



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 March 2007

7550/07

EUROJUST 16

NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations
Subject : EUROJUST Annual Report 2006

Delegations will find attached the EUROJUST Annual Report 2006.¹

¹ This is the version sent to the Council on 15 March 2007. Some minor alterations of a linguistic character may still be made.

EUROJUST ANNUAL REPORT

2006

CONTENTS

	<u>Page n°</u>
FOREWORD	4
1. THE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF EUROJUST	9
2. LEGAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARTNERS.....	12
3. CASEWORK.....	19
4. RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.....	44
5. THIRD STATES	46
6. ADMINISTRATION.....	50
7. ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES SET FOR 2006	60
8. COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS (AR2005 FOLLOW-UP).....	68
9. EUROJUST'S OBJECTIVES FOR 2007 AND 2008	72
10. THE FUTURE OF EUROJUST	74
11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	77
12. ANNEX	81

1. FOREWORD

I am delighted to present Eurojust's fifth Annual Report which describes our activities during the calendar year 2006.

Throughout 2006 Eurojust continued to make steady progress building on the foundations laid during our first three years in The Hague. This progress included another substantial annual increase in our caseload, improvements in the field of information management and technology (including the appointment of several data management assistants) and externally further strengthening our relationships with European Union organisations and the completion of a formal co-operation agreement with the USA. These developments will enable our organisation to offer better assistance to national investigating and prosecuting authorities.

Eurojust was established to improve the quality of casework co-operation and co-ordination between the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the EU Member States. Once again I am delighted to report that during 2006 the number of cases referred to the College of Eurojust, the governing body of the agency, continued to grow significantly. In 2006 the number of cases referred to the College increased by 31% over 2005. The increase in case referrals during 2006 continues this very positive trend which saw a 54% caseload increase in 2005, a 27% increase in 2004 and a 50% increase in 2003.

This continued growth in referrals reflects our closer relationship with the national investigating and prosecuting authorities, and our enhanced capacity to help resolve problems and organise co-ordinated investigation and prosecution activities in several EU Member States. We are pleased to note that there is clearly an increased willingness to engage with Eurojust to tackle cross-border crime and a continuing increase in the number of cases referred by the states that joined the European Union in 2004.

The number of meetings organised to facilitate co-operation and co-ordinate action in specific cases increased from 73 in 2005 to 89 in 2006. This figure reflects the complexity of the caseload handled by Eurojust. A more detailed analysis of case referrals and strategic meetings is contained in Chapter 3, together with examples of cases in which Eurojust has provided assistance.

More cases are referred to Eurojust at an early stage of investigation. This is now regarded as ‘best practice’ and can save resources and add value for those fighting international crime. A positive outcome, including the freezing of assets in even one serious fraud case, can result in Member States recovering funds well in excess of the Eurojust annual budget.

I will repeat observations that I have made in previous years and confirm that, although we are pleased with the increase in the number of cases sent to Eurojust for assistance, we are still not satisfied. We remain sure that there are more cases which could and should be referred to the organisation. Again we must report that Eurojust still does not feel that its capacity to deal with casework is being fully exploited.

As Eurojust develops and its caseload grows, it is becoming clear that some National Members, working alone, do not have the capacity and cannot provide a full casework service to their own domestic authorities, to other members of the College with their casework, and also play their principal role as members of the College management board. In last year’s Annual Report I commented that many National Members work alone without a Deputy or an Assistant to support them and that such assistance would help to develop casework capacity. I am pleased that several Member States responded and appointed either an Assistant who can deputise or a Seconded National Expert (SNE) to support their National Member. The direct result for those states has been increased casework activity. I would again urge Ministers of Justice and Internal Affairs, Prosecutors General or their equivalents to review the needs of their own National Member and to assess whether he or she requires the support of a Deputy or an SNE.

In October 2006 we held a successful practitioners’ seminar in Bratislava to assist in identifying and resolving problems in the practical operation of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This followed our popular and productive seminars held on the EAW in October 2004 and in May 2005.

During 2006 we continued to work constructively with other EU bodies. Our interaction with our sister organisation, the European Judicial Network (EJN), remains our most important judicial partnership. Our ties with Europol continue to strengthen even though some practical restrictions remain that prevent closer co-operation.

We look forward to seeing the proposed improvements to the structure of Europol's decision-making process put in place, which will allow our practical co-operation with Europol to become more effective.

There are still many opportunities to be developed in our relationship with OLAF during 2006. We would like to conclude a formal co-operation agreement during 2007 and we trust that perceived legal impediments can be overcome during the next year.

In previous Annual Reports we indicated that some Member States still needed to change their legislation to implement the Eurojust Decision. The deadline was September 2003. Spain completed implementation in 2006 and now the Eurojust Decision is in force in the jurisdictions of all EU Member States, with the exception of Greece.

The terrorist arrests during the summer in the UK and Germany and the bombings in December at the airport in Madrid reminded us that terrorism remains a threat to security in Europe and the top priority for Eurojust. On 30 June 2006 the Council Decision of 20 September 2005 on the exchange of information and co-operation concerning terrorist offences came into effect. Unfortunately very few Member States provide Eurojust with the prescribed data and this will be an area for improvement in 2007. Once more during 2006 we hosted a number of operational and briefing meetings for terrorism investigators and prosecutors from the EU Member States and other countries, both in The Hague and at other locations. In this way we continue to develop strong links with investigators and prosecutors inside and outside the EU.

During the year we completed the installation of our crucially important secure network for internal communication. Following the success of our AGIS-funded E-POC I and II Projects we launched work on the E-POC III Project which will help us identify more effective ways of exchanging data with the competent investigating and prosecuting authorities in Member States.

In December 2006 we reached another important milestone when we established a secure communication link between Eurojust and the competent authorities in Slovakia. We began testing this link, which is a prototype for the development of similar secure links to other EU Member States. The early and effective implementation of this system will be a key factor in Eurojust's future success.

Early in 2006 we signed our Seat Agreement, to regulate our status in The Hague, and our Lease Agreement, to confirm formally the occupancy of our current premises. We are, however, very disappointed that arrangements do not appear possible to co-locate Eurojust with Europol in their new proposed premises in the city. We feel that an opportunity was missed both for cost savings and the ability to draw on the synergies that would be available to the Member States by enhancing the effectiveness of both organisations by location on the same site. We hope that this disappointing decision can be reversed.

One of the pleasing aspects of 2006 was the wide range of visitors we welcomed to our premises. In June we were delighted to welcome Vice-President Franco Frattini, the EU Commissioner for Freedom, Security and Justice, on his annual visit to Eurojust. We were equally pleased to note the increase in the number of EU and non-EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs and Prosecutors General who came to see our facilities and visit National Members.

Perhaps our most significant external success in 2006 was the conclusion of a formal co-operation agreement with the USA. The negotiations had proved challenging and problematic, particularly in the area of data protection. However we are pleased that negotiations were concluded in the autumn. The draft agreement was subsequently approved, first by Eurojust's independent Joint Supervisory Body for data protection and second by the Council. Under the terms of the agreement, which was signed on 6 November 2006, we are very proud to have secured greater commitments from the US authorities to adhere to EU data protection principles than have ever been achieved by any EU body in the past in the field of justice and home affairs. We expect a Liaison Prosecutor from the US Department of Justice to begin working at Eurojust early in 2007.

Formal negotiations to conclude co-operation agreements with Switzerland, Ukraine and the Russian Federation are continuing. More details of these and other negotiations can be found in Chapter 5.

In September 2006 we were pleased to welcome Elena Dinu, who joined us, under the terms of our co-operation agreement, as the Liaison Magistrate for Romania. We were delighted to learn in December that Elena had been designated to become the National Member of Eurojust when Romania joins the European Union on 1 January 2007.

During 2006 three National Members left Eurojust. We were very sorry to bid farewell to Rubén Jiménez Fernández, Johan Reimann and Rolandas Tilindis, the National Members for Spain, Denmark and Lithuania, respectively. On behalf of everyone in our organisation I would like to thank them for their support and for the very significant contributions they made to the development and enlargement of Eurojust. Johan was appointed Chief Constable in the newly restructured Danish Police Service, Rolandas has taken up a senior position in the Prosecutor General's Office in Lithuania and Rubén returned to serve as a judge in Murcia. We wish all three every success in their new roles. We welcomed their replacements into the College: Lennart Lindblom from Denmark, Tomas Krusna from Lithuania and Juan Antonio García Jabaloy from Spain.

I should be grateful if recipients of this report would ensure it is circulated to all investigators and prosecutors who have responsibility for, or an interest in, the fight against serious organised cross-border crime. Additional copies of the report can be obtained, in all the official EU languages, by contacting the Eurojust Press Service or consulting our website.

MICHAEL G KENNEDY

President of the College

January 2007

1. THE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF EUROJUST

Introduction

The Council Decision creating Eurojust was formally approved on 28 February 2002. The 15 National Members and two staff moved from temporary premises in Brussels to The Hague in December 2002. In the past four years we have developed systems, including a strong organisational infrastructure, to support our work. The enlargement of the EU in 2004 led to the appointment of ten additional National Members and a much larger administration.

The 25 National Members of Eurojust, one representing each Member State, are judges or prosecutors, or police officers of equivalent competence, depending on their legal systems. The National Members form the Eurojust management board which is known as the College of Eurojust. Some National Members are supported by one or more Assistants who may deputise in their absence. The National Members for Romania and Bulgaria will join the College in January 2007.

The College is supported by the Eurojust staff, led by the Administrative Director. By the end of 2006, nine countries had appointed Assistants who were able to deputise for their National Member at Eurojust and our organisation employed 93 members of staff. Details of our administrative structure are described in Chapter 6.

The College meets twice per week but requires a quorum of at least 17 National Members to be present to take decisions. Despite the fact that the National Member for Malta still occupies the office of prosecutor in her country, Malta is striving to make its presence at College plenary meetings more frequent. On some occasions National Members must be absent from Eurojust to attend external meetings. On those occasions, when National Members are absent, and an absent National Member's home authority has not appointed an Assistant who can deputise, the College may not have a quorum and so cannot take decisions, leading to delays and inefficiency.

Some National Members are supported in their casework by a Seconded National Expert (SNE), a person seconded from his or her national jurisdiction who assists but cannot deputise. SNEs are part of the Eurojust administration although they work closely with the National Members.

We have continued with the team structure that we developed and outlined in previous Annual Reports. The teams draw on the wide range of experience and expertise of College Members, which is used to complete preparatory work on policy and practical issues. The teams then report and make recommendations to the College, which is responsible for taking final decisions. The teams comprise National Members, Assistants and SNEs, and are supported by appropriately experienced and qualified members of the administration. The teams are:

Presidency	Administration	External Relations
Data Protection & E-POC	Brussels	Trafficking & Related Crimes
Terrorism	Europol	Casework Strategy & Performance Management
Fraud & Economic Crime	OLAF	EAW & EEW
EJN & Liaison Magistrates		

Data Protection, the E-POC Project and the Eurojust Case Management System

Eurojust has been working on fully implementing the data protection rules adopted in 2005 and the Joint Supervisory Body for Data Protection carried out its first inspection in November 2005. Eurojust has put measures in place to implement the recommendations made in its inspection report. In addition the Data Protection Officer has carried out an annual survey and reported her findings to the College. The Eurojust Data Protection & E-POC Team is responsible for following up this report, particularly regarding some recommendations on the use of the Case Management System (CMS).

Eurojust has also applied additional rules concerning non-case-related data. These rules define, in particular, the roles, rights and obligations of all actors in the field of data protection and procedures for Eurojust post-holders regarding the exercise of a data subject's rights.

The successful completion of the E-POC (European Pool against Organised Crime) II Project led to the following in 2006:

- Eurojust has taken the lead in the project and submitted a successful application for AGIS funding for a further project (E-POC III);
- In parallel, Eurojust has made a number of important changes in the CMS that have improved the usability of the system.

The existing E-POC partners, Italy, France, Slovenia and Romania, have been joined by Poland.

The key issues to be addressed in E-POC III include:

- enhancing and simplifying information exchange;
- promoting a common data model and a common operational approach to the exchange of information by automated means;
- making E-POC software operational in selected sites in partners' countries;
- exploiting the secure communication infrastructure being developed to connect Eurojust to national authorities;
- completing the technical support for the application of Eurojust's data protection rules; and
- developing analytical tools especially useful, for example, in investigations and prosecutions related to criminal networks.

E-POC III aims to continue the work completed in 2003-2005 – the basis of the Eurojust CMS – using the E-POC software as a standard solution to enable effective co-operation between national authorities through Eurojust.

2. LEGAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARTNERS

Introduction

Although focussed on its operational work, Eurojust is fully involved in the strengthening of the European area of Freedom, Security and Justice; its expertise is often requested by the European institutions. The College of Eurojust is divided into specialised teams. The Brussels Team is responsible for assuring that the necessary links with the Brussels institutions are established and maintained, resulting in regular meetings between the College and representatives of the Council, the Commission and the current and future presidencies. These exchanges are essential in ensuring that all relevant criminal justice partners are informed about legal developments and national concerns.

Important work has been done to provide input to the Commission in its preparatory work for a communication about the future of Eurojust and the EJT. We have also set up the first contacts between Eurojust and the European Judicial Training Network (EJT). Gilles Charbonnier, secretary to the EJT, met the College in September, and regular contacts are now in place to organise the involvement of Eurojust in training programmes that are essential to the implementation of the principle of mutual recognition.

Implementation of the Eurojust Decision

Eurojust was established by the Council Decision of 28 February 2002 that requires implementation at domestic level by each Member State. It is obvious that delays or weaknesses in that implementation in one Member State have a negative impact on the work of the whole organisation and undermine the ability to complete tasks. One country, Greece, has not yet implemented the Eurojust Decision. Furthermore, the level of implementation has been uneven. In some cases the Decision has been codified as law while in other cases it has been enacted via an administrative directive. In addition, the scope of the powers granted to National Members is uneven, which can affect, for example, the ability to issue letters rogatory and specific powers in case of emergency.

Besides the legal issues, the importance of the support given by Member States to their National Members must be stressed. For example, the Polish and Lithuanian National Members have still not been able to establish a permanent residence in The Hague.

Some countries have allocated Deputies or Assistants to their National Members or encouraged the recruitment of Seconded National Experts (SNEs). However, many National Members work alone with only the support of one secretary provided by Eurojust. Besides a heavy operational workload, each National Member must be involved, as a Member of the College of Eurojust, in many other tasks related to the activities of Eurojust. These tasks include draft agreements with Third States and decisions on administrative matters, such as human resources, security, data protection and secure communication with Europol and the Member States.

The establishment of national correspondents, or contacts at domestic level, facilitates the links between Eurojust and the judges and prosecutors in charge of cases.

Implementation of the Key JHA Instruments

In 2006, further progress was made in the implementation of JHA instruments, in particular the Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European Arrest Warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States. On the other hand, it is disappointing that some crucial and practical instruments, such as the Convention of 29 May 2000 on mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Member States of the European Union and its Protocol of 16 October 2001 on mutual co-operation in banking information, as well as the Council Framework Decision of 22 July 2003 on the execution of orders freezing property or evidence, are not yet implemented in several Member States. This situation has an impact on Eurojust's daily work, preventing Eurojust from fulfilling its role in the co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions.

Eurojust would like to highlight the importance of full implementation as a key step towards improving the co-operation between Member States. Without appropriate rules at national level, obstacles will remain.

Eurojust considers the mechanism for evaluating the application and implementation at national level of international undertakings in the fight against crime, established by the Joint Action of 5 December 1997, to be of major importance as an effective reminder to ensure full implementation in accordance with the EU instruments. Such mechanism allows a detailed analysis of domestic legislation and practice, and the results of this evaluation play an important role in the implementation of EU instruments, and in the further development of co-operation and EU legislation. Eurojust is pleased to note that the ongoing evaluation concerning the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) started shortly after the implementation in all Member States, and is also pleased to be able to provide its practical experience as an expert observer in the EAW evaluation process.

The European Judicial Network

The European Judicial Network (EJN) was created by Joint Action 98/428/JHA of 29 June 1998 to facilitate judicial co-operation in criminal matters between Member States. It indirectly supports practitioners by means of comprehensive information systems and facilitation of contacts, and directly supports the preparation and execution of requests for assistance in criminal matters. The EJN has proved to be invaluable in helping to overcome many of the problems that hamper judicial co-operation within the EU. It represents an important step in creating trust between practitioners within the EU, which is an essential element for implementing the principle of mutual recognition.

To this end, each country has appointed one or more contact points to the EJN from the central authorities responsible for international judicial co-operation, as well as from the judicial and prosecuting authorities working in this field. These contact points are active intermediaries in the chain of judicial co-operation and their work is based on the exchange of information and informal contacts to facilitate and accelerate the execution of requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA), providing support for the execution of EAWs, and providing legal and practical information to competent local authorities about criminal matters.

The contact points meet three times per year to gather knowledge on the various legal systems of the EU Member States, to discuss difficulties in the provision of judicial assistance, and to make proposals for the future developments of the EJN. The EJN is also developing information tools that can be used by the competent national authorities to support direct co-operation.

Eurojust and the EJM are currently reflecting on how to envisage their future which is one of the aims of the Eurojust EJM & Liaison Magistrates Team, composed of members of the College and the Secretary to the EJM. The team contributed recently to the drafting of the EJM Vision Paper, which was adopted during the 25th Plenary Meeting of the EJM in December 2006 in Rovaniemi, Finland. This document proposes concrete steps to improve the complementarity of both organisations and contribute more efficiently to building the European area of Freedom, Security and Justice called for by the Tampere Summit of 1999.

Europol

Eurojust's priorities in its co-operation with Europol are:

- to improve Eurojust's possibilities of obtaining information and better operational co-operation from Europol's Analytical Work Files (AWFS);
- to establish a secure network between Eurojust and Europol for the exchange of information;
- to develop the project on Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), together with Europol;
- to be more involved in the preparation for and conclusions of the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA); and
- to finalise, together with Europol, a report to the Council on common experiences and specific results.

Many National Members have a very productive relationship with their national desks at Europol. During the past year efforts have been made by Europol to solve the formal problems that Eurojust encounters in obtaining information from Europol's AWFs, since this information is very important for its operational work. No solution has been found yet, as the Danish protocol to the Europol Convention, which will grant easier access, has not been ratified yet by all Member States. Eurojust has been involved in casework connected to approximately 12 out of 17 of Europol's AWFs in topics such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and serious fraud. Analysts at Eurojust have also started co-operating regularly with analysts from Europol.

Unfortunately the secure network line that will allow both organisations to easily exchange secret information is still not in place. Agreement on a table of equivalence of the different systems on classification of documents has been problematic.

The common project on JITs is a success and the guide to EU Member States' legislation on JITs compiled by Eurojust and Europol was launched during the second JITs experts meeting in November 2006. The meeting was very productive as it involved reports from different JITs throughout Europe. A request was made during the meeting to prepare a guide that would list possible practical issues to be dealt with when setting up a JIT.

Eurojust worked hard during 2006 to offer a valuable contribution to Europol's OCTA for 2007.

In December 2006 a report on co-operation between Eurojust and Europol for 2005 and 2006 was sent to the Council in accordance with the Hague Programme.

Even if progress has been made in co-operation with Europol, there is still much to do, especially in daily operational work. Special efforts will be made to develop this co-operation during 2007.

Relationship with OLAF

Eurojust's partnership with OLAF has continued to develop. The existing Memorandum of Understanding governs the relationship between Eurojust and OLAF. The Heads of Agreement, signed in December 2005, provides practical guidance and serves as a declaration of intent to meet regularly and to start exploring the possibilities for a more formal agreement. The completion of a formal document concerning co-operation, including operational work, planned to be entered into in 2007, would provide a clearer legal basis for the exchange of personal data in the context of casework co-operation.

Activities in 2006 included agreement on a procedure for exchange of case summaries from OLAF to National Members where a mutual basis for co-operation exists. One example of this co-operation, involving the Belgian, Czech, French, Portuguese and UK Desks, concerned Eurojust's support for difficult multi-jurisdictional and mutual legal assistance issues arising from suspected illegal activity in an EU programme in Ukraine.

A questionnaire on domestic implementation of the National Members' role in respect of Article 26.4 of the Eurojust Decision was undertaken and, after presentation to the College, forwarded to the General Secretariat of the Council.

There were exchange visits during the year by the OLAF Magistrates Unit. Both organisations agreed that these visits could foster involvement in JITs and also deeper operational contact.

In June, Eurojust participated in the annual OLAF Conference of Fraud Prosecutors and also hosted a visit of Bulgarian prosecutors under the OLAF-led BROGNA Programme. More study exchange visits are planned in 2007.

Further ongoing operational contacts, in particular between the National Desks of Eurojust and OLAF counterparts, are a continuing challenge for both partner organisations.

Liaison Magistrates

The Joint Action 96/277/JHA of 22 April 1996 establishes a framework for the posting or exchange of magistrates (prosecutors or judges in their national judiciary) or officials with special expertise in judicial co-operation procedures, referred to as 'Liaison Magistrates'.

The tasks of Liaison Magistrates include activities designed to encourage and accelerate judicial co-operation in criminal and civil or commercial matters and those connected with handling the exchange of information (especially comparative law studies and statistics) designed to promote mutual understanding of the legal systems and databases of the states concerned. To date, the EU has exchanged over 20 Liaison Magistrates, located mainly within EU Member States, but also in countries outside the EU (e.g. USA, Canada and the Russian Federation).

A Brief Overview

Liaison Magistrates:

- Located in host countries
- Bilateral co-operation
- Devoted to all legal co-operation fields, not only criminal matters

EJN:

- Contact points located in their home state
- Mainly bilateral co-operation, possible multilateral contacts
- Co-operation exclusively in criminal matters

Eurojust:

- Representatives of the 25 (now 27) Member States sitting in one building
- Devoted to criminal matters consisting of serious, organised, cross-border crime
- Improving co-operation with special focus on co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions within the EU, by utilising the special powers provided by the Eurojust Decision and national legislation.

The International Association of Prosecutors

Eurojust is an institutional member of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP). During 2006 our close relationship with the IAP continued. In March over 40 delegates from the IAP European Regional Training Conference visited Eurojust for a presentation about our organisation and its work. This annual event has become a mutually beneficial opportunity for the delegates, often junior prosecutors who have little or no experience dealing with trans-national crime, to learn about our work and to meet National Members informally. In turn these events allow us to disseminate information about Eurojust. The IAP remains an excellent source when our casework requires reliable contacts in places where our own networks may not be so strong.

3. CASEWORK

Comments on Casework Statistics

In 2006 the National Members registered 771 cases, representing an increase of 31% compared with the number of cases handled in 2005. This increase shows that the Member States are becoming more aware of the work and services provided by Eurojust and that the national authorities are referring cases, taking into account the added value resulting from Eurojust's involvement.

Figure 1: Case Evolution 2002-2006

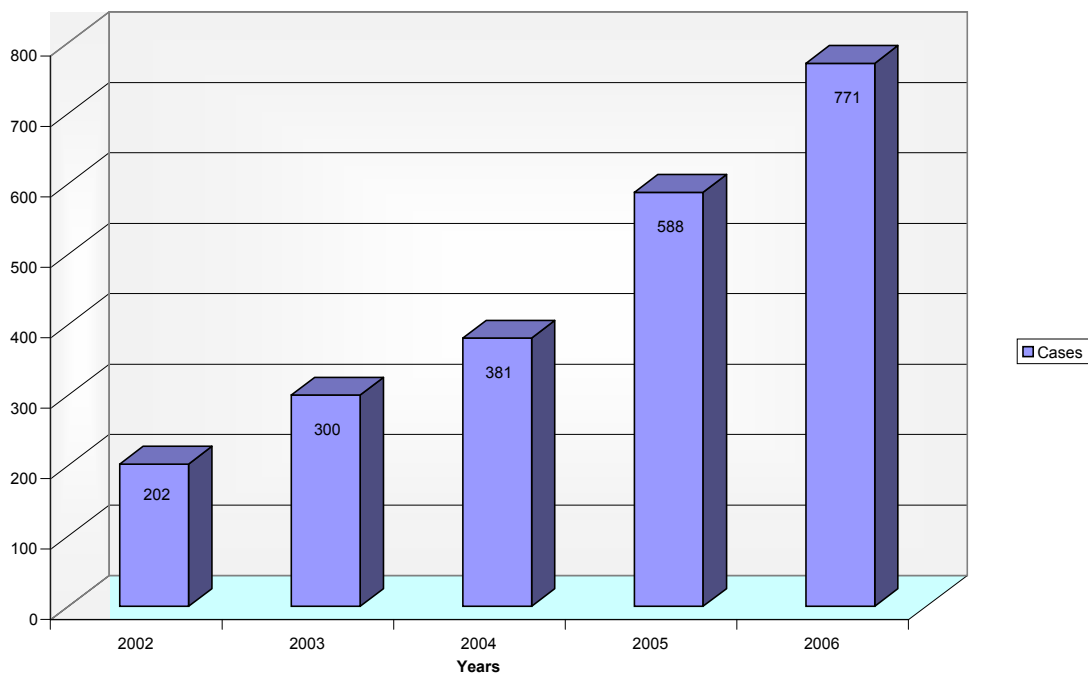


Figure 2: Requesting Countries in 2006

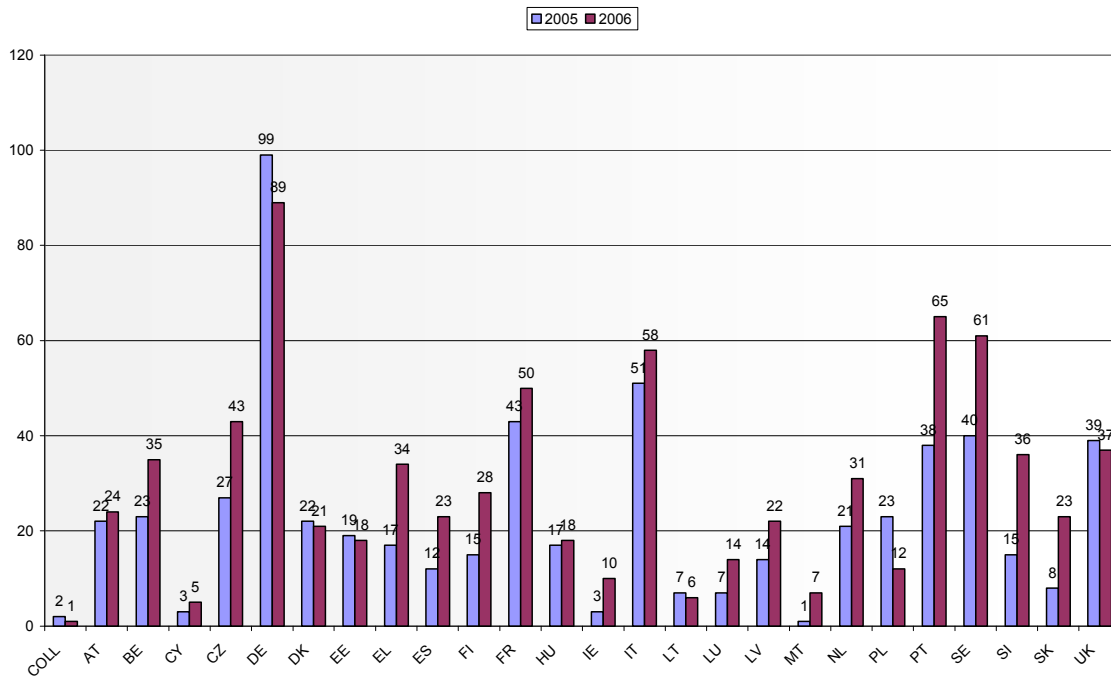
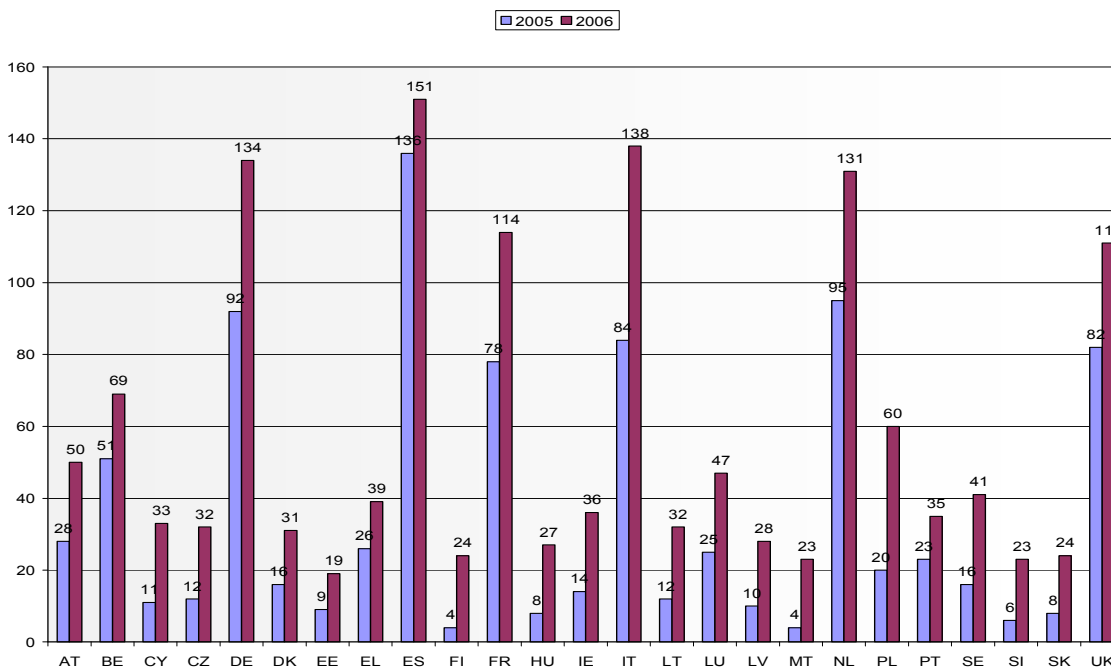


Figure 3: Requested Countries in 2006



In previous years, Eurojust classified cases as bilateral or multilateral, but this classification did not reflect the reality of the work done by Eurojust.

A bilateral case does not always mean a simple case. Eurojust's participation can be crucial for improving co-ordination of investigations or prosecutions between two countries and the assistance provided can be complex. The efforts made by Eurojust in bilateral cases can be as significant as the work done in multilateral cases.

Taking this into account, the College decided in June 2006, with the support of the Casework Strategy & Performance Management Team, to identify the procedure for classifying cases as standard or complex. The purpose of that classification was to start a pilot project, from 1 July until 31 December, and provide a new way of describing the nature of the cases.

The classification of the cases was undertaken from different points of view: the nature of the assistance requested from Eurojust and the number of countries involved, the workload for National Members of these countries, the seriousness of the crimes, the time elapsed in providing the requested help and the result of the assistance.

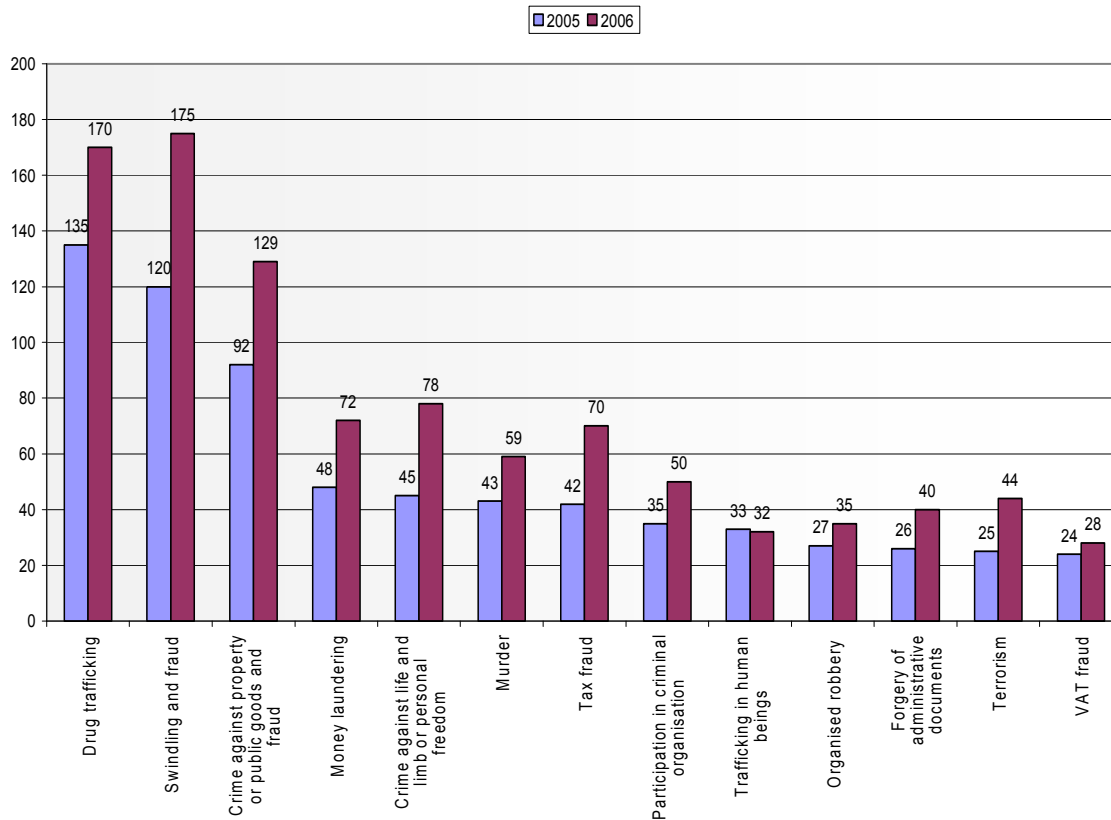
Each National Member, when opening a case, assessed whether it was standard or complex. During this period, a total of 361 cases were opened; 270 cases were classified as standard and 91 as complex.

The majority of the cases opened during that period are still ongoing, so it is still not possible to analyse the development of the cases by the classification criteria. The second part of the project, to commence in early January 2007, is focussed on the evolution of a case during its life cycle.

Criminal activities dealt with by Eurojust followed a pattern similar to previous years. Eurojust registered 49 different types of criminal activities in 2006. One case can have links to several types of crime, and a National Member can identify subsidiary offences in addition to the main offence.

In general, the referrals of all types of criminal activities have increased, some significantly such as terrorism and money laundering, while drug trafficking and fraud cases still represent the highest percentage of criminal activities referred to Eurojust.

Figure 4: Crimes 2005 - 2006



Following the trend in the number of cases registered, the amount of co-ordination meetings also increased by 25%, with 70 co-ordination meetings organised or supported by Eurojust on our premises and 21 in the Member States.

Figure 5: Co-ordination Meetings

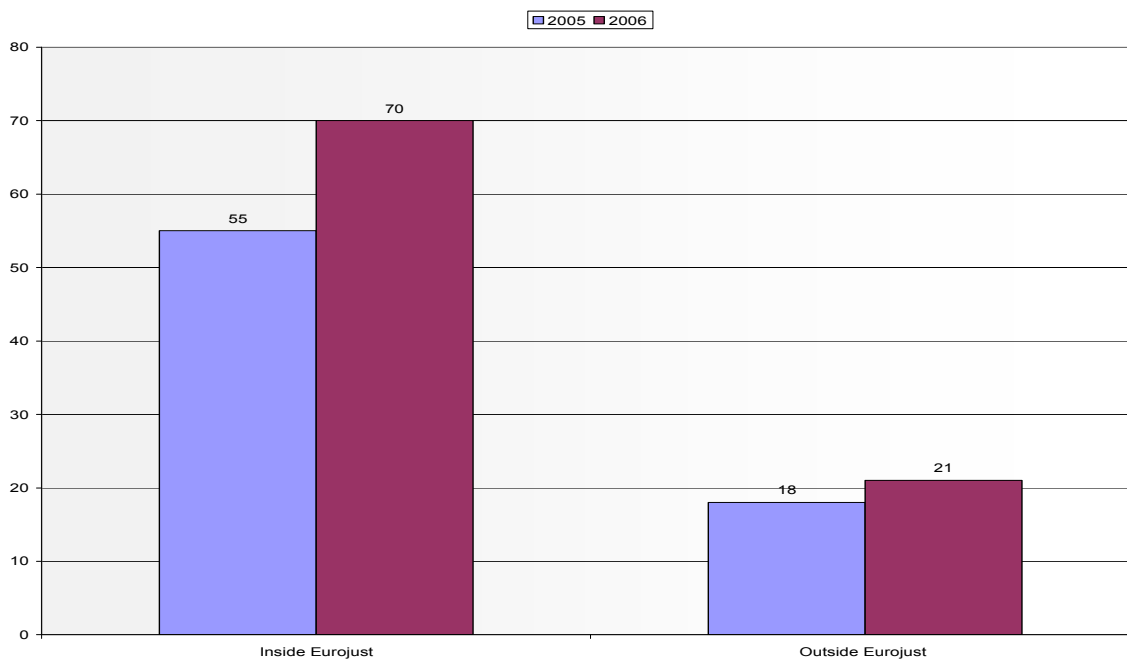


Figure 6: Requesting Countries of Co-ordination Meetings in 2006

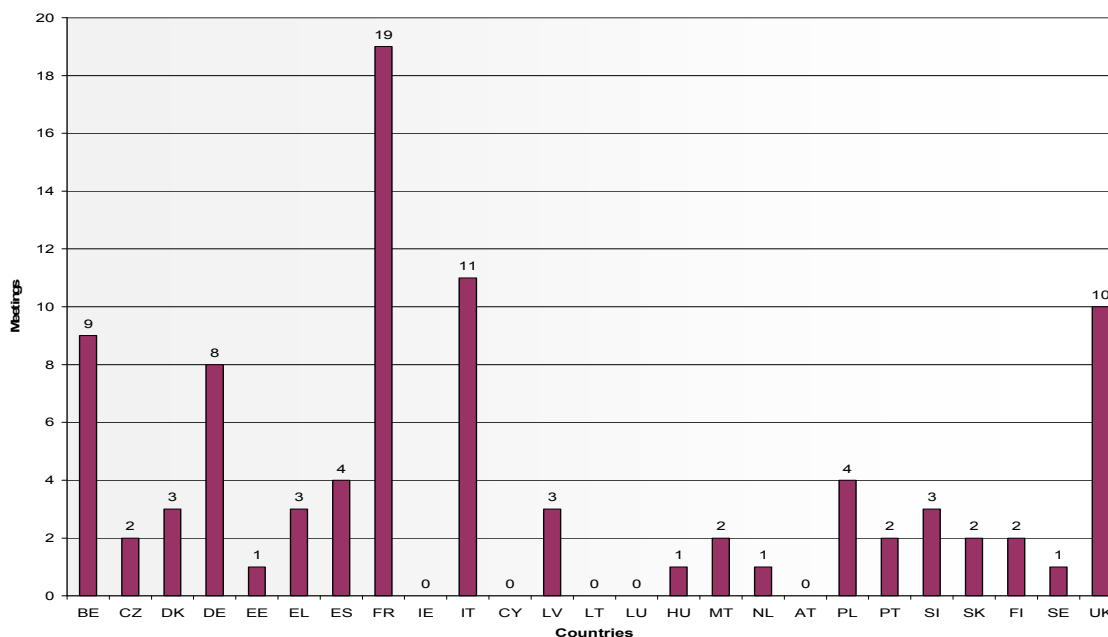
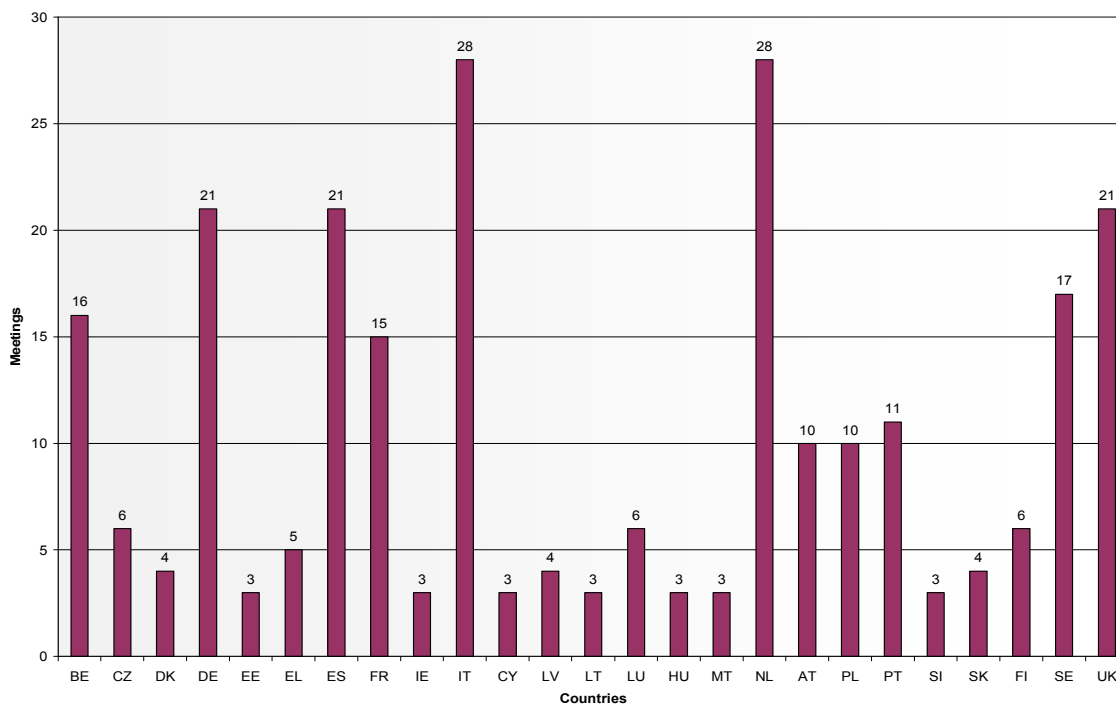


Figure 7: Requested Countries of Co-ordination Meetings in 2006



Most of these co-ordination meetings (55) involved between 3 and 14 countries. Other bodies, such as Europol and Interpol, Third States with an agreement with Eurojust (Romania and Norway) and other Third States (Bulgaria, USA, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine, Switzerland, Morocco, Algeria, the Russian Federation and Croatia) were involved in 30 co-ordination meetings.

Finally, every Member State was involved in at least two co-ordination meetings. Cases concerned were fraud (30), drug trafficking (21), money laundering (19), terrorism (9), trafficking in human beings (7) and crimes against life (5).

The Case Management System (CMS) is continuously developing and will enable Eurojust to provide more detailed statistical results, highlighting the involvement of the National Members in judicial co-operation in Europe.

We hope that these statistics, tables and comments, as well as the case illustrations, will contribute to a better understanding of College casework.

Recommendations on the basis of Article 6(a) of the Eurojust Decision

During 2006, six recommendations were issued under Article 6(a) of the Council Decision of 28 February 2002. Two of these were addressed to the Portuguese Prosecution Service in the context of Case 4 mentioned in the section ‘Casework Illustrations’: the first one requested the initiation of an investigation into money laundering and corruption under Article 6(a)(i) and the other requested the co-ordination of this investigation with the Federal Public Prosecution Office of Belgium, this time under Article 6(a)(iii).

The other four recommendations, all addressed to the General Attorney of the Public Prosecution Office of Spain, were adopted according to Article 6(a)(ii) and Article 14.2 b) of the Spanish Law regarding the status of the Spanish National Member to Eurojust.

Thanks to the early co-ordination of meetings and the acceleration of mutual legal assistance (MLA), Eurojust managed to find a fast and efficient solution to these four cases. As a result of these measures, the Spanish National Member issued recommendations in compliance with Article 6(a) of the Eurojust Decision.

One case concerns drug trafficking carried out by a criminal organisation based in Marbella (Spain). Collaboration between the Netherlands and Spain provided enough evidence to initiate an investigation, which resulted in the seizure of a consignment of drugs ready to be distributed in the Netherlands as well as the arrest of several Dutch citizens. Since both Spain and the Netherlands were competent to prosecute, a potential conflict of jurisdiction could have arisen. A co-ordination meeting was held at Eurojust in September 2006. The UK, the Netherlands and Spain were represented. They agreed that the Netherlands was in a better position both to carry out the investigation and to prosecute. Therefore, the Spanish National Member addressed a recommendation to the General Attorney of the Public Prosecution Office in Spain, who showed his support in the resolution of conflicts of jurisdiction by means of Article 6(a) of the Eurojust Decision.

Three other Spanish cases involving drug trafficking were settled by similar procedures and received the same support from the General Attorney of the Public Prosecution Office.

Both the Portuguese and Spanish National Desks would like to highlight the importance of the proper use of Article 6(a), which opens the door to much more dynamic and expeditious solutions in the coordination and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction.

EAW Notification of Breaches of Time Limits

In 2006, 12 of the 25 Member States reported about breaches of time limits in their countries; of these 12 Member States five had no breaches. The breakdown of the seven Member States who did report breaches is as follows:

UK: 50	ES: 2
CZ: 4	FI: 1
PT: 4	IE: 9
SE: 2	

Although the notifications are not yet systematic, Eurojust is pleased to note the progress concerning the application of Article 17(7) of the Framework Decision on EAW.

No distinction is made between the different categories of breaches of time limits provided for by Article 17 (10, 10+30, 60 and 60+30 days). In addition, the reasons are only indicated in approximately half of the cases reported. This lack of information prevents analysis of the problems encountered in the Member States and consequently any possible solution.

We hope to increase our co-operation with the Member States in order to provide the EU with a clearer picture of the situation.

When reasons have been reported, they mostly concern the right of appeal lodged by the subject and sometimes by the prosecutor (15), or the fact that the subject of the EAW was released during the proceeding (9), preventing a final decision concerning the execution of the EAW. In three cases, the final decision was suspended due to domestic proceedings and in three others, the final decision was adjourned by the judge.

Terrorism Team and New Council Decision

The Terrorism Team

The main objective of the Terrorism Team is to establish a centre of expertise on terrorism. The team has continued working on the scoreboard of last year and added two objectives.

The seven objectives are:

1. Judicial co-operation
2. Improvement of interaction between counterparts dealing with terrorism issues: The Terrorism Team has provided Europol with information for the Terrorism Trend and Situation Report and the CTTF Glossary on terrorist organisations. The team has distributed a questionnaire to all the National Members, asking them to provide information relating to judgements on terrorism cases in their countries since 2005.
3. Improvement of interaction with Third States dealing with terrorism issues: The recently adopted co-operation agreement between Eurojust and the USA, for example, will have a positive influence on this interaction.
4. Establishing a judicial database on terrorism
5. Establishing a legal database on terrorism
6. Cyber-terrorism: Consolidating expertise in the field and detecting legal obstacles, problems of jurisdiction, etc.
7. Financing of terrorism: A comprehensive memo was written, giving an overview of existing international standards, EU and UN instruments and Eurojust's cases in this area. Based on this memo, the Terrorism Team can assess Eurojust's valuable contribution to this field, search for possible future actions and improve counter-measures.

Emphasis was put on objectives four and seven.

The new Council Decision

The deadline for implementation of the new Council Decision 2005/671/JHA of 20 September 2005 on the exchange of information and co-operation concerning terrorist offences by the Member States was 30 June 2006. This new Council Decision widens the scope of information which should be transmitted to Eurojust. It enables Eurojust to strengthen the fight against terrorism.

Two initiatives were taken with regard to this Council Decision:

- The Case Management Team developed a methodology and made recommendations on how to apply the Council Decision properly.
- A Belgian intern is working on a project based on the Decision. She will assess its current application and find out where problems or obstacles occur. Conclusions will be drawn and recommendations for improvement will then be made.

Strategic Meeting on Terrorism

In June 2006 Eurojust organised a strategic meeting on terrorism, reuniting the 25 national correspondents for terrorism, as well as the national correspondent from Norway.

The meeting was divided into two parts:

- 1) A presentation explaining the scope of the new Council Decision 2005/671/JHA. The national correspondents for terrorism discussed its implementation by the 25 Member States.

2) Presentations by the Belgian, Dutch, Swedish and Spanish delegations on court cases, which covered several topics:

- how the case was built
- capacity
- terrorist offences committed
- legal problems
- problems during trial
- lessons learned

Tactical Meetings on Terrorism

In 2006, two tactical meetings on terrorism were organised. The first meeting took place in March 2006 to exchange information about European networks that support people entering and leaving Iraq with terrorist intentions. Discussions were held during the meeting about general concerns and expertise in the different countries involved. There will be a follow-up meeting in the future regarding Iraqi networks.

Another tactical meeting took place in December 2006, bringing together prosecutors, judges and police officers from six EU Member States, as well as from the USA and Norway. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange information between prosecutors and police officers investigating and, in some cases, prosecuting potential members and supporters of the terrorist organisation 'Ansar Al Islam/Jaish Ansar Al Sunna'. It was agreed that exchanging available and relevant information promptly and thoroughly constitutes a fundamental prerequisite to effectively combat this organisation.

Terrorism

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to democracy, to human rights and to economic and social development. It is obvious that a good exchange of information is essential in the fight against terrorism. This is exactly the objective of the new Council Decision. Eurojust has to be provided with as much information about terrorism as possible in order to be able to deal with this issue on a European level. Most terrorist groups are now active in several countries, meaning that Eurojust has an important added value in co-ordinating multi-state investigations and prosecutions. It would be even more effective if Eurojust could find links based on analysis of the data received and take the initiative to bring the countries involved together for a co-ordination meeting.

The first results of a scaling questionnaire distributed for the project on information exchange regarding terrorism already show that there are several obstacles in the information exchange process. The primary obstacle is the lack of implementation of the new Council Decision in many EU countries, one of the main causes being the different legal systems of the Member States. A second obstacle is that some countries do not receive any information on terrorism. It is possible that there is no terrorist activity in those countries, but it is also possible that there is a problem of access to such information. Furthermore, the Case Management System (CMS) database is not used for inserting received information, which affects the processing of data. Finally, there is a lack of personnel. The National Members need more help in inserting data into the CMS and more analysts will be needed when the volume of terrorism information increases. All these elements, crucial to the good functioning of Eurojust in the field of counter-terrorism, need to be addressed.

Strategic Meeting on the Implementation of the European Arrest Warrant

Eurojust held its third meeting for practitioners on the implementation of the EAW in Bratislava in October 2006. The seminar focussed on both the practical problems encountered by practitioners in implementing the EAW and the Commission's Second Report on Implementation.

The conference combined plenary presentations and workshops. Presentations covered new initiatives for further developments in mutual recognition, including the draft Framework Decision on mutual recognition of custodial sentences and the European Evidence Warrant.

Several discussions took place in the workshops, with the following conclusions:

Decision in the Event of Multiple Requests

The Member States feel it is appropriate to apply a varied and non-exhaustive list of criteria to decision-making where there is more than one request. The criteria that Member States are likely to take into account include: passage of time; whether the fugitive is accused or convicted; whether the fugitive was present at trial; elderly, vulnerable or child witnesses; whether the fugitive is in custody or on bail; and time limits. The Member States concluded that consideration should be given on a case-by-case basis.

Surrender of Own Nationals

Most Member States are now able to surrender their own nationals. Countries unable to do so, e.g. Austria, are taking steps to change this situation. In relation to the surrender of own nationals to Third States, there were mixed approaches to the requirement of reciprocity. Within Europe, fugitives were increasingly considered to be 'European' citizens rather than citizens of a particular Member State.

Provision of Supplementary Information

In certain situations, an EAW might contain insufficient information, either in terms of the standard set out in the Framework Decision or with reference to domestic law in the executing state. Different approaches exist where supplementary information is required; while some domestic legislation allows supplementary information, others require a fresh EAW. The Commission may review this anomaly in their evaluations.

Grounds for Refusal

It is encouraging to note that there were fewer grounds for refusal than were identified during the Budapest seminar in 2005, although difficulty with translations remained. It is difficult to obtain a good translation within strict time constraints, so a common language for the EAW would be an asset and would allow each competent authority to employ an in-house translator for just one language.

Breach of Time Limits

Eurojust noted that while the level of reporting to Eurojust when a time limit is breached has increased, the approach of Member States is still not universal. A more consistent approach for the future will be explored in the Commission's evaluations.

A CD-ROM, containing all of the presentations and workshop discussions, is available.

Counterfeiting

The number of currency and product counterfeiting cases handled by Eurojust showed a modest annual increase, with four cases referred to Eurojust in 2004, nine cases in 2005 and ten cases in 2006.

Out of the ten counterfeiting cases opened in 2006, only three were currency-related. One of them was a case involving a large number of counterfeit Euro banknotes, three Member States and two Third Countries in the Balkans. The print shop was run by a group of organised criminals responsible for the highly sophisticated production and dissemination of the counterfeit currency. Apart from the states concerned and Eurojust, Europol also participated in the operation by supporting and co-ordinating the police actions which led to the dismantling of the illegal print shop, several arrests and seizure of more than € 1 million in counterfeit Euros. The case was a great success and a good example of efficient co-ordination and co-operation both at police and judicial levels.

China and a Balkan country were involved as suppliers in two product piracy cases with several Member States as places of destination. The remaining counterfeiting cases dealt with EAWs and extradition requests. There were also two cases of general questions raised by National Members in connection with currency counterfeiting and product piracy.

Drug Trafficking and Trafficking in Human Beings

The Trafficking & Related Crimes Team

The Trafficking & Related Crimes Team is a combination of the former Drug Trafficking and Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Teams.

The main aims of the team are:

- To collect and manage topic-related expertise
- To ensure that drug trafficking and THB strategic and/or tactical meetings are well organised
- To enhance the exchange of information
- To create a specialist network of practitioners with expertise in prosecuting drug trafficking and THB
- To analyse Eurojust's drug trafficking and THB cases and identify MLA blockages
- To establish regular contacts with EU enforcement agencies and co-operate with law-makers in Brussels
- To co-operate with Europol and with FRONTEX in the future

Drug Trafficking Cases

Combating drug trafficking is indisputably a high priority for Eurojust. According to the CMS figures from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, Eurojust opened 170 new drug trafficking cases.

The countries most often connected with drug trafficking cases in the EU (in order of cases opened by the National Desks in the CMS) are: Italy, Germany, Sweden, Portugal, Slovenia, France and the UK.

Different geographical regions serve as points of origin for the influx into the European market, depending on the type of drug. Far Eastern countries emerge as the suppliers of heroin, using specific routes through the Balkans. Cocaine appears to be coming from Latin America, using the usual routes through countries like Portugal and Spain or the Netherlands and Belgium. Countries from the Baltic region, and in general others that are on the borders of the European Union (the Czech Republic and Poland), appear with great frequency as origin countries for amphetamines. Ecstasy tablets can be found in several countries, but some indicators appear to confirm the Netherlands as the main point of origin. The cannabis imported into EU markets usually comes from the Maghreb countries (with particular emphasis on Morocco) and passes through Spain.

Trafficking in Human Beings Cases

According to the CMS figures from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, Eurojust assisted with a total of 62 THB cases: 32 new cases were opened in 2006, the remaining 30 cases were opened in the previous years, but were still being worked on during 2006.

The following statistics refer only to the 32 cases opened in 2006. It should be noted that two of these cases refer to questionnaires and not operational casework. Eight of these cases are related to THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation and three cases are related to trafficking of workers.

In at least 13 of these cases an organised crime group has been clearly identified. The following are the trends identified in these cases:

- Nationalities of the perpetrators: Mostly Albanian and Eastern European groups although a Vietnamese criminal organisation has also been discovered in a recent case.
- Nationalities of the victims: Mostly Eastern European, although Asian nationals also appear to be involved in a smaller number of cases.
- Activities: In some cases THB is only one of the various activities carried out by the group. Connections between terrorism and THB have been identified in some cases.

The countries most often connected to THB cases in the EU (in order of frequency of ownership and involvement as registered in the CMS) are: Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, the UK, Italy, Latvia and France. Greece and Lithuania, both inside the EU but placed at its external borders, are also often involved in these cases. Outside the EU, Romania and Norway are often involved in THB cases.

Money Laundering

During 2006, Eurojust further pursued its involvement in the fight against money laundering. The New Fraud Team/Financial & Economic Crimes Team analysed and closely monitored the new trends and developments in this area.

At an operational level 72 new money laundering cases were opened in 2006 (including cases in association with other types of crime), out of which 22 cases were solely related to money laundering. During the course of the year, 21 National Desks registered cases involving money laundering offences. The countries involved in most of these cases were France, Italy, Portugal and the UK and, to a lesser extent, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and Spain.

One example of the added value of Eurojust involved a significant money laundering operation dismantled in Malaga, Spain, during 2006. The proceeds of the crimes, from illegal organisations in different countries, were being laundered in Spain through investments carried out by corporate networks set up by a Spanish law firm. The amount laundered was estimated at over € 250 million and originated mostly from crimes committed outside Spain.

A Spanish judge and the police requested assistance from Eurojust to execute the letters rogatory sent to Sweden, Finland, Austria, the UK, France and the Netherlands and to obtain information to draft new MLAs.

The Spanish investigators received information from Europol but at this stage of the judicial proceedings they also needed criminal records, judgements and references to ongoing investigations.

The Spanish Desk organised two co-ordination meetings with the National Desks involved plus Italy and Portugal.

All the countries provided information about the illegal origin of the funds invested by the law firm, including judgements, criminal records and investigations against customers of the firm. The UK authorities agreed to send a report to the Spanish judge, and ordered the stay of their proceedings, as they believed the Spanish judge was in the best position to prosecute the case.

Casework Illustrations Introduction (10 cases)

To illustrate Eurojust's casework and its valuable contribution to complex investigations, we show below several cases handled in 2006 involving serious crime. Most cases referred by Member States to Eurojust are connected to drug trafficking and fraud. The following examples are mostly related to these crimes but also to terrorism and other types of serious crime.

Large-scale VAT Fraud – Smuggling [Case 1]

This case involves Hungary, Slovakia, the Netherlands and a Third State, Croatia.

Within less than a year, and on about 200 separate occasions, the Hungarian suspects, on behalf of Slovak and Dutch companies, imported from Croatia nearly 5,000 tons of sugar, with a total customs value of more than € 3 million, on the basis of Slovak and Dutch import licences, stating that the place of consumption of the goods would be Slovakia and the Netherlands. The goods were thus zero rated for VAT in Hungary. The sugar never reached Slovakia or the Netherlands and was sold in Hungary, without VAT having been paid on it anywhere within the EU.

The Hungarian prosecutor referred the case to Eurojust in the earliest possible phase of the investigation. A co-ordination meeting was promptly held in mid-July, with the participation of prosecutors and investigators from all countries concerned, to exchange information and clarify the legal and practical requirements of the letters rogatory to be sent out. All the letters rogatory, except the Dutch, were executed before the end of 2006, which means that the case can be brought to court in 2007. This case illustrates that Eurojust has exceptionally efficient contact points in certain Third States.

International Investment Fraud – Boiler room [Case 2]

This network of criminal activity, known as the ‘boiler room case’, was run from Spain, but there were victims in almost every EU Member State. The investigations and the prosecutions were originally co-ordinated by Eurojust but, due to the widespread activities of the criminals, progress was slow.

Investigations finally commenced in Germany, where there were many victims. The German prosecutor issued an EAW to Spain and the suspects were surrendered to Germany. The prosecutor offered to give all the gathered evidence to other involved countries, but only Finland and Sweden decided to proceed. The effect of the *non bis in idem* principle was discussed, and based on the information received from Germany, it seemed there would be no problem in that regard. In the end, the German prosecutor refused to take over the prosecutions from Finland and Sweden.

Finland and Sweden continued their own investigations and decided to prosecute both cases together in Finland. The Finnish prosecutor issued an EAW to Germany where the suspects were serving their sentence. However, the German authorities decided not to surrender the suspects to Finland due to the *non bis in idem* principle, contrary to what the German prosecutor had said during the co-ordination meetings at Eurojust.

Regarding the determination of criminal liability, it would have been essential to concentrate the investigations and prosecutions in one country. It would have also been very important to have been warned by the German authorities as soon as they realised there could be a *non bis in idem* principle involved.

Child Pornography on the Internet [Case 3]

In July 2006 a videotape containing images of child pornography was seized. Interpol sent the videotape to the authorities of one Member State for further investigation, where it was discovered that there were more victims and more countries involved than at first appeared. Links were found to five EU countries and three non-EU countries.

On 25 October 2006, a first meeting was held at Eurojust to help co-ordinate the investigations and maximise co-operation between the different countries. This meeting allowed the authorities concerned to exchange information promptly and discuss possible future actions. If further analysis by Europol indicates links to other countries, these countries will be invited to a follow-up meeting at Eurojust to be organised in 2007.

Fraud and Corruption Affecting the Financial Interests of the European Communities [Case 4]

At the beginning of this year, OLAF requested the assistance of Eurojust in co-ordinating investigations concerning a fraud case with links to Belgium, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Portugal, the UK and Ukraine.

Belgium organised several co-ordination meetings in April 2006. OLAF made a presentation about the case and the different delegations exchanged information and discussed the future course of the case.

The main issue was determining the best place to prosecute, considering that the criminal activities had taken place in several countries. In this context, there was a specific need to take into account different national rules related to the principles of territoriality and nationality, and conventional rules on jurisdiction concerning corruption and the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities.

Furthermore it became necessary to organise a co-ordination meeting at the earliest possible stage between national authorities to prepare MLA requests to gather evidence, to co-ordinate parallel investigations and to ensure the assistance of OLAF in this process.

Considerable progress was made in this case, which led to the arrest of the main suspect thanks to the co-ordination actions agreed during the meeting organised by Eurojust.

Terrorism [Case 5]

At the beginning of 2005 it became clear from information of the Swiss Federal Judicial Police that a gang consisting of at least 12 people had committed a series of thefts in Switzerland.

Investigations indicated that this gang was very well organised and that several thefts were committed simultaneously to provide the perpetrators with a livelihood and also to transfer part of the proceeds to a terrorist organisation. Those arrested in Switzerland had contacts with other identical cells in France and Spain, which have also been dismantled.

It also became clear from the investigations that one of the members of the Swiss cell had been in contact with a Moroccan citizen who had been extradited to Spain in 2005. In addition, during the investigation it was discovered that this cell had planned to commit an attack in Switzerland against a plane from the Israeli airline EL AL.

The arrest of several people by the Swiss authorities was the result of a close and lengthy collaboration with the police and judicial authorities of many European countries. The suspects are Algerian citizens linked with the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). They allegedly broke into villas on the Costa del Sol and sent the proceeds of their crimes to Algeria.

As a result of the October 2005 tactical meeting on terrorism, a co-ordination meeting was held in April 2006 relating to the Swiss investigation into GSPC cells operating in several EU countries.

The Swiss authorities confirmed that this complex investigation had only been possible thanks to close collaboration with the police and judicial authorities of many European countries. It was especially important to prevent investigations and arrests made in one country from endangering operations in others. The Swiss authorities stressed the important roles of Eurojust and Europol.

Terrorism [Case 6]

In 2005 the Belgian authorities received information regarding the existence of an Iraqi exfiltration group. Two members of this group were also under suspicion of having connections with another organisation planning attacks in Europe or elsewhere. A co-ordination meeting was held in August 2005.

In September 2006, a JIT was set up between Belgium and France. The objective of the JIT was to assess the functioning of this radical Islamic group and its methods, and to identify every person who provided operational or logistic support to the group.

Several letters of request regarding this case were sent from Belgium to Italy, Algeria, Tunisia and Syria. In December 2006, the Belgian National Member was asked to contact the respective countries in order to accelerate the execution of these letters rogatory.

Illegal Trafficking of Antiquities [Case 7]

The prosecution services of Greece and Italy held separate investigations regarding the illegal trafficking of antiquities from Greece and Italy. The aim of the prosecutors was to trace the perpetrators and to return the antiquities, which were part of the cultural heritage of their countries. In order to maximise the effect of their investigations, the Greek judicial authorities, through the Greek National Member, requested legal assistance from the Italian judicial authorities.

The National Members of Greece and Italy organised a co-ordination meeting of all the involved prosecutors and police officers in the two countries. During the investigation, the connections between the members of this extended criminal organisation, the enormous profits from their acts and the involvement of some museums became clear. After the first co-ordination meeting, the Greek prosecutor ordered a house search in Greece, in which numerous antiquities were confiscated.

A second co-ordination meeting was organised, during which the relationship between the dealers, the collectors and the museums became clear.

This was the first case of illegal trading of antiquities in which Eurojust was engaged, and its contribution proved to be critical to the successful development of the investigations. The direct exchange of evidence was facilitated through the two co-ordination meetings organised by Eurojust. It also became clear that the judicial authorities in Europe are determined to fight against trafficking in illegal antiquities.

Serious Fraud – European Arrest Warrant [Case 8]

Eurojust co-ordinated a successful overnight operation involving the speedy arrest of an Austrian citizen in France, based on an EAW issued by the Austrian authorities.

The case involved a huge bank fraud in Austria of at least € 1 400 million. The suspect was the former head of one of the largest banking groups in Austria, and Eurojust acted as facilitator for the seizure of the properties of the suspect in France.

In September, Eurojust was contacted by the Austrian Prosecutor to facilitate the transmission and execution of an EAW to France, in connection with the arrest of the suspect in southern France. The Austrian National Desk at Eurojust immediately conferred with the French National Desk to contact the French General Prosecutor. In the meantime, the EAW was translated into French. At 03:00, the EAW was sent via Eurojust to the French authorities, who took immediate action. The suspect was arrested in France later the same morning.

Following this arrest, the French authorities decided to execute the EAW. However, the surrender procedure was suspended due to the suspect's alleged health problems.

These actions could not have been possible without the expertise and assistance of Eurojust. The fact that the National Members are always available and in close contact with each other offers the possibility to act quickly and in conformity with the different legislations of the EU Member States.

After the intensive efforts of all the authorities involved, co-ordinated by the Austrian and French Desks at Eurojust, the suspect was surrendered to the Austrian authorities on 13 February 2007. This successful turn of events was lauded by the Austrian Minister of Justice and the Austrian media as a very important example of cross-border co-operation.

Drug Trafficking [Case 9]

The Prosecution Office in Reggio Calabria requested the assistance of Eurojust in the investigation of a cross-border organisation trafficking cocaine from South America to Europe through the Netherlands.

This case is a good example of international co-operation between the involved judicial authorities in gathering evidence and information, seizing large quantities of cocaine and arresting several dangerous suspects, who were members of the *'Ndrangheta* association and had been fugitives for several years.

Telephone intercepts between the Netherlands and Germany played an important role in the investigation.

Also, thanks to Eurojust's collaboration, it was possible to detain in Calabria a ship from Venezuela bound for Rotterdam, and seize a container full of cocaine.

The EAW issued for the head of the organisation was promptly executed in Germany.

Drug Trafficking – Controlled Delivery [Case 10]

In May 2006 the National Member for Sweden was contacted by a Swedish prosecutor regarding a car loaded with heroin that was ready to leave the southern Balkans for Sweden that evening. Sweden asked for a controlled delivery, which meant that the car was to be under surveillance throughout its journey without being stopped at the borders. Assistance was needed from Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Germany and Denmark. As it was not known which route would be chosen, assistance was also requested from Slovenia, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Europol was involved via Eurojust in the co-ordination of police and customs co-operation.

The Swedish National Member called an urgent meeting with all the National Members involved. A request for MLA in their countries was issued and permission from all states involved was granted within two hours. The National Members also gave instructions to their respective national desks at Europol.

The car started its journey 24 hours later than expected and the following day, Saturday, changed its planned route and approached the Swiss border. As no permission for a controlled delivery had been requested from the Swiss authorities, the German police who were following the car wanted to seize the drugs, which would have eliminated the possibility of prosecuting the intended recipients in Sweden. The Swedish National Member issued a request for MLA, which was sent via Interpol to the Swiss authorities and which was granted when the car was only 20 minutes from the Swiss border. However, the car did not go into Switzerland and headed north again. The car was stopped on Sunday morning in the south of Sweden, six people were arrested and 12 kilos of heroin were seized. The perpetrators were prosecuted and their trial will begin in Sweden in January 2007.

This case exemplifies how important it is for National Members to have the power to take the necessary steps to offer urgent assistance.

4. RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The number of cases referred to Eurojust by the national authorities increased significantly, from 588 in 2005 to 771 in 2006, with a concomitant increase in the number of complex cases.

As Eurojust's success is conditional upon the readiness of national authorities to make use of its services, improving relations with those authorities is a priority. Raising awareness of Eurojust throughout the EU and beyond is a basic condition for success and although there has been significant improvement during 2006, it is also clear that not all the cases which could have been referred to Eurojust actually were referred.

The nomination of national correspondents, mentioned in the 2005 Annual Report, which is set out in Article 12, Paragraph 1 of the Eurojust Decision, still has not been taken up by all the Member States, although such nominations could help to strengthen and intensify working relations with the relevant national authorities.

Although it remains a core task for Eurojust to convince all competent authorities in the Member States of the added value of Eurojust, last year showed some very encouraging results.

More and more delegations from the Member States visit Eurojust. Prosecutors, judges, police officers, ministerial employees and members of national parliaments and the European Parliament visited the Eurojust premises last year. There were also visits from several Western Balkan countries, Ukraine, Thailand and 15 Central and South American countries. However, Eurojust may have to restrict the number of visits, since the amount of case co-ordination meetings also increased significantly in 2006, and these meetings must have absolute priority.

Several Ministers of Justice, many General Prosecutors, Supreme Court judges, Chief Prosecutors, High Court judges and parliamentary delegations, including the European Parliament, visited Eurojust last year, as did the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Frattini. There were also high-level visits from other regions in the world, such as Central and South America, the USA, Thailand, Japan and India.

Marketing Seminars

In order to raise the profile of Eurojust, most National Members organise marketing seminars in their own countries for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and key functionaries in the Ministries of Justice and Home Affairs.

In 2006 27 marketing seminars were organised in the Federal Republic of Germany, during which almost 2 000 colleagues were informed about Eurojust and its tasks. In April 2006, a marketing seminar took place in Lisbon attended by 180 prosecutors which received considerable media attention. A marketing seminar was held in Cyprus for over 80 prosecutors and police officers. Two seminars were held in the Slovak Republic for almost 100 prosecutors and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, and two seminars also took place in the Czech Republic for 200 prosecutors and judges. Seminars were also held in Belgium, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Ireland, France, Italy, Poland and the UK.

Eurojust quite often takes part in seminars organised by other EU institutions, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and others, where information is provided about Eurojust's tasks, role and functions. During 2006, there were examples of such participation in Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria, FYROM, the Russian Federation and Japan. Eurojust also attended a seminar organised by the Latin American Association of Public Ministries (Asociación Iberoamericana de Ministerios Públicos) in Santiago de Chile in November 2006.

Eurojust recognises the added value that National Members and Assistants can bring by participating in such activities, as long as this participation does not hinder their casework, which is Eurojust's core activity.

The increase in the number of visits shows that Eurojust is getting much better known throughout the EU and elsewhere, but much still remains to be done to raise awareness about Eurojust and the way it can add value to the daily work of prosecution and law enforcement services.

5. THIRD STATES

In its daily work Eurojust is constantly aware that criminals treat the world as a global village. Cases have been co-ordinated in which at least 10 Member States, as well as a number of non-Member States from around the world, have been involved. Consequently, Eurojust has continued to intensify contacts with countries outside the European Union.

USA

In November a co-operation agreement was signed in Washington between the USA and Eurojust. The signing followed a visit to Eurojust by the US Attorney General in October. The agreement will come into force on 5 January 2007 and by 10 January the US Liaison Prosecutor, Ms Mary Ruppert, will start work at Eurojust.

Norway

The existing agreement with Norway has proved to be very useful. There was fruitful co-operation between the Norwegian Liaison Prosecutor at Eurojust, Mr Knut Kallerud, and the College. We regret Mr Kallerud's departure at the end of 2006, but as his successor, Mr Kim Sundet, has already been chosen, we expect the positive trend in our work together to continue.

Romania

The co-operation agreement with Romania has also had positive results. At the beginning of September the Romanian government sent Ms Elena Dinu to Eurojust as Liaison Magistrate, which led immediately to an increase in the number of cases from Romania. Eurojust was very pleased to hear that from 1 January 2007, Ms Dinu is to become the new National Member for Romania. The agreement between Romania and Eurojust consequently ceased to exist after the formal accession of Romania to the EU.

Iceland

In October Eurojust was visited by a delegation from Iceland to monitor the progress of the co-operation between Iceland and Eurojust. The fact that no Liaison Prosecutor from Iceland is working in Eurojust could be due to the limited number of cases in which Iceland was involved during 2006, and also because organised crime is not as well established in Iceland as in other countries.

Russian Federation

Negotiations for a co-operation agreement with the Russian Federation commenced in 2006. The President and the two Vice-Presidents of Eurojust visited Moscow on 27 March and met with Mr Ustinov, at that time General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation. It was agreed that a Russian delegation would visit Eurojust before the summer for a first round of negotiations. Two rounds of negotiations took place, but, in view of the differences in the respective legal systems and the state of implementation of legislation in the area of data protection in the Russian Federation, further negotiations are necessary in 2007.

Ukraine

The Ukrainian Ambassador visited Eurojust in March and a delegation of functionaries from the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice and the Office of the General Prosecutor came to Eurojust in June. Although Ukraine and Eurojust worked towards an agreement, data protection concerns have been raised, as the legislation on data protection is not yet in place, let alone implemented, which means that some time is needed before an agreement can come into effect. The Ukrainian authorities have promised to inform Eurojust as soon as the necessary progress has been made.

Switzerland

As a consequence of the visit to Eurojust by a Swiss delegation from the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Prosecution Service, as mentioned in the 2005 Annual Report, the Bundesrat of the Swiss Confederation agreed at the end of 2006 that it would be useful to open negotiations with Eurojust for a co-operation agreement. The first round of negotiations will start in February 2007.

Bulgaria

Several visits were paid to Bulgaria to help prepare it in the criminal justice area prior to its accession to the EU. Thanks to the positive attitude of the General Prosecutor of the Bulgarian Republic, Mr Boris Velchev, a Bulgarian National Member was nominated just before accession. Ms Mariana Lilova will take up her duties at the beginning of February 2007.

Western Balkans

The operational work with the contact points of the Western Balkans increased significantly during 2006, with some contact points more active than others. Two special meetings were arranged at Eurojust. Many visits have been paid by Eurojust National Members to Western Balkan countries to speak at seminars about Eurojust and to strengthen relations in general. These activities have begun to produce positive results as more help is being sought from Eurojust by colleagues from these countries.

Eurojust was visited in 2006 by the Croatian Minister of Justice and by the Ambassadors of FYROM and Albania, both of whom expressed their interest in a co-operation agreement. The Croatian Minister expressed the view that an agreement would be in line with Croatia's status as EU candidate country. The Albanian Ministry of Justice sent a formal letter asking to open negotiations and there was an unofficial visit by Albanian prosecutors in September.

Moldova

In December a delegation from Moldova visited Eurojust. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecution Service expressed interest in a possible agreement between Moldova and Eurojust.

Other Third States

During 2006 Eurojust was visited by the Ambassador of India, delegations from Israel, Turkey and Thailand as well as the Japanese Ambassador and a Japanese delegation. The Japanese Federal Prosecution Service is considering sending a colleague to Eurojust for a month-long 'reconnaissance mission', to assess whether an agreement with Eurojust would be worthwhile.

IberRed

Contacts with IberRed (*Red Iberoamericana de Cooperación Judicial*) increased during 2006 and there have been several operational cases where Central and South American countries have participated in co-ordination meetings at Eurojust. An obstacle to establishing an agreement is the fact that IberRed has no legal personality and does not represent states. Eurojust will try to find a solution.

International Criminal Court

During 2006, several meetings took place with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. It has been agreed to sign a letter of intent with Eurojust in order to start negotiations for a co-operation agreement. The draft letter is currently under review, and will probably be signed at the beginning of 2007.

External relations have expanded significantly during 2006, but there is room for more agreements and more frequent contacts with other non-Member States and international bodies. Eurojust is always open to such contacts, because they will have a positive effect on all combined efforts to guarantee an area of Freedom, Security and Justice, not only within the EU, but in the global village.

6. ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

The Administrative Director (AD) is, under the supervision of the President of the College, responsible for the day-to-day management of the administration, including management of the staff and implementation of the budget. Within this framework the AD provides leadership to the Heads of Units and Services and to all Eurojust staff.

The AD and his team are pleased to report that the strategic objectives set out by the College for the administration and the objectives set out in the administrative Work Programme 2006 have, to a large extent, been achieved, ending the year with significant progress and paving the way for the transition from the establishment phase to the consolidation phase of Eurojust.

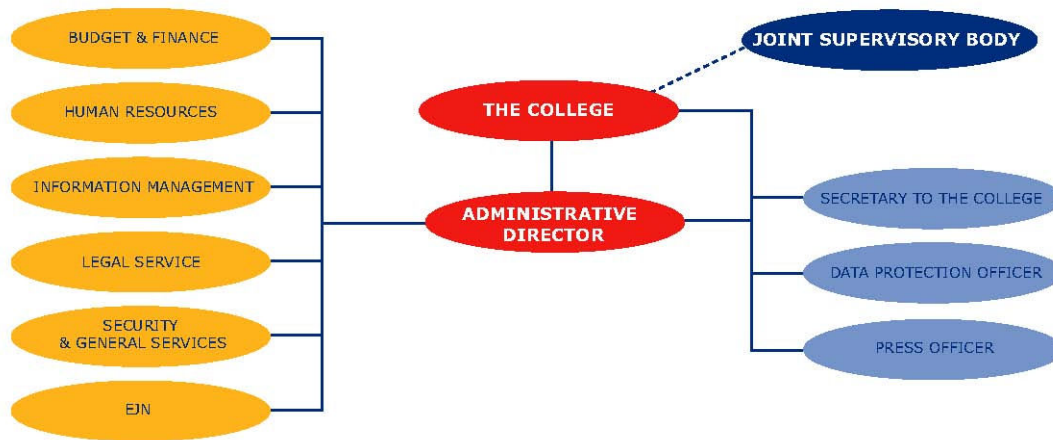
The administration's support to the College has been expanded in a variety of areas. The Case Management System (CMS) has been significantly improved, the work on the secure communication infrastructure has produced its first results and the recruitment of Case Management Analysts has brought added value to the operational work.

With the goal of establishing an Integrated Quality Management System, the AD, with the College's approval, put in place the Eurojust Internal Control Standards, which relate directly to the progress of Eurojust's administration in complying with the recommendation of the ECA and the European Commission's Internal Audit Service recommendations.

The second Eurojust Staff Committee started its term during 2006 and its close working relationship with the AD has resulted in a general improvement in working conditions and the proposal of several initiatives to benefit the welfare of all Eurojust post-holders.

New challenges for the administration include a review of the organisational structure of Eurojust and negotiations for permanent Eurojust accommodation.

Staffing and Organisational Structure:



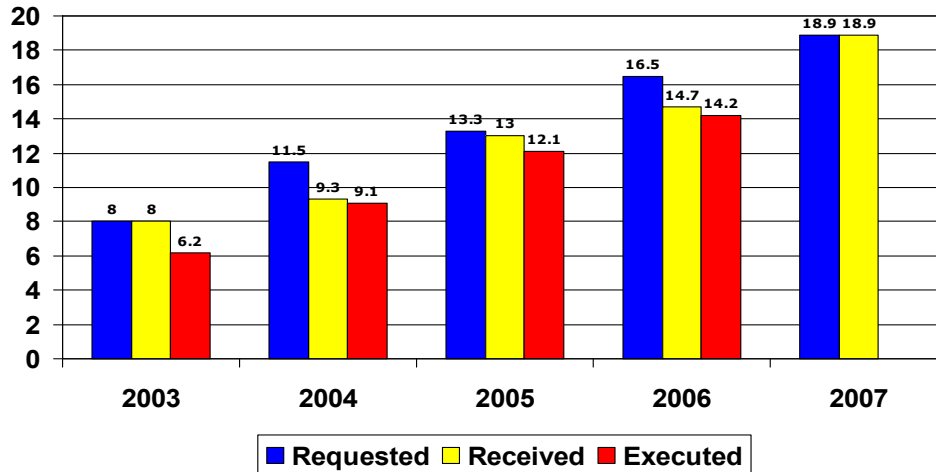
Budgetary Management and Budget Evolution 2002 – 2006

Eurojust was granted a budget of € 14.7 million in 2006. This was an increase of 13% from 2005. Eurojust's sound financial management has been confirmed once more by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and resulted in a budget execution of 97% of its commitment appropriations. The operational budget increased during 2006 by 21% in response to the increased caseload and the further development and preparation for the secure communication link with the Member States and Europol. In addition, Eurojust executed its payment appropriations to 80% by 31 December 2006. A total of approximately 4 700 transactions were processed during 2006.

The Eurojust Financial Regulation was agreed with the Commission in March 2006 and adopted by the College on 20 April 2006. Eurojust received positive comments from the ECA regarding its accounts and the improvements made to financial delegations management.

Eurojust chose to proceed with the ABAC project following close consultation with the European Commission and other agencies and hopes to go live with the application in January 2008. Finally, a more efficient, e-based method for processing missions was developed and went live in December 2006 (e-mission).

Budget 2003-2007



Recruitment and Staff Management

During 2006 the Human Resources (HR) Unit primarily focussed on the recruitment of staff members (temporary and contract agents) and welcomed an increase in the number of Seconded National Experts, interim staff and interns.

It also invested time and energy implementing the new Staff Regulations of 1 May 2006 and a new flexi-time guide.

The growing number of staff also triggered an increase in internal and external training sessions. Eurojust signed the Inter Service Level Agreement on Training with the European Commission which will considerably increase the training possibilities for Eurojust post-holders.

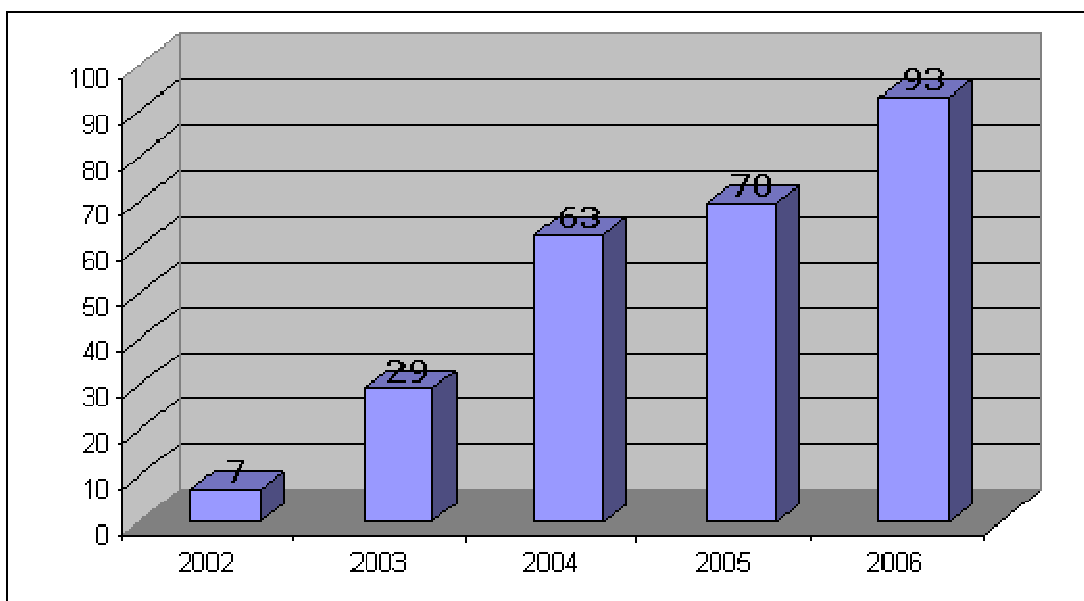
By the end of 2006, 93 positions were filled from the 112 posts available in the Eurojust establishment plan and the recruitment for the remaining vacant posts is being processed.

The HR Unit was pleased to detect a positive evolution in interest in Eurojust through a steady increase in applications for vacancies and numerous requests for internships, leading to the re-drafting of a more efficient recruitment policy that will be implemented at the beginning of 2007.

During 2006 the HR Unit, in co-operation with the European Commission, EU agencies and EU bodies, participated in preparatory meetings for setting up an Inter Agency Job Market to improve the horizontal mobility of EU staff.

Eurojust also elected a new Staff Committee and is in the final phase of creating a Social Committee.

Much attention was also given to health and welfare issues. A wellbeing policy is being drafted and in the meantime Eurojust has adopted a non-smoking policy to take effect on 1 January 2007 and will offer assistance to quit smoking to interested staff members.



Information Management

In the Information Management Unit (IM) significant progress was made in all main areas of activity during 2006. On the technical side, the Secure Communication Infrastructure project resulted in the implementation of a large number of security requirements, which in turn allowed the first secure connection between a Member State and Eurojust to be launched in December. Internally, an intranet was set up and all preparatory work for the implementation of a Document Management System was completed.

ICT User Support responded to a 45% increase in calls and preparatory work for a number of other major projects was finalised, notably a secure connection to Europol and Eurojust's access to the Schengen Information System.

The Library was officially opened in November and a database system put in place.

The most significant change in IM in 2006 was the establishment of the Case Management Team. The first four Case Management Analysts were recruited and the strategy for the team was drafted, discussed and approved by the College. The Case Management Team will support the National Members in their operational work, particularly in connection with the CMS.

The Eurojust Press & PR Service became part of IM in 2006. The past year showed heightened media attention to Eurojust, as well as an increase in the number of press releases and visits by professionals and universities, and in the number of visits to the Eurojust website, which has proven to be a valuable information tool.

The Press & PR Service hosted meetings with the international press. Many interviews with the President and National Members were organised to inform the press about the work and achievements of Eurojust. The signing of the co-operation agreement between Eurojust and the USA gained significant international media attention.

Legal Service

The demand for the Legal Service continues to grow. Recent enlargement of the unit allows better specialisation within its three major fields of competence.

In the first field of competence, providing legal advice and assistance to the College, National Members and teams, the Legal Service has been closely involved in negotiations with Third States and other partners, including the USA. The unit has prepared policy papers on topics such as conflicts of jurisdiction, the Anti-Corruption Network, SIS II, the Terrorism Action Plan and the Future of Eurojust and has actively supported the College in the preparation of major seminars, such as the Seminar on the Future of Eurojust and the EJM and the EAW Seminar. It has also supported the teams with projects such as the drafting, in co-operation with Europol, of the Guide to EU Member States' legislation on Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).

In its second field of competence, providing legal advice to the AD and the administration, the Legal Service has advised on the Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulations, participates in negotiations with the Host State, Europol and the ICC, and is responsible for managing litigation.

Supervision of the Procurement Office is the third major field of competence of the Legal Service. The growth of Eurojust has resulted in an increase in the number of procedures to be carried out and monitored, and contracts to be drafted, negotiated, concluded and implemented, as well as the continued need for advice on public procurement rules.

Security, General Services and Events

The past year was very productive. Tremendous progress has been made in improving and implementing internal working procedures that have enhanced the integration of the unit and generated greater efficiency.

Security Management

No major security incidents were reported in 2006. The College adopted Security Rules that are in the process of being implemented and will further improve security at Eurojust. Conferences, co-ordination meetings and other events inside and outside of Eurojust have placed increased demands on the service. Its organisational structure has been improved and preparations are underway for the reorganisation of the infrastructure required for Eurojust operations both in future satellite offices and in a future permanent location.

Facility Management and General Services

Great progress has been made in securing adequate and additional office facilities. The planning of permanent premises for Eurojust remains a high priority, and the section meets with representatives of the Host State on a weekly basis in preparation for this important project. Considerable progress has also been made concerning additional office space until the new headquarters are available.

Conference and Event Management

Eurojust has successfully managed a 40% increase in the number of conferences, incoming visits, and strategic and co-ordination meetings conducted this year. Work is currently underway to prepare for the organisational changes needed to further facilitate the anticipated increase of core College business activities for the years 2007-2008.

College Secretariat

The College Secretariat has been working successfully to support the activities of the College during 2006. The number of services offered by the Secretariat to the College has considerably increased, especially in relation to the operational work of the College. Since September 2006 the College Secretariat opens and closes cases on the CMS and produces the College statistics on casework, as well as records on a pilot project concerning the classification of cases according to their complexity.

The College Secretariat prepares the College plenary meetings. The College teams also require increased support from the College Secretariat for statistics, strategic meetings, organisation of meetings, etc. The College Secretariat also acts as contact between the Liaison Prosecutors and the Liaison Magistrates seconded to Eurojust and the College.

During 2006 the College Secretariat organised or supported the organisation of important events of the College, such as the Strategic Planning Event, the Vienna Seminar on the Future of Eurojust and the EJM, visits of Ambassadors of the European Union and other countries, and regular meetings with the Council Secretariat, the Commission and the Troika.

During this past year the College Secretariat acted as an important link between the College and the administration, promoting and implementing initiatives to improve the workflow between them.

EJM Secretariat

In 2006 the activities of the EJM Secretariat were determined in particular by the announcement of the European Commission that it was preparing a communication on the future of Eurojust and the EJM, and by the enhancement of the web-based information system.

Following the announcement of the European Commission, a working group was set up to assist the Presidency in producing a communication to be offered to the European Commission as the contribution of the EJM. The Secretariat is pleased that the EJM Vision Paper was formally adopted during the 25th EJM meeting.

The second version of the *Fiches Belges*, an EJM information tool, including all members and incorporating information on JITs, was made available. The first version of the EAW Atlas tool has also been available on the EJM website since March 2006.

A contract for the further development of the EJM website was signed with an external company in September 2006. Following the efforts of a new working group to assist the contractor in its execution from the perspective of key users, a project plan was presented for the completion of the *Compendium*. Another project plan was presented for the development of the *Atlas editor*, which will allow faster configuring when using the EJM website back-office.

Particular attention was given to the preparation of the extension of the EJM information tools to Romania, Bulgaria and Norway.

Data Protection Officer

Following the adoption of the Eurojust data protection (DP) rules by the Council in 2005, the Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been heavily involved in several supplementary legislative implementation efforts and has contributed to the drafting of additional rules defining specific aspects of the application of DP rules to non-case-related data as well as internal rules on the processing of call logs and network traffic data. The DPO has also played a role in the drafting of comprehensive security rules and a report to the Council on their implementation.

The DPO was also engaged in the negotiations with the USA, which were successfully concluded in November 2006 with the signing of an agreement containing significant provisions on data protection.

In the course of the year the DPO has dealt with two claims of alleged DP breach, according to Article 12 of the DP rules. Through the introduction of additional rules in June 2006, the investigation procedure and the role of all involved parties have been clarified. The DPO has also dealt with two data subjects' requests for access to personal data and a deletion request.

In order to continue increasing awareness, data protection has now been included as part of the Eurojust newcomers' induction programme.

The DPO is involved in the further development of the CMS, including its future secure connection to Member States (E-POC III Project).

The DPO has also co-ordinated the follow-up to the recommendations of the first inspection report of the Joint Supervisory Body. The DPO carried out the first annual survey ex Article 27.1 of the DP rules, including checks of the data processing activities of five national desks as well as more general checks of the CMS and security practices.

Eurojust Staff Committee

A new Staff Committee was elected in April 2006, promoting open and transparent communication with both administration and staff. The Staff Committee represents the interests of staff members at Eurojust and provides a communication link between management and staff.

In regular meetings with the AD and his team, the Eurojust Staff Committee has introduced a variety of topics, from initiatives to improve the working atmosphere to policy proposals. Some of these initiatives and policies have already been implemented or are in the process of implementation. However, there are still important topics to be discussed and concluded.

For 2007 priority will be given to the implementation of a health, safety and wellbeing policy, examination of the recruitment procedure, training opportunities and research into the feasibility of a European school in The Hague.

The Eurojust Staff Committee will continue maintaining close ties with the Assembly of Agency Staff Committees of the European Union (AASC) and also with Staff Associations from International Organisations in the Netherlands (IOSA).

7. ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES SET FOR 2006

This chapter details the objectives included in the 2005 Annual Report, which, with the agreement of the College, Eurojust was expected to achieve during 2006. As in previous annual reports an assessment has been made in order to evaluate how these objectives were achieved in 2006.

Casework Objectives	Assessment
To develop a uniform policy for handling casework	Achieved in part, but needs to be refined on a continuing basis and in the light of new types of cases and the development of our Case Management System (CMS).
To enhance Eurojust's ability to deal with terrorist casework and policy issues related to terrorism	Achieved, at least in part. Terrorism has been and remains a priority. Our Terrorism Team and its chair actively promote Eurojust both in casework matters and in policy issues at every opportunity in all the relevant fora. The level of information on terrorist investigations and prosecutions that should be supplied to Eurojust under the Council Decision of September 2005 by the competent authorities in the Member States could be much improved.
To exercise more frequently Eurojust's formal powers under Articles 6(a) and 7(a) of the Eurojust Decision	Although we have sought to use the powers under Articles 6(a) and 7(a) there have not been many opportunities to do so, mainly because the information supplied is often limited (see below).

Casework Objectives	Assessment
	<p>In the present context we have found that the competent authorities in Member States usually act in accordance with our informal suggestions or proposals, or even agree to take the initiatives foreseen in these articles during co-ordination meetings without any need for the powers to be formally exercised.</p>
<p>To review the effectiveness of hosting strategic meetings on specific casework topics</p>	<p>Achieved. It was agreed that the meetings held in the early years of Eurojust's existence to bring together and build trust and confidence between specialist practitioners from different legal systems who did not know each other well were not so productive as operational meetings on specific cases. A decision was made to hold more operational meetings and fewer strategic meetings on general crime topics.</p>
<p>To continue to strengthen our marketing and case harvesting strategy to attract more case referrals</p>	<p>Achieved. We held a number of marketing seminars to raise Eurojust's profile, specifically in Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or where few or no marketing seminars had been held in the past. It is pleasing to note that case referrals from states where seminars have been held increased considerably in 2006.</p>
<p>To draw on our experience and information to generate and initiate our own cases</p>	<p>We have generated and initiated some of our 'own' cases but these must be based on the information, which is often limited, supplied to us by the Member States. We need to initiate more cases in this area.</p>

Casework Objectives	Assessment
To improve our follow-up activities and encourage action where mutual legal assistance (MLA) and other judicial co-operation blockages have been identified	We regularly identify blockages and report them to the competent authorities in the Member States through our National Members. Many, indeed most, of the blockages outlined in Annex II of our Annual Report for 2005 remain as problematic issues. However, we are pleased to note that the situation related to the criticisms against Spain and the UK last year is improving.

Internal Objectives	Assessment
<p>To improve Eurojust's performance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a proper performance management system • Setting up performance standards • Raising Eurojust's profile by more proactive use of the Press Office 	<p>Achieved in part and continuing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis is completed and the Casework Model project is ongoing. They are both the basis for a proper management system that will be developed during 2007 • The College approved Eurojust's Internal Control Standards (ICS) applicable to administrative processes in October 2006. Their implementation, including the identification of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and risk analysis for main projects and activities, has already started. The recruitment of an internal controller/auditor is expected to take place next year • We issued more press releases on successful cases in 2006 but we are aware that we need to gain more media attention • Eurojust has started to develop a communication strategy that will enhance external and internal communication

Internal Objectives	Assessment
<p>To establish a development planning system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combining the Eurojust Vision with our objectives • Setting up an activity planning, prioritisation and monitoring system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurojust's vision has been defined and strategic objectives for 2007 have been set accordingly • A yearly planning system, by which we review and modify the objectives for the following year, is in operation. However, a more detailed planning system, which will allow us to enhance our performance, will be looked into during the next planning event. We also intend to hire external support to analyse our performance in order to find the best possible solutions for monitoring, planning and prioritising • PRINCE2 has been introduced as the project management methodology which will provide a consistent and transparent process for planning and running projects • The review of Eurojust's organisational structure is expected during 2007 and will facilitate strategic planning • A comprehensive (College and administration) Annual Work Programme needs to be implemented in line with the strategic objectives set by the College
<p>To work with practitioners to improve the implementation and operational effectiveness of EU instruments and practices, such as the EAW, Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and, when in force, the European Evidence Warrant</p>	<p>Achieved. We held a successful seminar on the EAW in Bratislava in October 2006 to deal with practical EAW issues. We invited and worked closely with practitioners. The EAW remains a key EU instrument for judicial co-operation albeit with practical problems. We believe we helped to clarify problems and offer some solutions. We continued to send representatives as observers to EAW evaluation exercises conducted in the Member States. We held a</p>

Internal Objectives	Assessment
	successful seminar, jointly organised with Europol, for the JITs experts from Member States. We were pleased and encouraged that the feedback from delegates attending both seminars was extremely positive.
To develop and foster a skills and knowledge development policy within Eurojust	Achieved in part and continuing. Although a very wide range of training has been conducted at Eurojust for several years, a new Head of Human Resources, who is also responsible for training, took up post in the last quarter of 2006. His new training plan is better focussed and structured for both the College and the administrative staff.
To develop IM support for casework, the secure network and the document management system	Achieved and continuing. A number of significant steps were taken during 2006. The E-POC III Project was initiated and will further improve the effectiveness of our CMS. A number of case management analysts have been appointed and have made significant contributions to our capacity and potential effectiveness in this area. The establishment of a secure EU-wide network is a long-term project but an important first step was taken in 2006 with a pilot secure link between Eurojust and the Slovak Republic. A project plan was initiated to develop an in-house electronic document management system. We also conducted a feasibility study and are considering the possibility of developing a 'paperless office'.

Internal Objectives	Assessment
To review and, if necessary, modify the long-term Vision for the Future of Eurojust	Achieved. In light of the Commission's announcement that it would issue a Communication on the Future of Eurojust and the EJM we held a special seminar in Vienna in September 2006. We also held two full-day internal workshops involving the National Members, the administration and the EJM Secretariat to discuss and prepare comments on Eurojust's future.
To secure the best possible permanent accommodation for Eurojust in The Hague	Achieved. We held regular monthly discussions with senior officials at the Dutch Ministry of Justice. We completed our detailed programme of requirements for a new Eurojust building, to be ready when our current lease expires in 2012, and submitted this to our Dutch hosts.

External Objectives	Assessment
To continue working to improve our co-operation with: (i) The European Judicial Network (EJM)	Achieved. (i) The EJM and Eurojust have a special relationship. Regular consultation and involvement with the EJM Secretariat and EJM contact points on casework, policy issues and discussions on future structures are developing stronger foundations.

External Objectives	Assessment
To develop strategies to deal effectively with Romania's and Bulgaria's accession to the EU	Achieved in part. Romania's National Member joined us first as a Liaison Magistrate in September 2006. We were less successful in our approach to the Bulgarian authorities. We did not have a co-operation agreement with Bulgaria prior to accession but we are very pleased that Bulgaria has designated its National Member to start early in January 2007.
To review and, if necessary, revise our priorities for the negotiation of co-operation agreements with non-EU states	Achieved. We review our negotiation priorities regularly. We have always kept in mind our casework needs, EU external relations policy and approaches made to Eurojust by Third States who are potential partners.

8. COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS (AR2005 FOLLOW-UP)

In June 2006 the Council adopted Conclusions on the fourth Eurojust Annual Report (EU Document 10334/06, 14 June 2006). The Council also formulated some guidelines and tasks to be taken into consideration by Eurojust, the Member States, EU working groups and the Commission.

The Council invited Eurojust to report on the implementation of these Conclusions in its Annual Report for 2006. We have set out below a commentary giving some feedback on the implementation of the Council's Conclusions and more specifically on the key guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust.

Eurojust was pleased that the Council's comments reminded Member States of their obligations resulting from EU legislation, and also requested Member States to take a number of actions to strengthen the effectiveness of Eurojust's role in improving judicial co-operation and in the fight against serious cross-border and organised crime.

Subject	Guidelines/tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
Figures / caseload assessment / case illustrations	To continue the development of transparent, reliable and detailed statistics on the nature and quality of cases and casework, in particular by endorsing Eurojust's assessment concerning the complexity of cases regardless of their bilateral nature.	Our Casework Strategy & Performance Management Team has identified criteria and procedures for classifying cases as either standard or complex. The College approved these criteria and a Pilot Project began on 1 July 2006.

Subject	Guidelines/tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
	To continue focussing and giving priority to co-ordination of cases and to involve EJM in handling of purely bilateral MLA cases.	Eurojust believes that its current relationship with the EJM can be improved by developing guidelines on which types of cases should be dealt with by Eurojust and which by the EJM. Eurojust will also assess whether figures on the involvement of the EJM can be produced.
Article 7(a) of the Council Decision	To continue with the proactive approach to judicial co-operation and to endorse assessment concerning the use of its powers under Article 7(a).	We have noted that informally on several occasions Member States have complied after indications that a formal Article 7(a) request might be made. We agree that there may be more scope for exercising our powers under this article.
Analysis of legal problems and barriers	To make proposals for improving judicial co-operation in criminal matters in accordance with Article 32 of the Council Decision.	The Commission is currently preparing a Communication on the Future of Eurojust and the EJM. Eurojust is preparing a document in which it will set out ideas on the future development of Eurojust and the EJM and also bring forward proposals to improve judicial co-operation in criminal matters. This document will be submitted to the Commission.

Subject	Guidelines/tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)	To continue with the initiatives taken by Eurojust and Europol to host the meetings of the informal network of experts and to produce a guide on national legislations and to take all necessary initiatives with a view to enhancing the use of the JIT.	Europol, in collaboration with Eurojust, hosted the second meeting of the national experts on JITs which took place on 10 November 2006. The meeting focussed on practical experiences in establishing JITs. The conclusions of that meeting (EU Document 15023/06, 21 November 2006) have been sent to the Article 36 Committee and the Police Chiefs Task Force. Eurojust and Europol have also prepared and presented their common ‘Guide on EU Member States’ legislation on Joint Investigation Teams’. This information will be made available online via the websites of Eurojust and Europol.
Relationships with other EU bodies, namely the EJM, OLAF and Europol	To keep developing relationships and working on possible initiatives to overcome obstacles to co-operation.	On 14 July 2006 the President of the College of Eurojust convened an informal meeting of Heads of EU Agencies working in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice (FSJ). Representatives of the Council, the Commission and the Presidency attended this meeting. The overall objective was to learn more about the tasks of the agencies, to discover areas where their mandates might link or overlap and to explore the potential for future co-operation. This forum identified concrete actions in areas relating to administration, FSJ themes

Subject	Guidelines/tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
		<p>and tools for co-operation. A list of contact points for practical co-operation has been established and further meetings among representatives of the agencies have been planned to address specific topics of common interest.</p> <p>Eurojust and Europol have reported jointly to the Council on the implementation of their Co-operation Agreement.</p> <p>Eurojust and OLAF are negotiating a co-operation agreement with the objective of including specific provisions on the exchange of personal data.</p>
Co-operation with Third States	To finalise the negotiations with the priority countries scheduled in the list provided to the Council in September 2005.	A co-operation agreement between Eurojust and the USA was signed on 6 November 2006. Negotiations with the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Ukraine are currently taking place and a number of other states, including Croatia, have expressed a clear desire to commence negotiations to conclude agreements. We have set out a list of priority states for negotiations in 2007.

9. EUROJUST'S OBJECTIVES FOR 2007 AND 2008

In November 2005 the College defined Eurojust's mission and vision and set out a number of objectives to be achieved (see Chapter 7 of Annual Report 2005). At the yearly planning event the objectives to focus on in the coming year are discussed and preliminarily agreed by the College as a key part of Eurojust's annual work programme. Following the Strategic Planning Event of 2006 the objectives for 2007-2008 were reviewed by the College, with a view to setting up a number of important strategic objectives for this two-year period, the approach being that each objective should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART).

Thus, the College has adopted the following provisional strategic objectives for 2007-2008:

1. To ensure that, by the end of 2008, on terrorism issues:
 - Structures are in place to encourage competent authorities in the Member States to supply all the terrorist information required under the relevant Council Decision to Eurojust;
 - Eurojust is capable of processing and managing the terrorism information transmitted to it; and
 - Eurojust is able to handle terrorist casework effectively and to contribute to policy issues related to terrorism.
2. To increase the number of high-quality cases referred to Eurojust by the Member States.
3. To persuade each of the Member States to provide their Eurojust National Member with the appropriate support to enable him/her to handle casework and other responsibilities as a National Member.
4. To conclude formal co-operation agreements with more non-European Union countries.

5. To create a strong and secure ICT support environment for casework and for communication through implementation of the following measures:

- The creation of secure transmission links to national authorities in all Member States; and
- The creation of a secure mobile communication facility.

The strategic objectives are adopted in the annual work programme of Eurojust's administration and in the work of the College teams. Additional objectives, tasks and action plans are being established in each of the areas covering Eurojust's administrative and operational work to ensure that the main objectives are achieved.

All objectives are reviewed on a regular basis and the objectives for 2007-2008 will be reviewed during the Planning Event in May 2007 and the new provisional objectives for 2009 will be outlined.

10. THE FUTURE OF EUROJUST

During his annual visit to Eurojust in June 2006 Vice-President Frattini announced the Commission's intention to launch a Commission Communication in 2007 to open a debate on the future of Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN). We were pleased to have the opportunity to consider this significant issue at a time that would coincide with the fifth anniversary of Eurojust's creation.

Although it is still a relatively young organisation much has been learned in the five years since the Council Decision establishing Eurojust was signed on 28 February 2002. In that short time Eurojust has grown from 15 National Members working together very informally without any administrative support or a budget to an organisation with National Members and Assistants from 25 Member States and almost 100 administrative staff, while case referrals have increased by almost 400%. The effectiveness, or otherwise, of the Decision has been experienced now in practice for almost five years.

The Commission Communication provides an excellent opportunity to review progress and to consider refinements and improvements to the Decision to make Eurojust's internal working practices more effective. This Communication may also improve Eurojust's important relationships with other organisations, especially the EJN, and also with the competent authorities in the Member States. Significant issues have been identified which if acted upon could considerably improve the quality of service that the College, and Eurojust as a whole, can offer to the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the Member States. For example a common level of powers should be made available to all Eurojust National Members, allowing more certainty in the facilitation of co-operation and co-ordination actions which might be offered to assist investigators and prosecutors.

After internal and external consultation Eurojust decided to hold a seminar on the future of Eurojust and the EJN. Eurojust was eager to promote wide-ranging dialogue on its future development and to use the outcome of this dialogue as the basis for internal discussion within our organisation to inform and prepare Eurojust's formal submission for consideration by the European Commission while the Communication is being drafted.

The seminar brought together over 120 delegates, including National Members of Eurojust and EJM contact points from the Member States to discuss and debate issues, as well as mutual legal assistance practitioners, experts, policy makers and academics from across the European Union, and representatives from the Council Secretariat, the European Commission, Europol, the EJM, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The seminar was organised during the Austrian Presidency of the EU and held on the premises of the Austrian Supreme Court in Vienna on 25 and 26 September 2006 with excellent support from senior and junior officials in the Austrian Ministry of Justice. We are also grateful to the Finnish Presidency and to the European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN) for their assistance.

Delegates at the seminar heard a number of expert presentations designed to stimulate their thoughts and the subsequent discussions. The delegates divided into smaller groups for a series of workshops to promote better quality discussions and to exchange ideas and thoughts.

The outcomes of the seminar were considered on the basis of four different potential premises: first, that there was no change in the EU Justice and Home Affairs *acquis*; second, that new legislative changes were adopted but that there would be no change to the legal basis of Eurojust and the EJM; third, that there were legislative changes that would also change the legal basis of Eurojust and the EJM; and fourth, which would affect the role of Eurojust, that a European Public Prosecutor's Office might be established.

A comprehensive report was prepared by a senior official from the Finnish Presidency. This report has been published as EU Council Document No. 14123/06, which is now available to the public. We will not list the outcomes of the seminar here but there are a number of issues that do merit repetition. A consistent view was that there should be more extensive evaluation of the activities of Eurojust and the EJM and both organisations should interact more closely to improve their effectiveness. Additionally it was felt that improving the effectiveness of cross-border investigations by the competent authorities in the Member States could be achieved by ensuring that stronger, closer and more effective relationships were developed between all the EU organisations in the JHA area. Suggestions were made to improve Eurojust's practical working relationships not only with the authorities in the Member States but also with the EJM, Europol, OLAF and FRONTEX.

A key component of the improvement of MLA amongst the Member States was said to be better collaboration between Eurojust and the EJM. There were different views as to how this might be achieved, ranging from improving matters by strengthening current working practices to partially integrating both organisations or merging them. A wide range of proposals for improvement were made, some of which might require non-legislative change in procedures and practice and other more far-reaching proposals and suggestions that would require legislative change.

During the course of the year we held a series of brainstorming sessions in workshops bringing together all the National Members and their Assistants and the senior administrative staff with the EJM Secretariat. These exchanges and reflections both before and after the Vienna seminar helped Eurojust to form some structured ideas about the future of the organisation. The report on the Vienna seminar and the feedback, together with these other outcomes, helped to form the basis for the preparation of a formal Eurojust document to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration early in 2007. We offer our assistance and look forward to working closely with the Commission as it completes this important work.

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter provides a summary of all the main points made in this Annual Report for the year 2006 and is divided into three sections: Casework, External Relationships and Internal Issues.

Casework

- We experienced again a substantial increase in the number of cases referred to the College, with 771 cases referred in 2006 representing an increase of 183 cases, or 31%, over 2005.
- We hosted more meetings bringing together investigators and prosecutors from EU and non-EU states to discuss issues and to decide on co-ordination or co-operative action in specific cases. We hosted these co-ordination meetings either in the Eurojust premises in The Hague or in the Member States. The number of meetings increased from 73 in 2005 to 91 in 2006 representing an increase of 23%.
- During 2006 Eurojust dealt with a number of significantly successful and interesting cases. As in previous annual reports, some of these cases are set out in more detail in Chapter 3.
- Our statistics show that the number of cases sent from some Member States has increased significantly. We are particularly pleased that cases referred from several of the states which joined the EU in 2004 have increased beyond the overall average.
- These increases, which have been generated by all Member States, may be due to a number of reasons, including the marketing of Eurojust, the raising of the level of awareness in seminars and the dedication of individual National Members. However, the appointment of an Assistant or Seconded National Expert to support the National Member has often helped to increase the number of case referrals. We ask all Member States to consider making such appointments.
- We believe that more cases could and should be referred to Eurojust. The number of referrals by some states, particularly when considering the size of their population, is disappointing.
- The provision of mutual legal assistance to other countries remains a low priority within the judicial and police systems of many EU states. To some extent this is a consequence of Member States retaining responsibility for investigating and prosecuting crime at a domestic level where national cases and issues take priority. Therefore assistance is frequently delayed, hampered by a reluctance amongst practitioners to assist in the speedy execution of requests from other states often on the basis that: *'my own request has not been dealt with by that state'*.

- The constant presence of a Liaison Prosecutor from Norway at Eurojust has enhanced and contributed to the overall effectiveness of the prosecuting and investigating authorities in both Norway and many EU states.

External Relationships

- Following the signing of our co-operation agreement with the Romanian authorities in December 2005, preparations were made for a Romanian National Member to join Eurojust. A Romanian Liaison Magistrate has been based with us in The Hague since September 2006 ready to play a full part in the College from 1 January 2007.
- The challenging negotiations to conclude a formal co-operation agreement with the USA were completed in 2006. The text of the agreement was approved by both Eurojust's independent Joint Supervisory Body for Data Protection and the Council. The agreement was signed in November and as a result the US Department of Justice will send a Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust early in 2007. In December 2006, and as a direct result of the completion of the co-operation agreement, we were able to invite US prosecutors to a meeting on a significant terrorist case with counterparts from Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK.
- Negotiations are continuing to conclude co-operation agreements with Switzerland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- A number of other states, including Croatia and FYROM, both candidates for EU membership, have expressed strong interest in concluding an agreement with Eurojust. Ensuring that our future partners have adequate levels of data protection remains a key priority in such dialogues. The absence of appropriate internal legislative structures and data protection regimes is delaying several of these negotiations.
- As Eurojust becomes more widely known outside the EU our work with non-EU states is increasing and our list of contact points is growing. We regularly support EU bodies, Member States and international organisations working in the field of justice in the Western Balkans, EU neighbourhood states and elsewhere.
- The EJM remains our main EU judicial partner. We continue to work closely together and support each other when necessary. An EJM working effectively across all the EU states will help Eurojust itself to be more effective. We ask all Member States to improve this effectiveness by reviewing the interaction between their Eurojust National Member and their EJM contact points.

- Our relationship with Europol remains very important. Closer co-operation between both organisations will undoubtedly improve the overall quality of assistance and effectiveness of the Member States when dealing with serious organised cross-border crime. We hope that decision makers will put in place arrangements and procedures that will allow much easier co-operation and collaboration in the current discussions on the revision of Europol's legal basis and structure.
- It is very surprising that despite a willingness within both organisations to establish a secure link to exchange information it has taken over two years to negotiate and obtain the necessary organisational and technical approvals. We do not expect the Europol-Eurojust secure link to be in place before June 2007.
- Our relationship with OLAF has improved steadily. We continue to seek opportunities and cases for collaboration and also offer mutual support in our linked work on fraud on the EU budget and related issues. The co-operation between Eurojust's special team and its counterpart in OLAF is bearing fruit. We hope that a proper and clear legal basis can be found upon which we can conclude a formal co-operation agreement during 2007.

Internal Issues

- In 2006 Eurojust consolidated earlier progress on a number of internal issues.
- A considerable number of objectives set for 2006 were achieved. A more detailed assessment is found in Chapter 8.
- The E-POC III Project was initiated and the partners began to implement its objectives, thus building on the successful work done in the AGIS-funded E-POC I and E-POC II Projects.
- The appointment of a number of data analysts during 2006 has significantly enhanced Eurojust's capacity to deal with the increased amount of data that is being sent to the College under, for example, the provisions of the Council Decision 2005/671/JHA on supplying material to Eurojust about terrorism cases. It is vital that this data is processed effectively using our Case Management System and these new staff members now play a key role in this work. They also provide effective support in a wide range of other casework and team activities.
- After very lengthy discussions with our Dutch hosts, completed at the end of 2005, we were delighted to sign two formal agreements early in 2006 to secure and clarify our presence in The Hague. Our Seat Agreement deals with and regulates the status of all who work at Eurojust in the Netherlands. The Lease Agreement regulates our occupancy and presence on our current premises where we will be based until 2012.

- During 2006 a considerable amount of time was spent working with the Dutch authorities on potential future premises, including the preparation of a programme of requirements for a new Eurojust building when our current lease expires. Unfortunately it now seems unlikely that Eurojust and Europol will be located on the same premises in The Hague in the future. Both organisations offer different but complementary facilities and support to the competent authorities in the EU states. We are striving to ensure that our new premises are located as close as possible to Europol's new accommodation.
- Eurojust's administrative structure has developed in accordance with our estimates and the establishment plan approved by the College, the Council and the European Parliament.
- The Administrative Director received discharge from the Budgetary Authority for the financial year 2004 following the European Court of Auditors' report.

12. ANNEX

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Michael Kennedy is President of the College and National Member for the UK. He has more than 20 years' experience as a prosecutor. He has dealt with a wide range of serious cases at the headquarters of the Crown Prosecution Service where he was also the Head of the International Branch handling MLA and extradition matters. Before joining Eurojust he was the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Sussex in England. He was first elected President in 2002 and re-elected for a second and final term in 2005.

Ulrike Haberl-Schwarz is National Member for Austria and Vice-President. She started her career as a judge in Salzburg in 1990. When dealing with major economic and financial crime cases as an investigating judge for six years she gained experience both in international co-operation matters and in organised crime. She joined Eurojust in January 2003. She was elected Vice-President in January 2004.

Roelof Jan Manschot is National Member for the Netherlands and Vice-President. He has more than 30 years' experience as a prosecutor. He was Advocate-General at the Court of Appeal in Amsterdam from 1985 where he worked specifically on organised and financial crime. He was appointed Chief Prosecutor in 1995 and joined Eurojust in June 2001. He was elected Vice-President in September 2004.

Michèle Coninx is National Member for Belgium. She has more than 15 years' experience as a prosecutor. She worked for nine years for the International Civil Aviation Organisation and was responsible for anti-terrorism relating to aircraft sabotage and hijacking. Before joining Eurojust she was a National Prosecutor in Belgium dealing with terrorism and organised crime.

Pavel Zeman is National Member for the Czech Republic. He is a prosecutor with the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office in Brno. Before he was appointed National Member at Eurojust, he worked in the International Department of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, dealing with cases of international legal assistance.

Lennart Lindblom is National Member for Denmark. He has worked for 15 years in the Danish judiciary *inter alia* as a prosecutor in police districts and with the District Attorney of Zealand, as head of the Police Office in the Ministry of Justice and as a police auditor. Prior to his appointment to Eurojust he was head of budget and finance in the Ministry.

Hermann von Langsdorff is National Member for Germany. He has 30 years' experience as judge and prosecutor. Before becoming the National Member for Germany he worked as a federal prosecutor dealing with terrorism and espionage cases.

Raivo Sepp is National Member for Estonia. He has 18 years' experience in the judiciary. He started his career in the prosecution service as an investigator. He has also worked as the Director of the Pre-trial Investigation Bureau. Later, he was Police Chief of the county and the Deputy Director General of the Police Board. He served for five years as the Prosecutor General of the Republic.

Lampros Patsavellas is National Member for Greece. He entered the Greek judiciary in 1997 and is now a Senior Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance. He has been a Greek representative at both the UN Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Council of Europe (GRECO committee). Before joining Eurojust in June 2005 he was the Head of Unit for Information Systems in the Prosecutor's Office at the Court of First Instance in Athens.

Juan Antonio García Jabaloy is National Member for Spain. He has worked as a public prosecutor since 1991. From 2004 and prior to becoming a National Member at Eurojust, he was a public prosecutor at the *Audiencia Nacional* in Madrid, where he specialised in terrorism, currency and forgery crimes and universal jurisdiction proceedings. He is an IberRed permanent contact point. He joined Eurojust in October 2006.

François Falletti is National Member for France. He has 27 years of experience as a prosecutor. From 1993 to 1996, he was *Directeur des affaires criminelles et des grâces* at the French Ministry of Justice, before being appointed Chief Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal of Lyon, specialising in economic offences and MLA. He has also been involved in organisations of prosecutors acting at both European and international level. He joined Eurojust in September 2004.

Jarlath Spellman is National Member for Ireland. He practiced as a barrister before becoming Advisory Counsel at the Office of the Attorney General in the Justice and Home Affairs area. In 2001 he was appointed a Professional Officer at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He has experience in the prosecution of a wide range of serious criminal offences as well as MLA and extradition.

Cesare Martellino is National Member for Italy. He started his career as a prosecutor in 1969. Until 1988 he served as Deputy Prosecutor in Rome and later as Chief Prosecutor in Terni. During his career he has dealt with organised crime, corruption, murder and kidnapping.

Katerina Loizou is National Member for Cyprus. She worked in private practice as a lawyer before entering the Attorney General's Office in 2002. She served as a counsel of the Republic in Nicosia until her secondment to Eurojust in September 2004.

Gunārs Bundzis is National Member for Latvia. He has 11 years' experience as a prosecutor. He began work at the Prosecutor General's Office as senior assistant and was appointed Chief Prosecutor in one of the districts of Latvia. He then became a Chief Prosecutor, dealing with co-operation in criminal matters related to extradition, transfer of proceedings and sentenced persons as well as MLA.

Tomas Krusna is National Member for Lithuania. He started his career as a prosecutor in the Vilnius District Prosecutor's Office in 1998. From 2000, he worked for the Management Division of the Prosecutor General's Office. Mr Krusna joined Eurojust in July 2006.

Georges Heisbourg is National Member for Luxembourg. He has been a member of the judiciary in Luxembourg since 1976. He has worked for more than 20 years as a prosecutor. He was appointed a Deputy Chief Prosecutor in 1993 and was head of the organised crime branch in charge of major money laundering cases and international judicial co-operation matters.

Iлона Lévai is National Member for Hungary. She has more than 25 years' professional experience in the judiciary. Since 1990 she has been working for the Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary and is now a chief prosecutor. She was also Director General for International and European Affairs before joining Eurojust in 2004.

Donatella Frendo Dimech is National Member for Malta. She joined the Attorney General's Office as a prosecutor in 1997 and since 2000 she has been dealing with money laundering as well as international mutual judicial co-operation and extradition. As Senior Counsel to the Republic of Malta she is also a Maltese contact point in the European Judicial Network.

Mariusz Skowroński is National Member for Poland. He has over 20 years' experience as a prosecutor in the Investigation Division of the Regional Prosecutor's Office and in the Court Unit of the Appellate Prosecutor's Office in Lodz. In 1996 he was appointed to the Bureau for Organised Crime in the National Prosecutor's Office within the Ministry of Justice. Before joining Eurojust, he co-ordinated negotiations of two UN Conventions and was also responsible for co-operation with UN offices in Vienna and New York.

José Luís Lopes da Mota is National Member for Portugal. He has 28 years' experience in the judiciary as a prosecutor and as an assistant to the Portuguese Prosecutor General where he was responsible for matters related to management of the prosecution services at a national level and for international co-operation. He has been a deputy Minister of Justice in charge of a range of issues including European affairs.

Malči Gabrijelčič is National Member for the Republic of Slovenia. She has more than 20 years' experience as a state prosecutor on the first level in the prosecution service. As a High State Prosecutor, she has worked in Nova Gorica Circuit State Prosecutor's Office dealing with economic crimes, becoming Head of Office in 1997.

Peter Paluda is National Member for the Slovak Republic. He has worked for 22 years in the Slovak judiciary and has 12 years' experience as a prosecutor. He worked in the District and Regional Prosecutor's Office in the Banská Bystrica in Middle Slovakia until 1987. From 1987 until 1994, he worked for the General Prosecution Office in Bratislava. When appointed to Eurojust, he was serving as a judge dealing with criminal cases in the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic.

Maarit Loimukoski is National Member for Finland. She has more than 15 years' experience as a District Prosecutor in Helsinki. In 1999 she was appointed as a State Prosecutor at the Prosecutor General's Office, specialising in organised crime. Prior to her appointment to Eurojust she worked at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and as a counsellor in Brussels at the Permanent Representation to the EU on criminal and judicial co-operation matters.

Solveig Wollstad is National Member for Sweden. She has 20 years' experience as a prosecutor dealing with organised drug-related and other serious crimes. She has also been involved in several projects on the legal aspects of combating organised crime in Latvia. Before becoming the National Member for Sweden she was a Chief Public Prosecutor in Sweden and head of the international unit of the Public Prosecution Authority in Linköping, Sweden and also Swedish EJM contact point.

DEPUTIES

Jürgen Kapplinghaus was Deputy National Member for Germany from January to September 2006. He has 32 years' experience as a prosecutor and has specialised for 15 of those in MLA and combating organised crime. Before joining Eurojust in 2001, he was Head of Division in the Ministry responsible for MLA and extradition matters. He is now Seconded National Expert for Germany.

Benedikt Welfens has been Deputy National Member for Germany since October 2006. He has 15 years' experience as a prosecutor in organised and white collar crime and MLA. During the last seven years he was head of these departments in Potsdam. As a speaker for the Public Prosecution Office he was also responsible for public relations.

Jean-Francois Bohnert is Deputy National Member for France. He has 20 years' experience in the French judiciary. He began his career as a prosecutor in Strasburg and later as an investigating magistrate at the French military court in Germany. Subsequently, and for nearly five years, he was the French liaison magistrate.

Marie-José Aube-Lotte is Deputy National Member for France. She has 24 years' experience in the French judiciary. She began her career as an investigating magistrate in Compiègne and later as a civil judge in Versailles. Before joining Eurojust she was a prosecutor at the French Ministry of Justice working for 11 years on economic offences.

Carmen Manfreda is Deputy National Member for Italy. She has 30 years' experience in the fight against organised crime. Prior to joining Eurojust she worked as Public Prosecutor in Milan and afterwards as Chief Prosecutor in Vigevano.

Carlos Zeyen is Deputy National Member for Luxembourg. He joined the Financial Crimes Division of the Prosecutor's Office with the Luxembourg District Court in 1998. In 2003 he was appointed First Deputy State Prosecutor. From 2001 to 2006, he was Head of the Luxembourg Financial Intelligence Unit and specialising in terrorist financing. From 1999 to 2006, he was a Luxembourg delegate with FATF and a member of its Working Group on Terrorist Financing.

Jolien Kuitert is Deputy National Member for the Netherlands. She has more than 18 years' experience as a public prosecutor. As one of the prosecutors of the National Public Prosecutor's Office she deals with mutual assistance combating organised crime. She is also a contact point for the Dutch Public Prosecutor's Service in the European Judicial Network.

António Luís Santos Alves is Deputy National Member for Portugal. He has 20 years' experience in the Public Prosecution Service. From 2000 to 2002 he was a General Inspector for the Environment and between 2003 and 2004 he was a Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union.

Sanna Palo is Deputy National Member for Finland. She is a Senior Detective Superintendent with a degree in law. She worked for two years as a legal secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one year as a district court judge in Helsinki, specialising in criminal cases. For the last five years she has worked on matters of MLA at the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation in Vantaa.

Annette von Sydow is Deputy National Member for Sweden. She has been a prosecutor for 30 years, specialising in serious economic cases at the Economic Crimes Bureau. She worked for the Council of Europe in the fight against corruption in Albania, trained prosecutors and judges in the Baltic countries, worked in an EU Rule of Law Mission in Georgia, and served as Chief Prosecutor at the Office of the Swedish Prosecutor General.

Aled Williams is Deputy National Member for the UK, having joined Eurojust in July 2006. He has worked as a prosecutor with responsibility for homicide, fraud and drug trafficking. In 2002 he was appointed the UK liaison magistrate to Spain. He worked in that role for four years, dealing with MLA, extradition and the introduction of EAW procedures.

ASSISTANTS

Susanne Stotz has been Assistant to the National Member for Germany since January 2005. She worked as a prosecutor in Bavaria from 1999 to 2003 in the Department for Economic and Financial Crime. In 2003 she served as a judge in a capital crime jury court, dealing with MLA and bilateral co-operation.

Anne Delahaie has been Assistant to the National Member for France since 2001. She has worked for the Ministry of Justice since 1979, graduating in law in 1986. In the Ministry of Justice she was involved in international judicial co-operation in criminal matters and in bilateral and multilateral negotiations (Schengen EU, Council of Europe and the UN).

Marie-Pierre Falletti is Assistant to the National Member for France. She has a degree in law from the University of Lyon. Before joining Eurojust in September 2004, she practised law for several years.

Phil Hicks has been Assistant to the National Member for the UK since June 2006. In 1999, he joined the Crown Prosecution Service. In 2001, he moved to the Solicitor's Office of HM Customs and Excise in Manchester, where his caseload included large-scale drug imports, excise evasion, VAT fraud and money laundering. In 2005, he joined the Solicitor's Office of HM Revenue and Customs.

Emma Provan has been the Scottish Assistant to the National Member for the UK since May 2006. She trained with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in Edinburgh. Prior to joining Eurojust, she was a prosecutor in Glasgow, dealing with a range of cases, including sheriff and jury trials for serious assaults and drugs. She was involved in setting up the first domestic abuse court in Scotland.

LIAISON MAGISTRATE

Elena Dinu is the Liaison Magistrate for Romania. She is a career prosecutor, having specialised in homicide investigation at the Romanian Prosecutor's Office. In 2003 she was promoted to the General Prosecutor's Office as a spokesperson and later joined, as Chief Prosecutor of the International Co-operation Office, a department specialised in combating serious crime, which in 2004 became the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism.

LIAISON PROSECUTOR

Knut H. Kallerud is the Liaison Prosecutor for Norway. Prior to his appointment to Eurojust, he worked in the Ministry of Justice as an assistant judge and for eight years as a defence lawyer in private practice. For the last 11 years he has worked in a senior position at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Norway. He is still attached to the DPP's Office as a senior public prosecutor. He is also an EJM contact point.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Ernst Merz served as a judge in Germany until 1987. He was then attached to the Ministry of Justice of Rhineland-Palatinate and Thuringia. Between 1992 and 1999 he was the Director of the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Trier. In 2000 he was appointed President of the Social Court Koblenz and served as first Secretary General of the EJTN. In May 2002 he became provisional Administrative Director of Eurojust and in September 2002 he was appointed Administrative Director.
