water is still, reflecting the sky and the boat. A line of buoys stretches across the middle ground. In the background, there is a forested shoreline under a colorful sky.

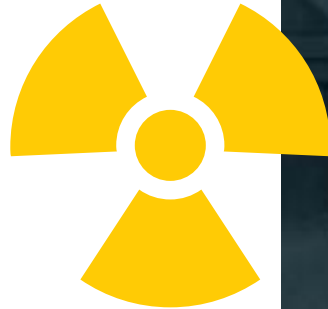
A POLICEMAN'S BEST FRIEND





ACCESSIBLE





The **EU Bomb Data System (EBDS)** provides a platform for sharing information and intelligence on explosives, incendiary devices, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials (CBRN). The EU Bomb Data System also comprises incident databases for explosives and CBRN, as well as libraries and experts' forums.



IN-DEPTH RESEARCH





SAFE EUROS

Europol has the mandate to prevent and combat the forgery of money, in particular the euro, and is the **European Union's Central Office for combating euro counterfeiting**. This legal status qualifies Europol to act as a worldwide contact point for combating counterfeiting of the euro.







The increasing threat of cybercrime in the EU has led to a situation where cybercrime is now a priority in the EU's Internal Security Strategy and consequently also for Europol. The **High Tech Crime Centre** at Europol provides support to Member States for fighting cybercrime. The Centre is developing a European platform to service the needs of Member States in this important emerging area of criminal activity.







VIGILANT



LOOKING AHEAD

As a leading EU law enforcement agency, Europol's ambition is to look further ahead for more opportunities to streamline the fight against organised crime and terrorism, with the ultimate goal of achieving **a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens.**

Europol would like to thank the European law enforcement officers whose photographs feature in this publication:*

Front cover: Jochen Tack, Germany | Page 2: Audrius Chmieliauskas, Lithuania | Page 4: Kristian Berlin, Sweden | Page 5: Claudia Conrad, Germany; Marcin Kwart, Poland ; Andrea Pierleoni, Italy | Page 6: Jean François Guiot, France | Page 7: Bernhard Gorholt, Germany | Page 8: Jo Gidney, Europol | Page 9: Rein Pärtel, Estonia | Page 10: Andrzej Mitura, Poland; Janusz Gajdas, Poland | Page 11: Jos Balcaen, Belgium | Page 13: Kristian Berlin, Sweden | Page 14: Florin Lăzău, Romania; Jo Gidney, Europol | Page 15: Jörn Lassen, Germany | Page 16: Andrius Čypas, Lithuania | Page 17: Andrius Čypas, Lithuania; Serge Quintin, France | Page 18: Louise Larsson, Sweden; Klaus Angeli, Germany (2) | Page 19: Alexandra Wegner, Germany | Page 20: Bram Kampschreur, The Netherlands; Claudia Conrad, Germany | Page 21: Louise Larsson, Sweden | Page 22: Devid Camerlynck, Belgium; Tomasz Kurczyński, Poland; Štefan Abraham, Slovenia; Georges Vandezande, Belgium | Page 23: Vera Brümmer, Germany | Pages 24 & 25: Petr Šerlovský, Czech Republic (3) | Page 26: Serge Quintin, France; Kristian Berlin, Sweden; András Láng-Miticzky, Hungary; Kristian Berlin, Sweden | Page 27: Kristian Berlin, Sweden | Pages 28 & 29: Piero Papa, Italy | Pages 30 & 31: Jaakko Suomela, Finland | Page 32: Tomasz Derlecki, Poland | Page 33: Claudia Conrad, Germany; Alexandra Wegner, Germany; Klaus Angeli, Germany | Page 34: Jo Gidney, Europol; Gabriel Craciun, Romania | Page 35: Lavinia Wouters, Belgium | Page 36: Steve Howells, United Kingdom | Page 37: Ladislav Zágiba, Czech Republic | Pages 38 & 39: Peter Ryngaert, Belgium | Page 40: Claudia Conrad, Germany; Klaus Angeli, Germany | Page 41: Jochen Tack, Germany | Pages 42 & 43: Simo Piippo, Finland | Page 44: András Láng-Miticzky, Hungary; Robert Kralj, Slovenia | Page 45: Kristian Berlin, Sweden | Page 47: Christian Bruer, Germany | Page 48: Peter Nevolný, Slovakia; Paweł Ostaszewski, Poland | Page 49: Gazsi Hynek, Czech Republic; Petr Kos, Czech Republic | Page 50: Jos Balcaen, Belgium | Page 51: Lasse Iversen, Norway | Page 52: Jaakko Suomela, Finland | Back cover: Rein Pärtel, Estonia; Devid Camerlynck, Belgium; Kristian Berlin, Sweden; Gabriel Caciun, Romania; Lasse Iversen, Norway; Klaus Angeli, Germany; Jo Gidney, Europol.

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THANKS

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