



The Role of Eurojust Combating International Organised Crime

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Why Eurojust ?

- Removal of frontier controls in EU states
- At least 27 different legal systems
- To improve action against cross-border crime
- Existing Mutual Legal Assistance & Extradition arrangements are often lengthy and uncertain
- Alternative to the European Prosecutor option

Some of the Problems



- European Union Principle Freedom of Movement
 - People Capital Goods Services
 - Minimal, if any, frontier controls
 - Mobility & relatively cheap travel
 - Computer and internet 'cyber crime'
- Organised cross-border crime
 - Terrorism
 - Trafficking in Drugs
 - Trafficking in Human Beings
 - Serious Fraud (inc..fraud on EU Budget)
 - Car Theft
 - Corruption



What is Eurojust ?

- A group of 27 EU prosecutors / judges
 - One nominated by each Member State
- Aim -
 - *'to deal more effectively with serious cross border crime, particularly when it is organised, and involves two or more Member States'*

- JHA Council Decision of 14 December 2000

Eurojust's Powers



- Power to request competent authorities :
 - to investigate or prosecute specific acts*
 - to accept that one country is better placed to prosecute than another*
 - to co-ordinate with one another
 - to set up a Joint Investigation Team
 - to provide Eurojust with any information necessary to carry out its tasks*

Aims



- Improve co-operation between Competent Authorities in Member States
- Bring better co-ordination of cross-border investigations and prosecutions
- Exchange of information
- To make recommendations to change laws to improve MLA & Extradition arrangements

How Eurojust Works



- Case Referrals
- Working Methods
- Adding Value
- Strategic Meetings
- Co-ordination Meetings
- Cooperation with Europol

Integrated Approach to Tackling Organised Crime



- Cross-border crime needs a whole case approach
- Need for co-ordinated action police investigators prosecutors and others
- Too often find reasons for not integrating action
- Whatever the systems judicial input is powerful and necessary for effective results

Cases Referred



1. March - 31. December 2001	=	192
1. January - 31. December 2002	=	202
1. January - 31. December 2003	=	300
1. January - 31. December 2004	=	382
1. January - 31. December 2005	=	589
1. January - 31. December 2006	=	769
1. January - 31. December 2007	=	1062

THB

- There are a total of 207 cases registered in Eurojust between 1st January 2004 and 15th September 2008.
- The following table shows the cases of THB registered in Eurojust, per year and per country:

Real Statistics

Ireland						0
Cyprus			1			1
Finland				1		1
Malta				1		1
Estonia		1			1	2
Slovenia				1	1	2
Greece	1		1	1		3
Hungary		2	1			3
Spain		1	1	1	1	4
Poland	1			1		2
Belgium	1			1	2	5
Denmark		3		2	1	6
Portugal	1	1	1	1	2	5
Germany		2	2	3	2	6
Lithuania				4	2	6
Luxembourg	1	1	1	2	1	6
Slovakia		1		3	2	6
Austria		1	3	1	2	7
Bulgaria				1	7	8
Netherlands			2	4	4	10
Sweden	1	3	3	1	2	10
France	2	5	2	3		12
Latvia		4	4	4		12
Czech Republic		1	1	7	6	15
Italy	5	1	4	5	2	17
United Kingdom	1	7	3	10	2	23
Romania				18	14	32
TOTAL	13	34	32	73	55	207

Case example

- **Case 4 — Trafficking in Human Beings**
- French, Italian and Bulgarian judicial authorities cracked down on an illicit trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (THB) operation involving 100 Bulgarian women abused by Bulgarian nationals operating in France and Italy
- Profits from the criminal activities amounted to approximately €10 million between 2002 and 2006. After thorough investigations into the criminal organization's operations, 13 European Arrest Warrants were issued by French authorities, of which six were already executed and three are pending issuance by the Bulgarian authorities. One suspect continued to conduct illicit operations from prison via fax and telephone.
- According to intelligence sources, the criminal group was organized in a hierarchical structure with family connections among members. The main organization was devoted to THB, but had links to another organization in Albania that was involved in money laundering.
- Through illicit operations the leaders had amassed great wealth, and used threats against witnesses as well as violence against group members, including murder and grievous bodily harm, and forced women into prostitution, to maintain their position. The Bulgarian network, however, was also using business structures for the purpose of money laundering.
- At present, efficient co-operation is taking place between judicial authorities in Bulgaria, Italy and France with the assistance of Eurojust.

Case example

- Illegal Immigration Crime
- Eurojust made a significant contribution to an illegal immigration crime case referred by the UK.
- It involved Turkish organized crime groups allegedly engaged in the smuggling of large numbers of Turkish Kurds into the UK. This group was under investigation by the Metropolitan Police in London. The UK operation had links to a number of other countries, primarily Belgium, but also Italy, France and Denmark. The UK had made a large number of MLA requests for evidence from these countries and the swift execution and facilitation of these was one of the reasons for the referral of the case to Eurojust. Moreover, as the UK operation was moving towards an enforcement phase, the UK investigators and prosecutors were keen to ensure that any arrests they carried out in the UK were coordinated with the arrests of the suspects in the other involved countries, not only to maximize the effect but also in an effort to dismantle the entire organized people-smuggling network across all the countries in which it existed and operated. After arrest, exchange of information and evidence would be required in preparation for prosecution and, therefore, for all of these reasons, the case was referred to Eurojust.
- A co-ordination meeting was held at Eurojust in May 2005. The UK, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Europol were represented. Amongst other things, a common enforcement date for arrests was discussed and agreed in principle. Ancillary issues, such as liaison with the Turkish authorities and a media strategy following the arrests, were also explored.

Working at Different Levels



- Level 1
 - Plenary Meeting of all 27 National Members
 - Twice each week
- Level 2
 - Only those national members involved in a case
- Level 3
 - Investigators & prosecutors dealing with a case
 - Cooperation with EUROPOL and therefore access to all EU-Police Authorities and Information

Areas of Added Value



- 1 Permanent Mutual Legal Assistance Network
- 2 Empowered MLA Network
- 3 Facilities - Casework Meetings & Conference covering the costs of travelling and hotel
- 4 Voice Influencing Law-Makers & Others
- 5 Casework Examples
- 6 Cooperation and exchange of information with EUROPOL
- 7 Public relation for the European idea

Permanent MLA Network



- Permanently Based in Premises in The Hague
- 27 National Members - always available
- Clarity, Speed, and Certainty in MLA issues
- Resources, staff and equipment
- Eurojust has Legal Personality



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