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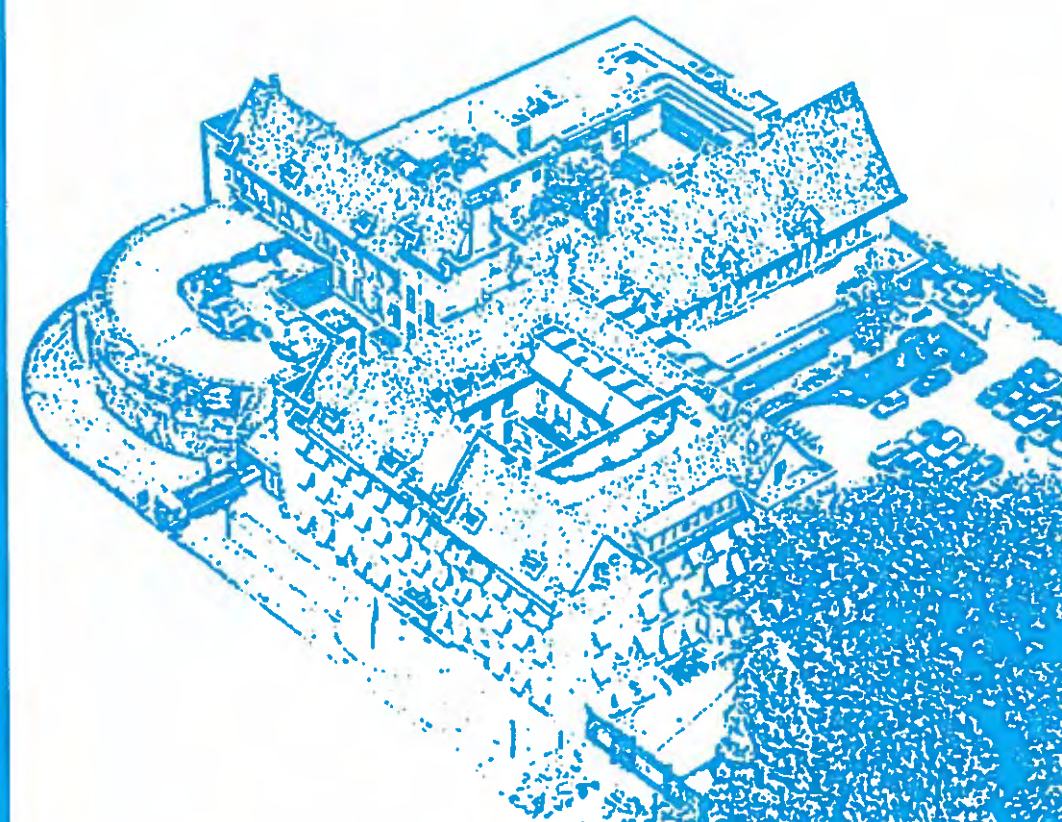
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EUROPOL

# Europol

## Annual report

# 2000



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**Jürgen Storbeck**  
Director  
Europol

## Director's introduction

It gives me great pleasure to provide this overview on Europol's activities and performance in 2000. I hope it will be of value for a broad readership in Europe.

Just a few months after this annual report is published, the citizens of Europe will face a new currency. The advent of the euro is a milestone in the history of the continent and a major step towards, meeting the political and economic challenges of the future. As always in times of transition, criminal groups will seek to profit. The law enforcement authorities of the Member States, together with Europol as the nerve centre, are working to ensure the safe introduction of the new currency.

In 2000, the whole world was shocked by the discovery of the bodies of 58 Chinese immigrants in Dover. Hoping for a better life, illegal migrants are exploited by unscrupulous criminals who do not care about human lives but only about their profits. Targeting these criminal networks remains a high priority for Europol. Together in a strong team with Member States' cooperation, our experts and analysts concentrate on the fight to dismantle the criminal networks.

The year 2000 was the first complete calendar year that the organisation was fully operational and it was indeed a successful one. As Europol is a young organisation it is not surprising that its development has been very dynamic.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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Europol's activities and progress made have been monitored closely both externally and internally. In line with the policy established by Europol's governing bodies, important work has been initiated to formalise Europol's relationship with the European Commission, Europe's Anti-Fraud Office, the General Secretariat, the European Central Bank, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, as well as with several third States and organisations, especially Interpol. These relationships will open up new areas of interest for Europol and the Member States.

Europol intelligence projects have been complex and detailed, involving large amounts of data. We have seen an important change in the nature and quality of Europol's support. Whereas in the past, operation and investigations-related support was mainly in the hands of Europol liaison officers, now, through analysis work files and Europol projects, our analysts and experts often take the lead, whilst always involving the liaison officers of the participating Member States. Analysis work files have changed the nature of information exchange very quickly. Large amounts of information are gathered and exchanged within these projects, which grew significantly in the last year. Member States thereby receive increasingly more benefit from Europol.

Due to the sensitive nature of law enforcement work in the field of organised crime, Europol's contribution cannot be readily apparent to the public. Nevertheless, it is widely acknowledged that Europol has contributed significantly to what the Tampere Summit in 1999 called 'an area of freedom, security and justice'. The past year proved that Europol is able to provide critical support to law enforcement authorities in their fight against international organised crime.



**Willy Bruggeman**  
Deputy Director  
Europol

## Overview of Europol's activities

### Euro forgery

The counterfeiting of currency and its distribution is becoming less and less restricted by borders. The advent of the euro in 2002 will further remove most remaining restrictions. Europol believes that organised criminal groups will be strongly attracted to counterfeiting the euro because of the large potential profits for relatively little investment, taking advantage of the public not being used to the new currency.

- Europol in partnership with law enforcement agencies of Member States, in order to prevent and combat counterfeiting of the euro in Europe;
- Interpol, a co-partner of Europol, in order to prevent and combat counterfeiting of the euro outside the euro zone;
- The European Commission for proposals and decisions on legislative initiatives.

Two powerful databases are being set up: one at the ECB for technical aspects, and one at Europol for law enforcement information required for investigations.

Europol and Member States agreed on how to implement the preparatory and strategic services in order to be ready by 1 January 2002. These include training initiatives which are being developed approaching the issue on three levels:



The European Central Bank building in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Extensive preparation for the euro's introduction has involved different organisations at national and international level including:

- The European Central Bank (ECB) in partnership with national central banks;

global, candidate accession countries and Member States.

An extensive strategic assessment of the threat posed by the introduction of the euro currency was also completed by Europol experts. The assessment, and the recommendation for an action plan at European Union level, were discussed by, among others, the European Task Force for Chiefs of Police, and the work on the 'European Union counterfeit currency situation report' progressed well.

### Illegal immigration

Organised illegal immigration is a growing problem for the Member States of the European Union. Hundreds of thousands of migrants are smuggled each year into Europe, often with dire

consequences for those involved. The human suffering associated with this illegal trade became visible in the year 2000 by the tragedy at Dover in the United Kingdom when 58 illegal Chinese migrants suffocated to death in the back of a container lorry. This incident and others have led to the making of an effective countering of this trade, a political and law enforcement priority in the European Union.

Europol is at the centre of the European Union's response to the problem. During

2000, Europol offered the Member States' competent law enforcement authorities operational support via the Europol liaison officers' network. It also offered top-level strategic support and assisted in major law enforcement investigations of the criminal organisations involved. Strategic work allows Europol to provide an overview of illegal immigration within the European Union, identifying emerging crime patterns and trends as well as recommending work programmes and projects in order to address these issues at the earliest stages.

Europol's work in this field will continue to focus on providing support to law enforcement agencies in the Member States in the prevention, investigation and analysis of the crimes involved.

### Drugs

The production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs have become a worldwide phenomenon. This globalisation has, to some extent, resulted in a gradual diminishing of the traditional distinction between producer and



consumer countries. The abuse of certain drugs, previously geographically limited, has subsequently become prevalent worldwide.

In the European Union, cocaine use is rising slightly and heroin use appears to be relatively constant. In some Member States cocaine processing laboratories have been seized. Cannabis is the most prevalent illicit drug of abuse in the EU. While most of it is imported into the region from traditional sources such as Morocco, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Colombia, Jamaica, Nigeria and South Africa, several Member States also face significant indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation. The use of ecstasy is at a high level, and there is an increase in the abuse of amphetamine. In several Member States amphetamine tablets with various logos are sold as ecstasy tablets. The production and trafficking of ecstasy in the European Union no longer only serves the needs of consumer markets in the Member States but has reached a global dimension.

A practical *Manual on the cultivation of cannabis* was produced. The manual contains guidelines on how to operate against large-scale indoor cannabis cultivation, with an emphasis on risk assessment, risk management and the collection of evidence. With regard to strategic work, the *European Union Situation Report on Drug Production and Drug Trafficking* was published.

In 2000, Europol's training courses on new methods of combating drugs trafficking achieved high standards as demonstrated by the level of participation and by the degree of practical relevance for law

enforcement work. Europol co-organised training courses on the combating of illicit synthetic drug laboratories for law enforcement officers, forensic scientists and public prosecutors in Greece and Portugal. The early warning system (EWS) on new synthetic drugs was further developed and now offers a rapid exchange of information and risk assessment.



Europol's training courses on drugs are well recommended

### Trafficking in human beings

The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings (THB) has received increased attention over the last years. This is not only a reflection of the increase of this type of criminality within the EU, but is also due to a number of initiatives taken from various societal sectors. THB constitutes serious violations of fundamental human rights and human dignity. It involves ruthless practices such as the abuse and deception of vulnerable persons, as well as the use of violence, threats, debts, bondage and coercion. New modus operandi in THB cases have been observed in the European Union.

Europol's Analysts Unit and THB experts participated in the Dutch SKIM 2000 project concerning monitoring the Internet for child pornography. Europol's role was mainly to





provide analytical support (see case studies). Two expert meetings, one on sexual exploitation and one on child pornography were held at Europol in March and June with the participation of several applicant countries, discussing strategic and operational issues, law enforcement experiences, etc.

Europol has also organised an Internet training course on child pornography for the Member States' law enforcement services. The course critique and feedback was extremely positive. Suggestions were made for more similar training courses, where the individual and group practice could be reinforced. More advanced training modules on specific technical topics were strongly recommended by the participants.

A THB Information Bulletin on new modus operandi, different cases etc., has been issued quarterly. Europol has also issued an annual 'General situation report on THB'. Europol has participated, cooperated and supported several of the Commission initiatives to start projects in the field of THB in the framework of the STOP and DAPHNE programmes.

## Illicit vehicle trafficking

Groups of criminals are organised similar to a large international company. It is clear that the modus operandi of the groups evolve as quickly as the circumstances change. A few years ago, it was quite a simple matter for thieves to break into a parked car. However, as most cars are now equipped with very sophisticated locks, alarms, immobilisers and other security features, other methods are being used. There are still other methods of vehicle theft in addition to these modus operandi. Increasingly, carjacking, for example, is the method used to obtain the vehicles. Threats of violence and the use of firearms to steal vehicles are becoming a worrying trend.

At a recent Baltic Sea task force (a framework for cooperation within the States in the Baltic Sea region) expert meeting on motor vehicle crime, where Finland was the leading Member State, Europol was requested to give operational support.



This support involved the coordination of information exchange and the provision of analytical support.

Europol distributed a CD-ROM with the vehicle identification numbers (VIN) of all stolen vehicles of most of the Member States as well as Hungary and Lithuania. The objective was to identify international criminal organisations dealing with the trafficking of stolen vehicles, the gaps and problems in the registration of imported second hand cars and the flow of stolen vehicles.

A working group, including Europol, the German crime police (BKA), the Bavarian crime police (LKA Bayern) and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria has been established in order to put all the necessary vehicle identification characteristics together. The first EuVID (European vehicle identification database) edition will be available in the second half of 2001 in English, French, and German.

The publication of a 'General situation report' and a threat assessment report was discussed between Europol and Member States' experts and as a result it was decided to create a handbook for law enforcement use in order to assist the operational services in their investigations. The handbook entitled, *How to investigate motor vehicle crime* describes the current situation in the EU and an overview of all characteristics and available tools that have to be taken into consideration when investigating vehicle crime.

## Financial crime

Money laundering has increased on an international level and constitutes a global threat to the integrity, reliability and stability of financial and economic systems. Criminals involved in all types of crime seek to launder the proceeds from their illegal activities. Problems are experienced with companies in so-called tax havens with regard to the taking of legal action and securing the proceeds of criminal activities. Drug related money laundering dominates.

Europol was involved in an operation organised by the Baltic Sea task force and focused on the cross border movement of illegal cash. Under the aegis of the multidisciplinary group on organised crime (MDG) of the European Council and in close cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council, an assessment was made of the existing and required expertise on financial investigation in three Member States. Experts from all Member States were consulted on the results of this assessment. Based on the outcome, an outline of a training structure for financial investigation was presented to the MDG.

Under the French Presidency, the Council decided, according to Recommendation 56 of the 'Tampere Conclusions' of



1999, to extend Europol's mandate to include money laundering in general. As a result, Europol, in close cooperation with the Member States, initiated a feasibility study regarding the creation of an EU database for suspicious transactions.

Besides the three-year action plan of the Commission, focusing on security features, Europol concentrated its action on credit card fraud organisations, by gathering and analysing all available information from the Member States, with the purpose of a direct operational support to the law enforcement within the EU.

Finally, Europol, in cooperation with Member States, Interpol, OLAF and with the private sector, is also preparing a general evaluation report for credit card fraud to better inform the EU law enforcement authorities on the trends of this form of crime.



## **Terrorism**

In close cooperation with the Member States, Europol's activities in the counter terrorist area, in the year 2000 can be classified as follows:

### **Acting as a central resource for the Member States.**

Europol obtained, collected and maintained relevant information, making this information electronically available for the competent authorities in the Member States. National competent authorities made use of the Europol liaison officers' network at Europol to exchange terrorism related information in accordance with their national law and the objectives laid down in the Europol convention.

### **Producing output for the Member States.**

Europol provided a number of products that were distributed to the Member States (reports on different subjects related to the area).

The counter-terrorist unit of Europol started specific projects covering a wide range of aspects of the terrorist phenomena that can pose a serious threat to the European Union. For this purpose expert groups were called, dealing in depth with certain areas of counter-terrorism.

## **Eastern European organised crime/other projects**

High priority was given to the collection, collation and analysis of data on eastern European organised crime. Member States' contribution to these projects improved. As a result, information was obtained for the production of a threat assessment for law enforcement and a strategic report that was transmitted to the Member States. Furthermore, three separate analysis reports were published.

Two Council recommendations were adopted in 2000 concerning the right of Europol to request Member States to initiate investigations and Europol's assistance to joint investigative teams. These important steps triggered internal development work in Europol.

## **Crime prevention**

The classical way of fighting crime by repressive and penal measures and some prevention on a local, regional or national level is not adequate anymore. What is needed is an overall concept combining prevention, repression and re-socialisation. These three major elements have to be linked and compatible with each other. A multi-agency approach is needed, combining the competencies, information, methods and knowledge of all law enforcement agencies, justice authorities, public administrations, universities and research institutes, but also of non-governmental organisations and private business.

The problem has been realised by the governments of the Member States and the necessary political decisions have been taken to improve the prevention of crime especially when it is active on an international scale. The European Commission and Europol have been tasked to work in close cooperation with the Member States and produce a European Union concept and policy for the prevention of international organised crime. This work has involved lengthy research and an evaluation of various ongoing initiatives.

The objective of a high-level expert meeting on high-tech crime was to create a common strategy on a European level and to identify the future role of Europol in this work. The meeting brought together important partners from both the private sector and public administration. In the field of witness protection, Europol and Member States' experts developed a number of initiatives to increase the exchange of information and best practice.



**Emanuele Marotta**  
Deputy Director  
Europol

## Intelligence analysis

### Analysis

Europol provided support to seven major operational projects led by Member States and also ran 11 analysis work files (AWF) during the year. According to the Member States involved, Europol's analysis projects in 2000 contributed to a number of significant operational successes. An AWF not only includes analysts, but also the relevant experts for the mandated areas and Europol liaison officers of the Member States involved.

The *European Union organised crime situation report* was produced, for the first time, in an open form, so as to allow the report to achieve a wider audience. In addition, resources were devoted to the production of special strategic analysis reports in various fields.



The *Analytical guidelines*, published by Europol, has been extremely well received both within the European Union and worldwide. This publication received an award from the International Association of



Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts for 'The Organisation for Excellence in Law Enforcement Publications'.

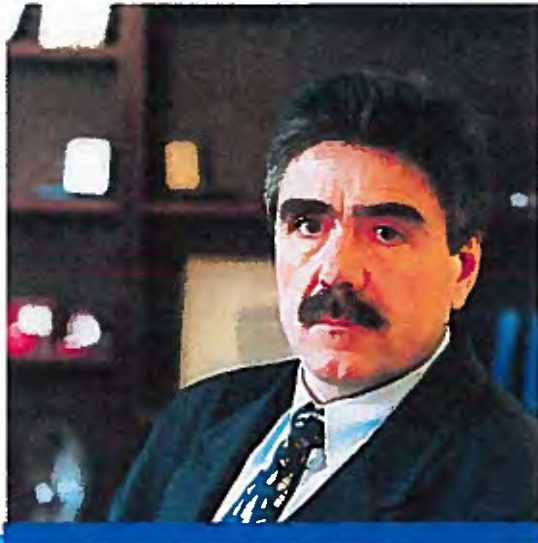
Europol continued to provide training within the field of operational analysis. Courses were held in Denmark and Italy. In order to benefit from all available knowledge for the training initiatives, a seminar was held in Europol for trainers.

### Centres of excellence

Europol developed further the 'centres of excellence directory' in order to facilitate the law enforcement work within the Member States. The purpose of the directory is to create and maintain a database of expertise and skills available within the Member States. The aim is to give Member States an opportunity to identify centres of excellence in other Member States in order to initiate cooperation on a bilateral basis by making available existing law enforcement 'know-how', by providing direct support during ongoing investigations and by organising and providing on the spot training.



A new technique to trace blood spots on a crime scene without damaging/destroying the DNA structure



**Gilles Leclair**  
Deputy Director  
Europol

## Investigation support

### Third States and non-European Union organisations

In March 2000, the Council authorised the Director of Europol to start negotiations with third States and bodies in order to establish cooperation agreements by



giving priority to the accession candidate states, the Schengen cooperation partners (Iceland and Norway), Switzerland and Interpol.

In this context, Europol hosted a seminar in April 2000 with representatives coming from 23 non-European Union countries and international organisations. The purpose was to begin a process that would assist in the cooperation agreements and allow Europol to exchange appropriate information with them. Substantive negotiations have since begun with 10 countries and with Interpol. This work has involved, among other things, an audit of the data protection legislation and practice of those third parties.

### Information exchange

In 2000, Member States initiated 1 922 new cases — a similar figure to 1998

and 1999. These cases accounted for a total of 9 409 separate requests for assistance. The work of the analysis work files resulted in an enormous increase in the amount of data being exchanged. In one particular analysis work file, up to 100 000 pieces of data were transmitted via the liaison officers. This had an obvious effect on the workload in the liaison bureaus.

The total of 1 922 cases in the year 2000 can be divided into the following categories:

— Information/intelligence exchanges (investigations): 1 757;

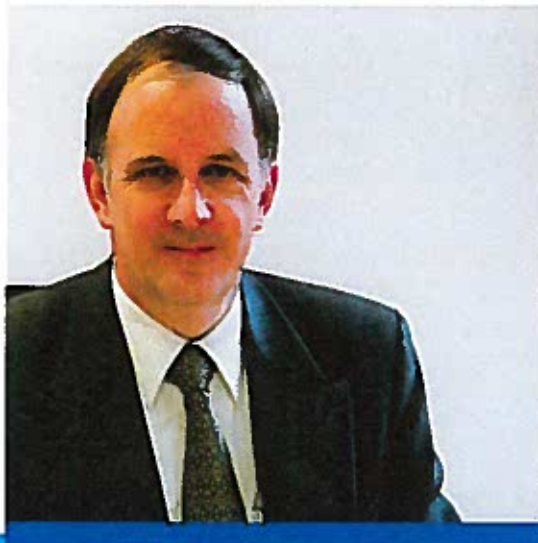
— Special expertise: 127;

— Coordination and other contacts: 38.

As in 1999, the majority of these cases related to drugs criminality and the rest concerned illegal immigration, stolen vehicles, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, terrorism, counterfeiting and trafficking in nuclear substances. Trans-border surveillance operations have proved to be an effective instrument against organised crime, by identifying persons who might otherwise have remained unknown. During 2000, Member States initiated 42 such operations.







**David Valls-Russels**  
Deputy Director  
Europol

## Technology Services

### **The Europol information system**

During 2000, the information system project team completed step 1 of the contract to produce Europol's information system, supervising the work of the consortium and coordinating the involvement of the Member States. An extensive series of workshops and expert meetings have resulted in the production of a detailed specification, which was approved by the Management Board in December 2000. The contractual arrangements for step 2 (the development of the information system) were negotiated and agreed, allowing this work to commence in January 2001.

The Europol information system is being developed by a consortium headed by EADS-Sycomore, with DataMat and Saillabs. It will provide for the first time a multilingual European platform to store and retrieve information on criminals, scenes of crimes, criminal organisations and modus operandi which can be accessed by all Member States. It will give the possibility to identify the correct contact point in case more in-depth information is needed. It will enable the law enforcement agencies in the Member States to coordinate their activities quicker and with greater efficiency. And for the first time, it will provide a 'real time', up to date overview on organised crime within and affecting the European Union.

## General administration and support

### **Personnel and training**

During 2000, Europol recruited 45 additional staff members. With respect to the Europol staff regulations a number of internal regulations were implemented, including those covering working hours and stand-by duty. The Europol Staff Committee was regularly consulted in matters related to personnel.

Internal training courses addressed various specific needs, such as analysis, special software tools and operational support technology. General training needs were dealt with in fields such as project management, intercultural management and language training.

### **Legal affairs**

In 2000, an enormous increase in day to day work was noticed due to the high number and importance of contracts and data protection issues. In particular, resources were devoted to supporting the process towards formal cooperation agreements between Europol and third States and organisations. Other important topics included further contractual work for the development of the Europol information system.

### **Public relations, media, meetings and visits**

The growing interest from various public sectors and individuals on Europol's activities has continued throughout the whole year. The media requests and interviews nearly doubled in comparison to 1999 and the web site of Europol has proved to be a valuable source of background information, as it has received more than 4 million hits during the year.

In the year 2000, Europol hosted a total of 1 198 conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops, 438 of which included external participation.

## Authority reports

### Europol Management Board



**Jaime Fernandes**  
Deputy General Director  
Criminal Police, Portugal

During the Portuguese Presidency, Deputy General Director, Jaime Fernandes, chaired the Management Board. In the three meetings, the Management Board, which is responsible for the guidance and control of Europol, finalised the 'Europol Annual Report 2000' and the Europol budget for 2001. It prepared the justice and home affairs Council decision from 27 March 2000 authorising the Director of Europol to enter into negotiations on agreements with third States and non-EU related bodies. Furthermore, it approved the opening orders of several analysis work files.

Resulting from the important recommendations of the evaluation team, established by the Management Board during the former Finnish Presidency, the Board agreed on numerous actions, in particular the initiation of detailed preparations for the Management Board vision of Europol.



**Patrick Riou**  
Central Director  
Justice Police, France

Under the French Presidency, Central Director, Patrick Riou, chaired the Management Board. During three meetings the Management Board, among other things, finalised the Europol work programme 2001, the five-year financing plan and the five-year business plan 2001-05, prepared the JHA Council Act of 30 November 2000 extending the competence of Europol to money laundering in general and approved the opening order of several additional analysis work files.

Based on the preparation of several meetings and workshops of the Europol Computer System Project Board, the Management Board furthermore selected the Consortium to carry out stage 2 of the Europol information system.

The Management Board meeting in December 2000 in Paris agreed on the major elements of the Management Board vision of Europol.

### Joint Supervisory Board

In 2000, the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB), responsible for the control of data protection at Europol, met five times. It discussed several institutional issues, such as the relations with Europol and the Europol Management Board, the handling of data in Europol files and the budget of the JSB (Article 24 paragraph 9 and Article 35 paragraph 1 of the Europol Convention). The position of the Secretariat of the JSB (Article 24 paragraph 10 of the Europol Convention) was also discussed during these meetings.

In 2000 the Joint Supervisory Body also discussed several opening orders in accordance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Europol Convention and the Council Act of 3 November 1998 adopting rules applicable to Europol analysis work files (Official Journal C 26 of 30 January 1999, page 1).

Furthermore, in 2000, the JSB, addressed, the issue of Europol's relation with third States and bodies, focusing mainly on the data protection level offered in the third States and bodies with whom Europol is starting negotiations on the transmission of personal data.

The Appeals Committee met four times in 2000 and discussed mainly procedural issues, focusing on the practical procedure to be followed in the event of appeals being lodged.

### Financial Controller

In January 2000, the Financial Controller finalised his annual report for the second semester of the previous year. The recommendations that concerned various issues, were fully adopted by the Management Board during the meeting in February 2000. As stated in his annual report: 'These recommendations have to be seen as a stimulant for further improvements'.

Besides the daily routines of monitoring expenditure and revenue, the Financial Controller paid special attention to the calculation of salaries and IT expenditure and related contracts. The observations of the Financial Controller on the year 2000 will be reported as described in the financial regulations.



Control of Europol's data handling by the Joint Supervisory Body

## Case studies



The following cases provide examples of Europol's support and coordination functions to international investigations carried out by the Member States' law enforcement authorities.

### Operation LAGOS

In late 1999, under a Danish initiative, several Member States began cooperating and sharing intelligence regarding a criminal group of Polish and Lithuanians engaging in drug-trafficking, illicit

transport of stolen vehicles and prostitution, impacting upon several Member States.

The operation gathered a momentum of its own, and throughout 2000 more Europol liaison officers became involved, together with phased teams of Europol analysts giving inputs on various aspects of what became an increasingly complex and diverse operation.

Three main crime locations were identified: Belgium/Netherlands, Denmark and Poland/Lithuania. Several

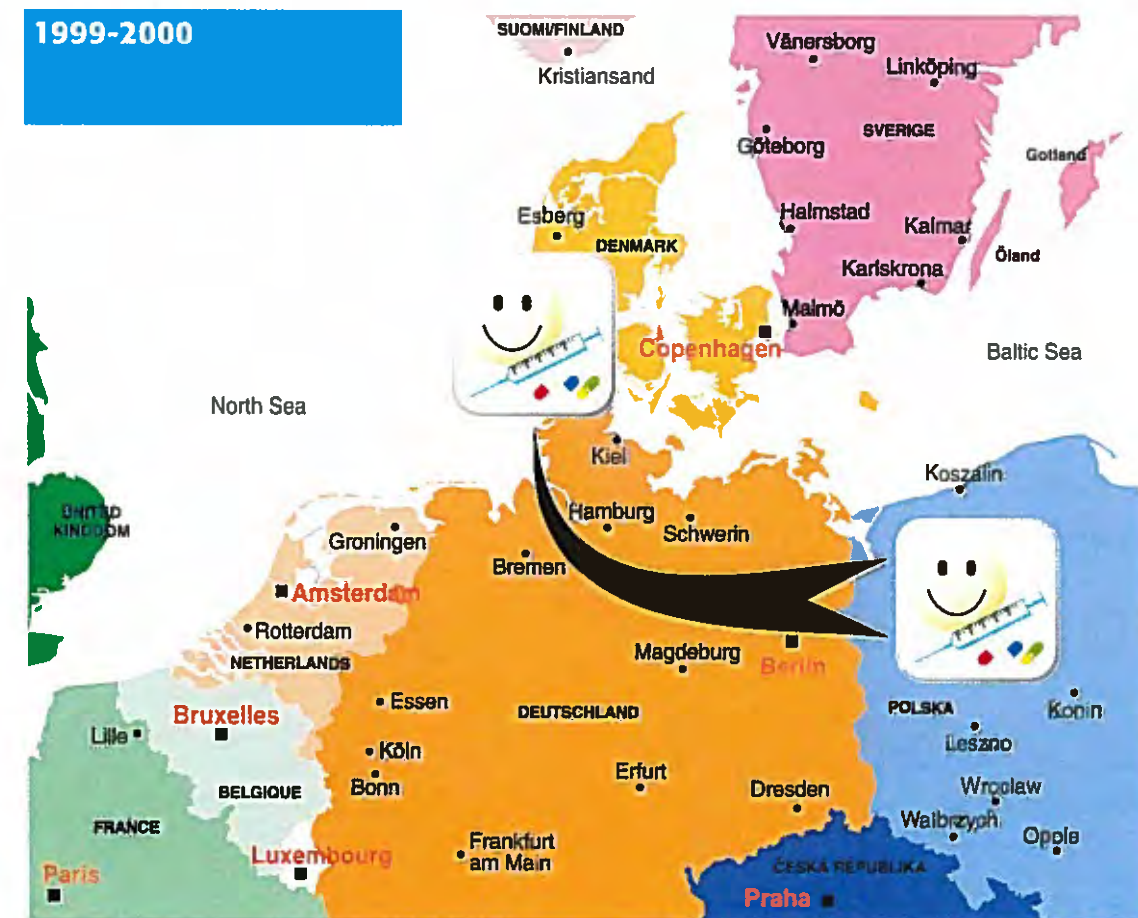
organised criminal activities were occurring simultaneously, with different criminal groups linking to each other. Prostitutes from Lithuania and Poland were being trafficked to Denmark, amphetamines were being imported into Denmark from Poland, and lorries and their cargoes were being stolen in Denmark and transported to Belgium where their cargoes were broken down and sold. The lorries were then re-transported to eastern Europe for resale.

After months of intense activity and intelligence exchange, involving Europol

May 1999



1999-2000



liaison officers, the analysis unit and the Organised Crime Department, 10 arrests occurred in Belgium of individuals involved in the smuggling of high taxed goods and the illegal sale of stolen goods from the lorry cargoes. Fifty arrests occurred in Denmark, with individuals being charged with offences relating to trafficking in human beings, vehicle theft and drug trafficking. The arrests in Denmark included the whole amphetamine trafficking network, from organisers to the individual couriers.

Amongst the complex interlinked criminal activities, intelligence came to light regarding the linkages of organised crime activity engaged in cigarette and alcohol smuggling from Russia and Lithuania to Denmark via Poland, with involved commercial institutions and companies located in several Member States.

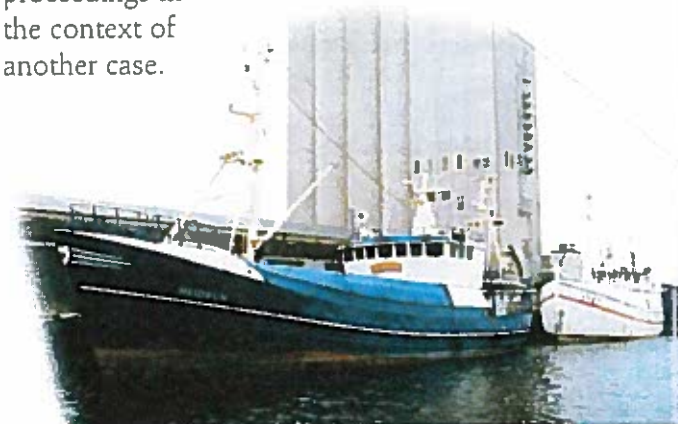
All facets of this operation are being reviewed and it is anticipated that it will eventually form an essential component part of the Europol participation in the Baltic Sea task force under the Danish leadership during the year 2001.

### Operation TIGER

Since early 1999, Swedish law enforcement authorities had been monitoring the activities of a group of criminals, engaged in illegal immigration from Africa to Sweden. The organisers who were mainly Swedish, working together with a Finnish national, were utilising a series of different vessels and differing routes. One vessel was found to

be crewed by Ukrainian nationals. Europol became involved in the operation in its latter stages, and work by Europol liaison officers, together with intense supportive research by the analysis unit, advanced the operation further.

Eventually two individuals were arrested, and subsequently convicted. Both appealed against their sentences, which resulted in their sentences being lengthened. In addition, intelligence gathered and worked upon during the course of this operation was ultimately of assistance to Swedish authorities in facilitating extradition proceedings in the context of another case.



One of the seized vessels in the operation TIGER

### Operation SKIM 2000

In response to the increased dissemination of child pornographic material, the police and judicial authorities in the Netherlands jointly set up a project team, which operates under the name of SKIM 2000 (Surveilleren Kinderporno Internet Methodieken — Surveillance methods with regard to child pornography on the Internet). This team will occupy itself with Internet surveillance and the investigation of criminal

activities for which use is made of the Internet.

The project was to enable the Dutch police to gain experience and knowledge as regards the active fight against child pornography on the Internet. The proactive surveillance and crime detection activities took place between 1 March and 1 June 2000. During this period, the project team searched the Internet for active dissemination of child pornography. In addition, complaints received from the Dutch contact point on Childporn ([www.meldpunt.nl](http://www.meldpunt.nl)), the German crime police (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA) and Interpol, on the spread of child pornography, were investigated between October 1999 and 6 June 2000.

The ultimate and primary objectives were to trace new national and international networks of criminal organisations involved in the dissemination of child pornography, and in this way prevent future child abuse. Newly made pornographic material that is disseminated on a large scale may be an indication of children having been abused only recently.

In order to gain an insight into the extent and nature of the networks at an international level and of the relations



that exist between them, the SKIM 2000 team requested Europol to cooperate by giving analytical support. This was also in line with the decision of the Council of Europe made on 26 November 1998, with regard to Europol's mandate to try and eliminate the trafficking in human beings, which was later extended to include the production, sale and dissemination of child pornography on the

Internet. The German and Belgian authorities also supported this project.

An analyst from Europol's Analysis Unit was attached to the SKIM 2000 team for the duration of the project. The analyst was asked to map the international relationships between the networks on the basis of the operational information or indications found. All the information was processed under the responsibility of the Dutch police in a structured and systematic way, which resulted in a strategic analysis report. During the SKIM 2000 project, all relevant case-related international information was sent to the countries involved via the Interpol channels.

So far, the Dutch project has led, in the Netherlands, to at least 19 new investigations on child pornography, a number of arrests and seizures of child pornographic material.

## Dismantling of an illicit synthetic drugs laboratory

As a follow-up to the Europol training course for trainers on the combating of illicit synthetic drugs laboratories, which took place in 1999 at Europol, the Hellenic authorities organised a national training event in March 2000. The second week of this national training course was organised and provided by Europol experts and analysts, and included a practical exercise on the raiding and dismantling of an illegal laboratory. For that purpose Europol flew in a container with equipment and installed a training laboratory. The course was attended by the Hellenic police, customs, Financial and Economical Crime Office, Public Prosecutors Office, National Drug Organisation, the Ministry of Health, fire brigades, port authorities, toxicologists and forensic chemists.

Shortly after that training event, the Attika Police CID/drugs sub-division, discovered evidence that a company was buying chemicals and equipment, which could not be used in its legitimate production processes. Subsequently, on the 26 April 2000 this agency, supported by the National Drug Organisation and the Financial and Economic Crimes Office/Drugs and Weapons Division, searched the buildings and premises of that company. During the search an illegal

production facility was discovered. This facility was one of the biggest illicit laboratories for the production of amphetamine and amphetamine-type stimulants found in Europe, both in terms of size and capacity. Not only was it producing synthetic drugs but also the precursors required for this illegal production. Large amounts of amphetamine tablets, chemicals, intermediate products, chemical (toxic) waste and production equipment were seized.

Due to the complexity of the laboratory and the fact that precursors and pre-precursors were produced at this site, the competent Hellenic authorities requested operational support from Europol, which responded by sending an expert from the Drugs Group, a specialist in the dismantling of illicit laboratories, to Hellas. During five days of close cooperation between the competent Hellenic authorities and Europol, the illegal laboratory was fully and successfully dismantled.



## Member States' law enforcement authorities



### Belgique/België



**Police**

Police



**Politie**

Politie



### Danmark



Rigspolitiet



### Deutschland



Bundeskriminalamt



Zollkriminalamt



### Ελλάδα/Greece



Ελληνική Αστυνομία  
Hellenic Police



Ελληνική Τελωνειακή  
Υπηρεσία/  
Hellenic Customs



## España



GUARDIA CIVIL

Guardia Civil



Cuerpo Nacional de  
Policía



Mossos d'Esquadra



## France



Douanes  
et droits indirects



Gendarmerie nationale



Ministère de l'intérieur



## Ireland



An Garda Síochána



## Italia



Arma dei Carabinieri



Guardia di Finanza



Polizia di Stato



## Luxembourg



La police grand-ducale



## Nederland



Korps landelijke politiediensten

Politie



## Österreich



Bundesministerium für Inneres



## Portugal



Polícia Judiciária



## Suomi/Finland



Tulli



Poliisi



## Sverige



Tullverket



Rikspolisstyrelsen

Rikspolisstyrelsen



## United Kingdom



National Criminal Intelligence Service

## Visits



Simon van der Geer (left) of the Dutch police (KLPD), division investigation, and Europol Director, Jürgen Storbeck present the first copy of the EU Manual on money laundering and confiscation of assets



Ronald K. Noble, Chief of Interpol (centre), in discussion with analysts of Europol



António Vítorino (right), member of the Commission (Justice and Home Affairs), together with Europol Director, Jürgen Storbeck



Michel Albin, Chairman of the European Council of Police Unions (CESP) (left), Gerard Greneron (centre), Secretary-General of the CESP, and Mike Bellot (French liaison officer)



Chris Pond (left), Member of UK Parliament, together with David Valls-Russell, Deputy Director of Europol



Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Justice and Customs of Australia, John Nation (left), Chief Advisor to the Minister and Europol Director, Jürgen Storbeck

## Special notes

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## List of abbreviations

OC	=	organised crime
AWF	=	analysis work files
JSB	=	Joint Supervisory Body
MDG	=	multidisciplinary group
JHA	=	justice and home affairs Council
ECB	=	European Central Bank
EMCDDA	=	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
MS	=	Member State(s) of the European Union
CEE	=	central and eastern Europe
OLAF	=	European Anti-Fraud Office



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