



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 February 2008

6866/08

EUROJUST 17

NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Article 36 Committee
Subject : EUROJUST Annual Report 2007

Delegations will find attached the EUROJUST Annual Report 2007.



EUROJUST
ANNUAL REPORT
2007

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	6
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	8
Casework	8
External Relations.....	10
Internal Issues	11
2 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	13
Casework Statistics.....	13
Formal Requests re Articles 6 and 7 of the Eurojust Decision.....	26
European Arrest Warrant Notification of Breaches of Time Limits	27
Joint Investigation Teams	28
Main Crime Areas	28
Terrorism.....	29
Counterfeiting	31
Drug Trafficking	33
Trafficking in Human Beings.....	34
Money Laundering	35
Crime against Property or Public Goods including Fraud	36
Crime against Life, Limb or Personal Freedom.....	37
Casework Illustrations Introduction	38
Case 1 Drug Trafficking.....	38
Case 2 Drug Trafficking.....	39
Case 3 Terrorism	40
Case 4 Trafficking in Human Beings.....	40
Case 5 Money Laundering	41

Case 6 Fraud.....	42
Case 7 Counterfeiting.....	43
Case 8 Cybercrime	44
Case 9 Child Pornography	44
Case 10 VAT Carousel Fraud	45
Case 11 European Arrest Warrant.....	46
Case 12 Serial Killer	47
Case 13 Organised Criminal Network	48
3 ADMINISTRATION.....	49
General Developments	49
Budgetary Management.....	50
Staff Management.....	51
New Functionalities and Facilities	52
4 EXTERNAL RELATIONS.....	54
European Parliament, Council and Commission.....	54
EU Partners.....	54
Europol.....	54
European Judicial Network	55
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)	56
Liaison Magistrates	57
EU Networks	57
Genocide Network	57
European Judicial Training Network	58
Other Networks.....	58
CARIN Network	58
Cybercrime Network.....	58
International Organisations and Bodies.....	59
International Association of Prosecutors	59
International Criminal Court.....	59
IberRed.....	60
Eurojustice.....	60

Third States.....	60
Contact Points	60
Co-operation Agreements	61
Other Third States	63
5 FOLLOW-UP TO COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS.....	64
6 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND THE FUTURE	70
Objectives and Achievements 2007	70
Objectives 2008 – 2009	72
Lisbon Seminar: "Eurojust – Navigating the Way Forward"	73
7 EUROJUST'S MISSION, TASKS AND STRUCTURE	76
Mission and Tasks	76
Structure.....	79
Public Access to Eurojust Documents.....	81
8 ANNEX.....	82

FOREWORD

The sixth Eurojust Annual Report presents information on its activities in 2007, a significant turning point in the development of Eurojust. This year Eurojust celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Since 2002 Eurojust has made steady progress in its operational work, within the organisation (e.g. information management and technology), in its relations with national authorities and third States, and in enhancing co-operation with other EU bodies. These developments have also enabled Eurojust to offer better support to national authorities, improve co-operation and stimulate co-ordination.

I am delighted to announce that a significant milestone was achieved when the number of cases referred to the College exceeded 1 000 in 2007, reaching 1 085 cases, which is an increase of 41% compared to 2006.

After five years of existence, it is time to assess the implementation of the Decision setting up Eurojust. The Council, in its Conclusions on the Eurojust Annual Report 2006, stressed the need for a mid-term assessment of the effectiveness and unexploited potential of Eurojust. The Lisbon seminar, which was supported by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and entitled "Eurojust: Navigating the Way Forward", was such an exercise. In 2007 Eurojust also welcomed the Communication of the Commission on the Future of Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN).

During the Lisbon seminar, three main areas of action were identified to better achieve Eurojust's objectives. These relate to the powers of National Members, improvement of the exchange of information between the National Members and their national authorities, and fine-tuning the relationship between Eurojust's national correspondents and the contact points of the EJN. We look forward to the discussions on legislative proposals to strengthen Eurojust and the EJN in 2008.

Eurojust is facing new challenges to its role in the fight against cross-border crime. As a result, Eurojust is furthering its capacity when dealing with serious and complex cases. Significant progress has been made in 2007, and we can continue to improve.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for appointment of Assistants to all National Members with deputising capacity and the added value of Seconded National Experts to National Desks. National authorities of the Member States are requested to bear in mind when evaluating the National Desks' activities and workload that extra support is needed.

This year, the College experienced many changes. We welcomed two new National Members, Elena Dinu for Romania and Mariana Lilova for Bulgaria, and the Liaison Prosecutor from the United States, Mary Ruppert, who unfortunately had to leave during the summer. She has been temporarily replaced by Mary Lee Warren. At the beginning of 2007, Kim Sundet joined Eurojust as the new Liaison Prosecutor for Norway, replacing Knut H. Kallerud. We have also said goodbye to several National Members, some of whom have been with us since the beginning. I would like to thank them all on behalf of Eurojust for their support and commitment to making Eurojust an upstanding and reputable organisation. I wish them all the best either in new posts or in retirement.

The College also welcomed six new National Members: Carlos Zeyen (Luxembourg), Ursula Koller (Austria), Ola Laurell (Sweden), Ladislav Hamran (Slovak Republic), Arend Vast (the Netherlands) and Hubert Michael Grotz (Germany).

The year 2007 was remarkable for the elections held by the College to appoint a new President and Vice-Presidents, resulting in a new College Presidency. The College elected Raivo Sepp on 13 September 2007 and Michèle Coninx on 11 December 2007 as Vice-Presidents. I was elected as President on 6 November 2007, taking up duties on 12 November after having been Vice-President since 11 February 2007. The Administrative Director, Ernst Merz, was re-appointed on 19 July 2007.

Finally, I would like to thank our former President, Michael G Kennedy, whom I had the pleasure to work with for so many years, for his commitment and contribution to the remarkable achievements of Eurojust since his election in 2002. It was a challenge and satisfaction to take over as President at such a turning point for Eurojust.

JOSÉ LUÍS LOPES DA MOTA
President of the College

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter provides a summary of all the main points made in this Annual Report for the year 2007 and is divided into three sections: Casework, External Relations and Internal Issues.

Casework

- The year 2007 is an important landmark for Eurojust - the historic crossing of the threshold of 1 000 cases handled by Eurojust in a single year.
- Eurojust again experienced a significant increase in the number of cases referred to the College, with 1 085 new cases referred in 2007, representing an increase of 314 cases, or 41%, over 2006.
- Eurojust continued to develop transparent, reliable and detailed statistics on its casework.
- Cases are being referred to Eurojust with the main objectives according to the Eurojust Decision. In 2007 263 cases were referred to stimulate and improve co-ordination between the Member States of investigations and prosecutions; 684 cases were referred to improve co-operation; and 815 cases were referred to otherwise support the competent authorities of the Member States (*see* Figure 5). A case may have been referred to Eurojust with more than one objective.
- Eurojust organised or supported the organisation of 91 co-ordination meetings in 2007, 74 on our premises and 17 in the Member States. Fifty of these meetings were multilateral and involved up to 30 countries, bringing together investigators, prosecutors and investigating judges from the EU and non-EU states to discuss issues and to decide on co-ordination or co-operative action in specific cases.

- Eurojust registered 49 different types of criminal activity in the cases referred to it in 2007. Of all these cases, as in 2006, drug trafficking and crime against property or public goods including fraud constitute the largest percentage, while referrals of cases of THB and money laundering have increased significantly.
- For the first time, Liaison Prosecutors stationed at Eurojust were able to register their own cases referred to them by their national authorities. The Liaison Prosecutor for Norway registered 27 cases and organised a co-ordination meeting.
- The number of cases involving third States also increased significantly over 2006, most notably with Norway, Switzerland and, particularly, the USA, where the number of cases increased from 6 in 2006 to 30 in 2007. There was also an increase in the number of cases involving Liechtenstein, Turkey, Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- The number of cases dealt with by Eurojust involving Europol has almost quadrupled, with 7 cases in 2006 and 25 cases in 2007.
- Eurojust's initiatives in the area of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) have been successful in several ways. Since becoming a framework partner with the European Commission, the possibility to obtain co-funding to finance JITs is being explored. The creation of a JIT was considered by the National Members in 14 cases.
- Responding to terrorist attacks and terrorist threats is a top priority for Eurojust. Referring to the Council Decision of December 2005, Member States are encouraged to provide more information to Eurojust in this vital area.
- Eurojust encourages the Member States to consider appointing Deputising Assistants and Seconded National Experts to National Desks and emphasizes the added value that such support means for the work of Eurojust.
- We noted that Eurojust still needs to exploit its full potential. This requires the full implementation of the Eurojust Decision in national legislation and the removal of obstacles preventing Eurojust from making full use of its powers.

External Relations

- The European Judicial Network (EJN) is our main partner in judicial co-operation. The EJN has made significant progress with its two main information tools, the Atlas Editor and the Compendium. These tools will facilitate co-operation between national authorities in cases supported by Eurojust.
- Relations with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) have strengthened, as evidenced by the first joint OLAF-Eurojust conference in March 2007, attended by prosecutors and tax and customs investigators and emphasizing the co-operation and assistance provided by OLAF and Eurojust to fight fraud against the European Communities' financial interests. In addition, exchange visits are now a regular feature for both institutions. Negotiations continue to improve practical co-operation.
- Advances were made in our ability to share information with Europol via the successful establishment of a secure communications link for sensitive information, which we hope will be fully operational in the first quarter of 2008. In addition, the Danish Protocol amending the Europol Convention made it possible for Eurojust to be associated as an expert in six analysis work files (AWFs).
- Eurojust signed a co-operation agreement with the Republic of Croatia on 9 November 2007, and awaits its entering into force.
- In April 2007 Eurojust signed a Letter of Understanding on Co-operation between Eurojust and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in order to enhance contacts, explore areas of co-operation and exchange non-operational experiences.
- At the end of 2007 Eurojust had 31 contact points from 23 countries within and outside Europe.
- With the entering into force of the co-operation agreement with the USA, a Liaison Prosecutor has been posted to Eurojust since January 2007.

Internal Issues

- A milestone in the development of Eurojust's technical infrastructure is the new state-of-the-art video conference facility, which allowed the President and Vice-Presidents of Eurojust to take part in the G8 Conference in April 2007, and proves to be a valuable tool in co-ordination meetings both within and outside the EU.
- In 2007 Eurojust successfully completed a pilot project, the secure communication connection between Eurojust and the Slovak Republic, which will be implemented for all Member States in 2008.
- Eurojust's connection to the Schengen Information System (SIS), which allows an in-house-developed search tool for National Members to access a copy of the relevant information, was launched in December 2007.
- A Security Committee was formally established by the College in May 2007 and Security Rules were adopted by the College.
- The Case Management System has further developed in the framework of the E-POC (European Pool against Organised Crime) III Project to emphasize the user-requested improvements while developing added functionality to allow information to be exchanged between different E-POC installations such as those in Member States.
- Support to the operational work of National Members and the College has been improved by the enlargement of the Case Management Team and the addition of Seconded National Experts.
- To plan for the future growth of Eurojust, the first Multi-Annual Staff Policy Plan was drafted in 2007, covering the period from 2007 – 2010. As of the end of 2007, 131 post-holders were working at Eurojust.

- In order to provide stability to the growing organisation, search and planning for a new Eurojust headquarters remains a vital task. Due to the increase in staff, the capacity of the current premises was reached in 2007 and the use of satellite offices will commence in 2008. The host state has been actively committed and involved in providing new premises by 2012 in accordance with the security and spatial needs of Eurojust.
- Eurojust was granted € 18.4 million and executed 98.5% of its commitments. The European Parliament has granted discharge to the Administrative Director for 2005.

2 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Casework Statistics

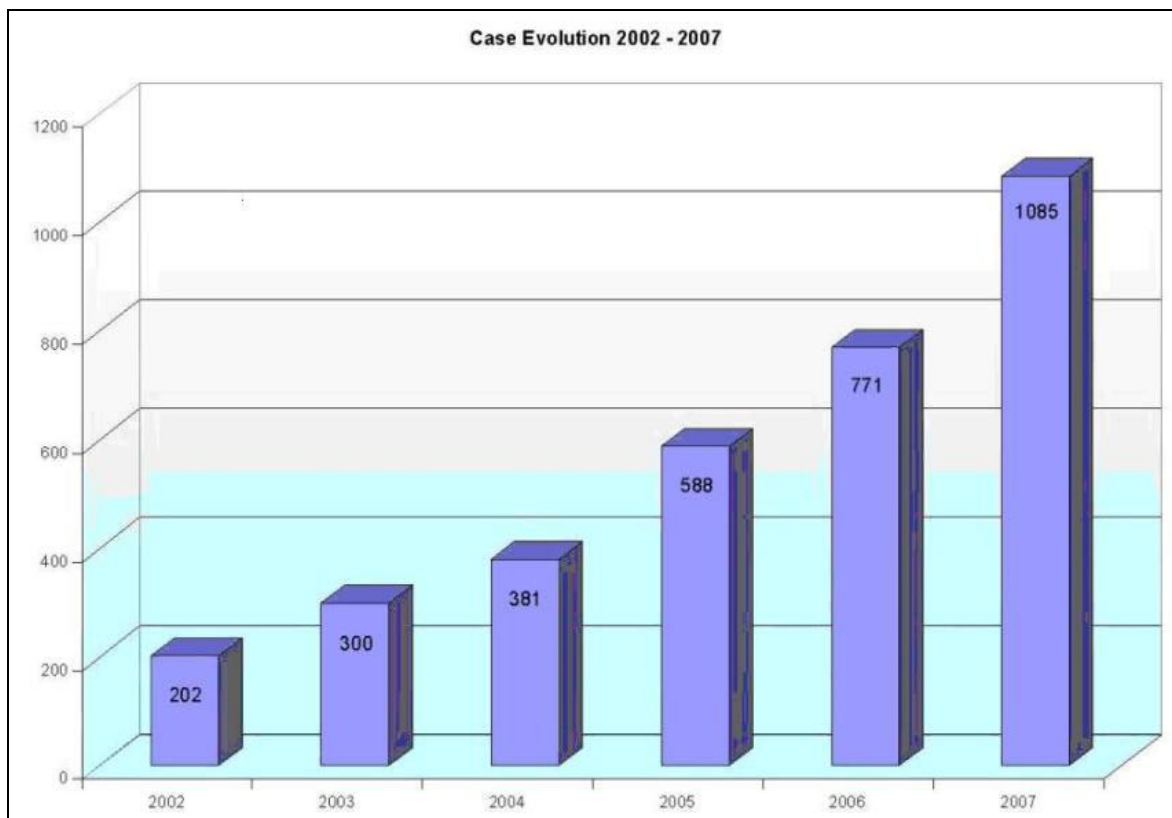


Figure 1

In 2007 National Members registered 1 085 cases, which represents an increase of 41% compared to 2006 (771 cases). These figures do not only indicate a positive trend, but reveal that Member States are more aware than ever of the work and services provided by Eurojust and the added value resulting from our involvement.

It is worth mentioning that 1 065 cases deal with operational issues, while only 20 cases were registered to provide support to and expertise on general topics on legal matters related to each legal system or judicial questions or practicalities not involving the operational work of the College.

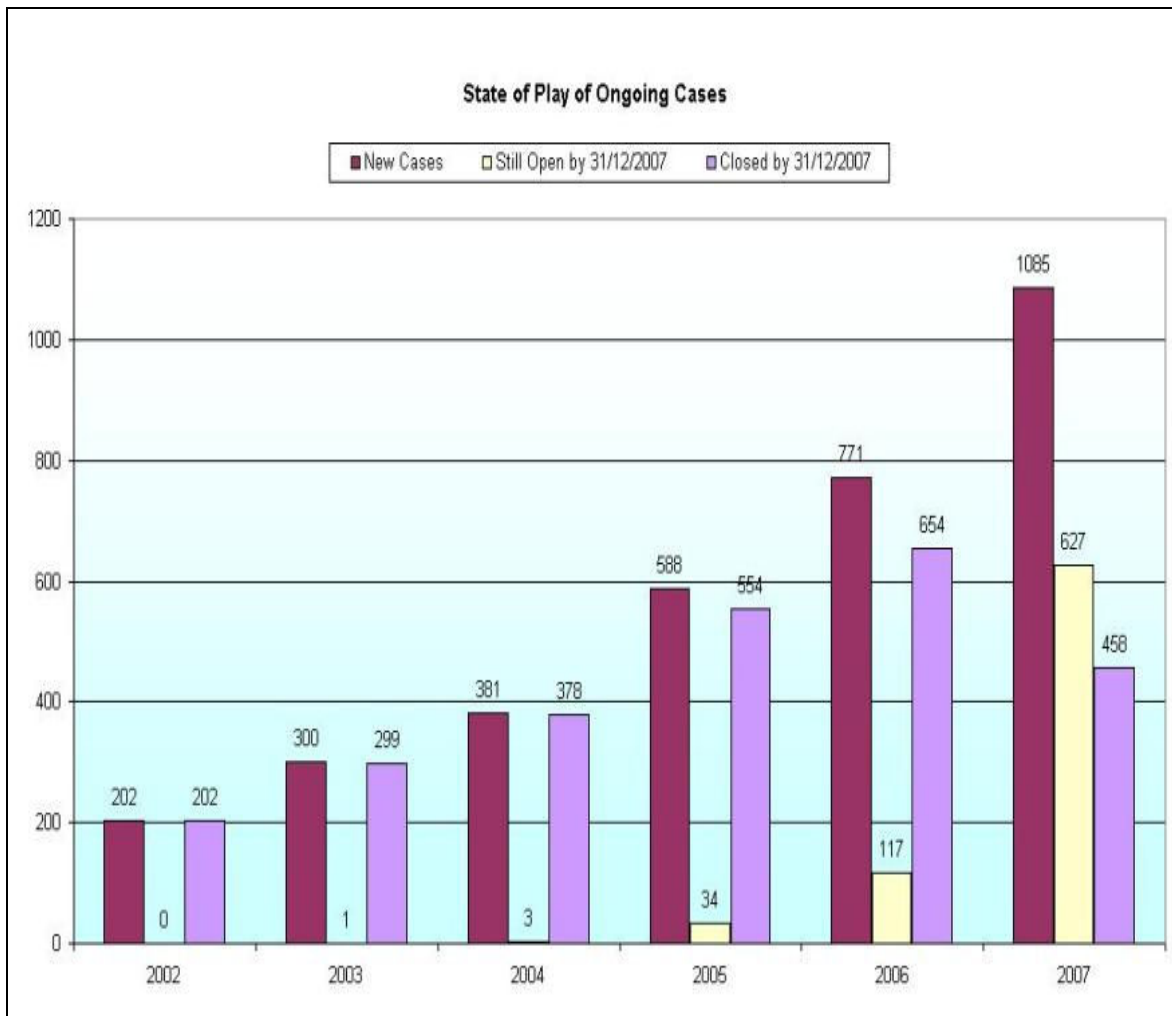


Figure 2

Although 1 085 is the number of cases referred to Eurojust in 2007 this figure represents only a part of the work of the National Members. Figure 2 above provides a more accurate overview of the work of the College as it refers to the number of cases still open, or closed during all the years of Eurojust's activity.

At the end of 2007 782 cases covering the period 2003 – 2007 were still active.

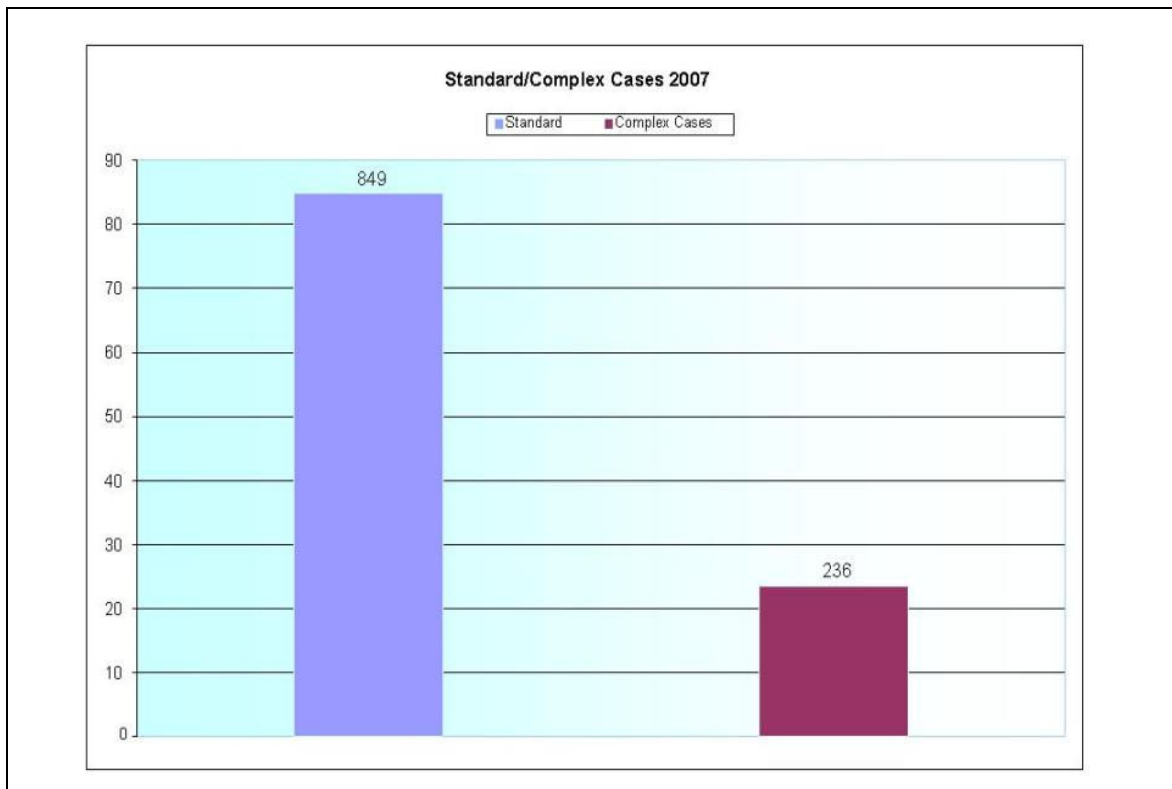


Figure 3

In 2006 Eurojust introduced a new classification system defining cases as complex or standard. During the last six months of 2006, 270 cases were classified as standard and 91 cases as complex. This categorisation of cases continued throughout 2007.

Figure 3 shows that approximately 78% of the cases referred to Eurojust involve a standard level of involvement of Eurojust and the remaining 22% require a higher level of involvement from Eurojust, including co-ordination.

The distinction between standard/complex cases is based on an assessment of factors such as the number of countries involved and on the nature of Eurojust's involvement, e.g. whether a case requires co-operation and/or co-ordination. Thus, this distinction between standard and complex is partly linked to the number of bilateral or multilateral cases and the need for co-ordination and/or co-operation.

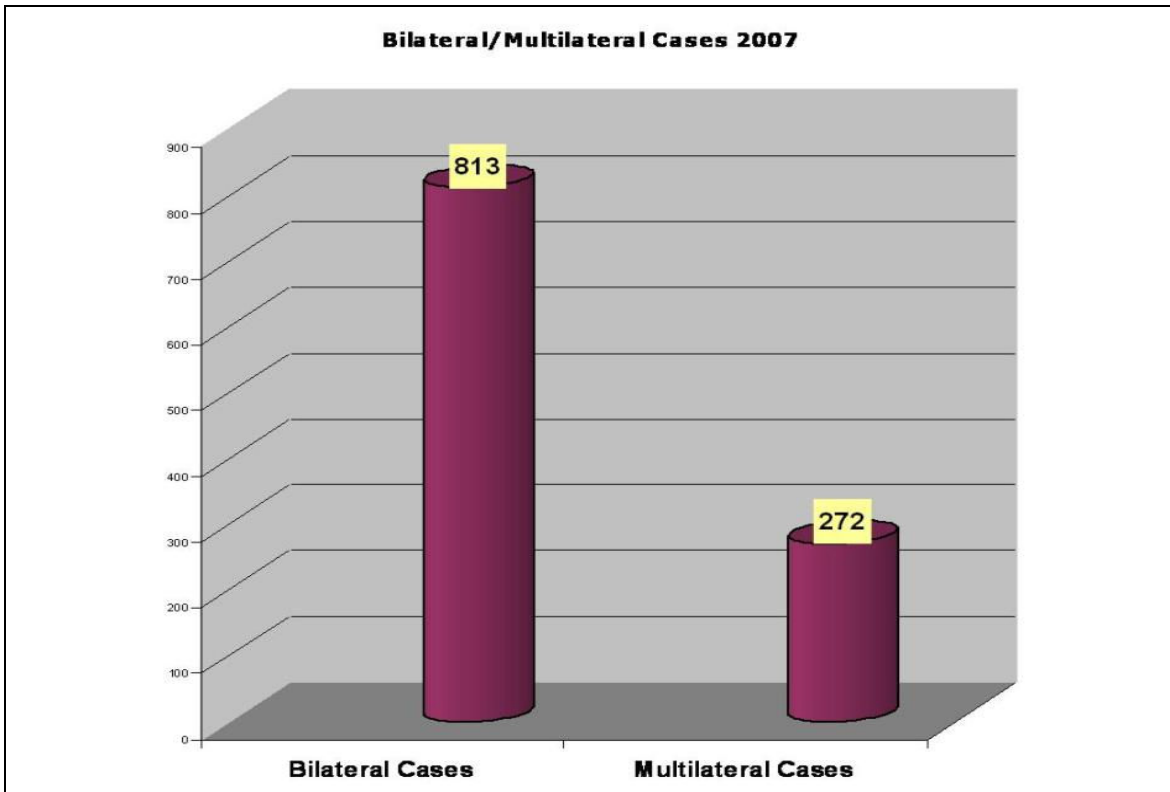


Figure 4

It is important to emphasize that a bilateral case is not always a simple case. Eurojust's participation can be crucial for the improvement of co-operation or co-ordination of investigations or prosecutions between two countries, and the assistance provided can be complex. In this respect, the combined efforts made by Eurojust in bilateral cases can be as significant as the work provided in multilateral cases.

The charts below show in greater detail the analysis of the links between multilateral or bilateral cases and the objectives of Eurojust's involvement as stated in Article 3 of the Eurojust Decision:

"1. In the context of investigations and prosecutions, concerning two or more Member States, of criminal behaviour referred to in Article 4 in relation to serious crime, particularly when it is organised, the objectives of Eurojust shall be:

(a) to stimulate and improve the coordination, between the competent authorities of the Member States, of investigations and prosecutions in the Member States, taking into account any request emanating from a competent authority of a Member State and any information provided by any body competent by virtue of provisions adopted within the framework of the Treaties;

(b) to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests;

(c) to support otherwise the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective.

2. In accordance with the rules laid down by this Decision and at the request of a Member State's competent authority, Eurojust may also assist investigations and prosecutions concerning only that Member State and a non-Member State where an agreement establishing cooperation pursuant to Article 27(3) has been concluded with the said State or where in a specific case there is an essential interest in providing such assistance.

3. In accordance with the rules laid down by this Decision and at the request either of a Member State's competent authority or of the Commission, Eurojust may also assist investigations and prosecutions concerning only that Member State and the Community."
[emphasis added]

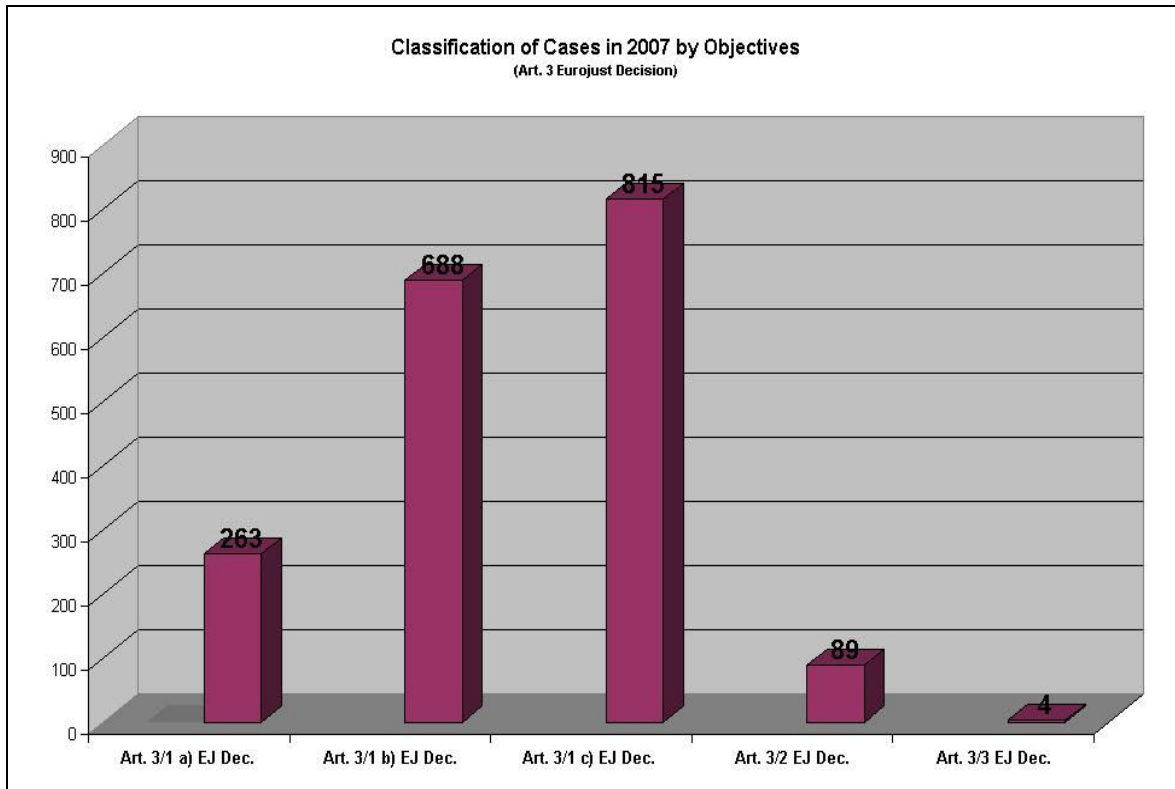


Figure 5

Figure 5 shows an analysis of the total number of cases in 2007 for each specific objective. A case may have been referred to Eurojust with more than one objective.

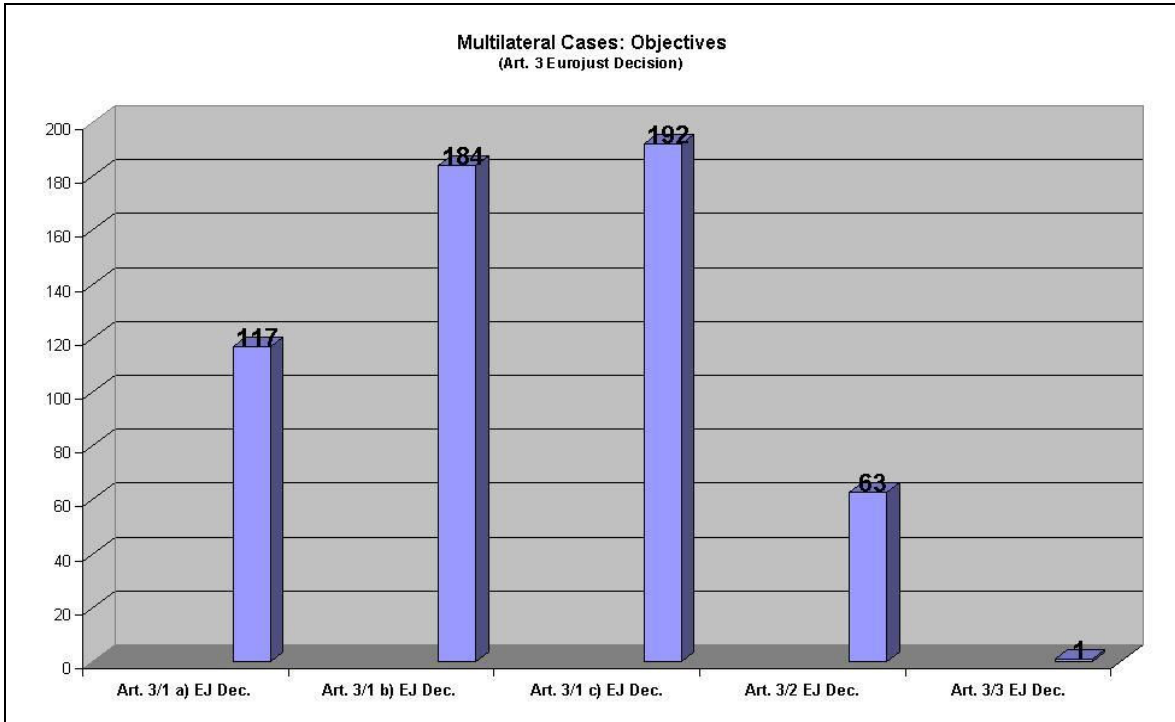


Figure 6

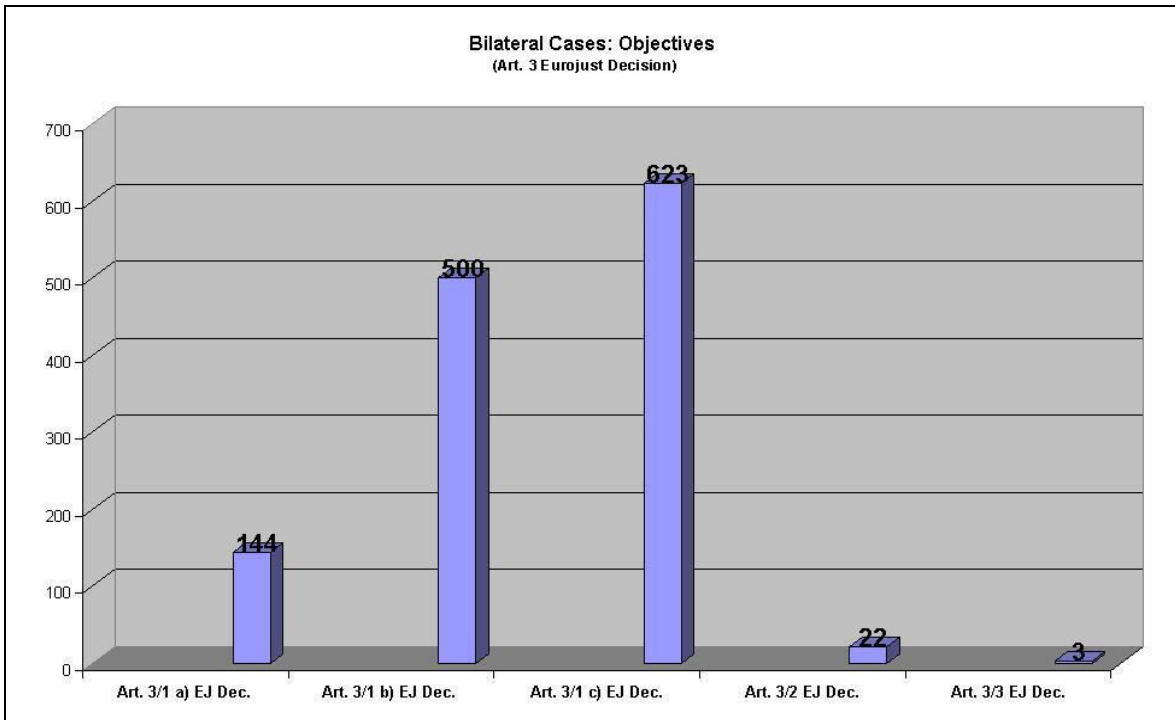


Figure 7

The above two charts refer to the links between the number of multilateral cases (Figure 6) and bilateral cases (Figure 7) and the objectives set up by the Eurojust Decision.

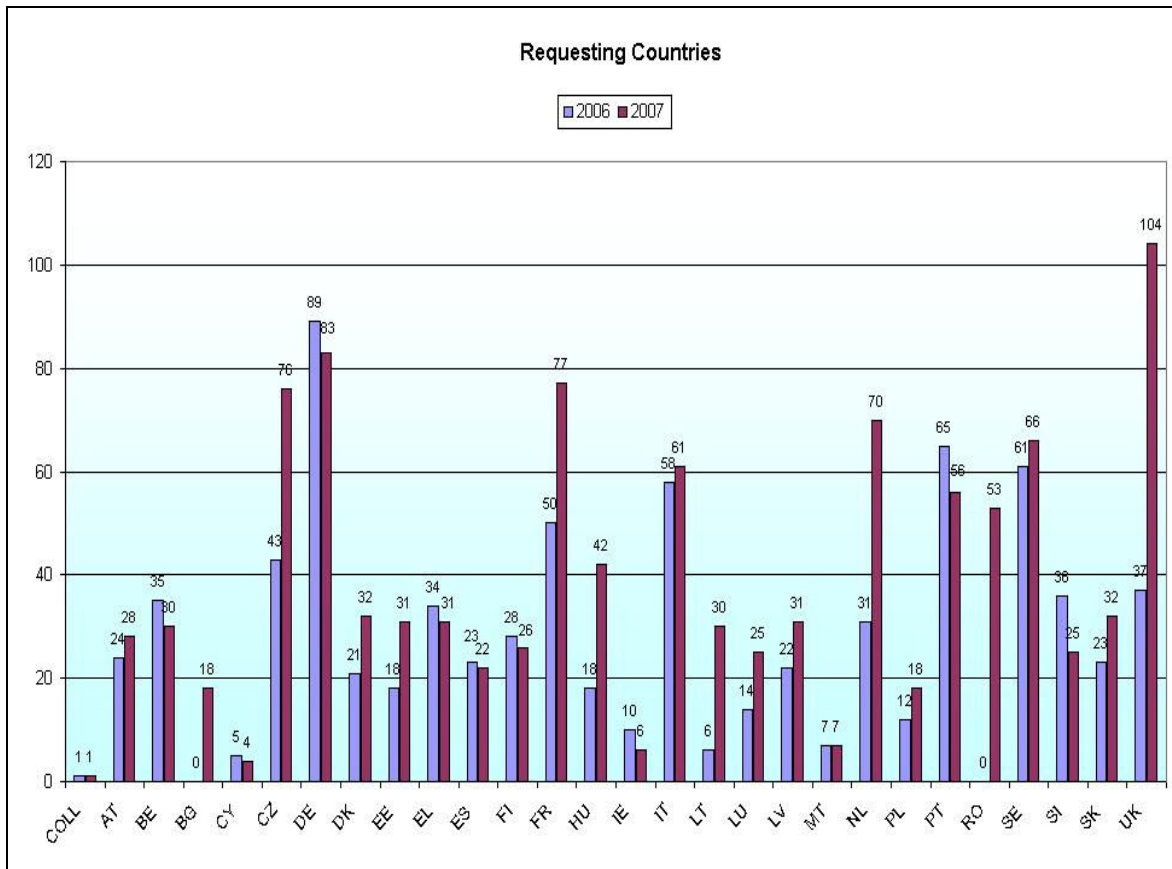


Figure 8

Concerning the involvement of the different National Desks in casework at Eurojust, Figure 8 reflects the number of times that a National Desk took the initiative to register a case.

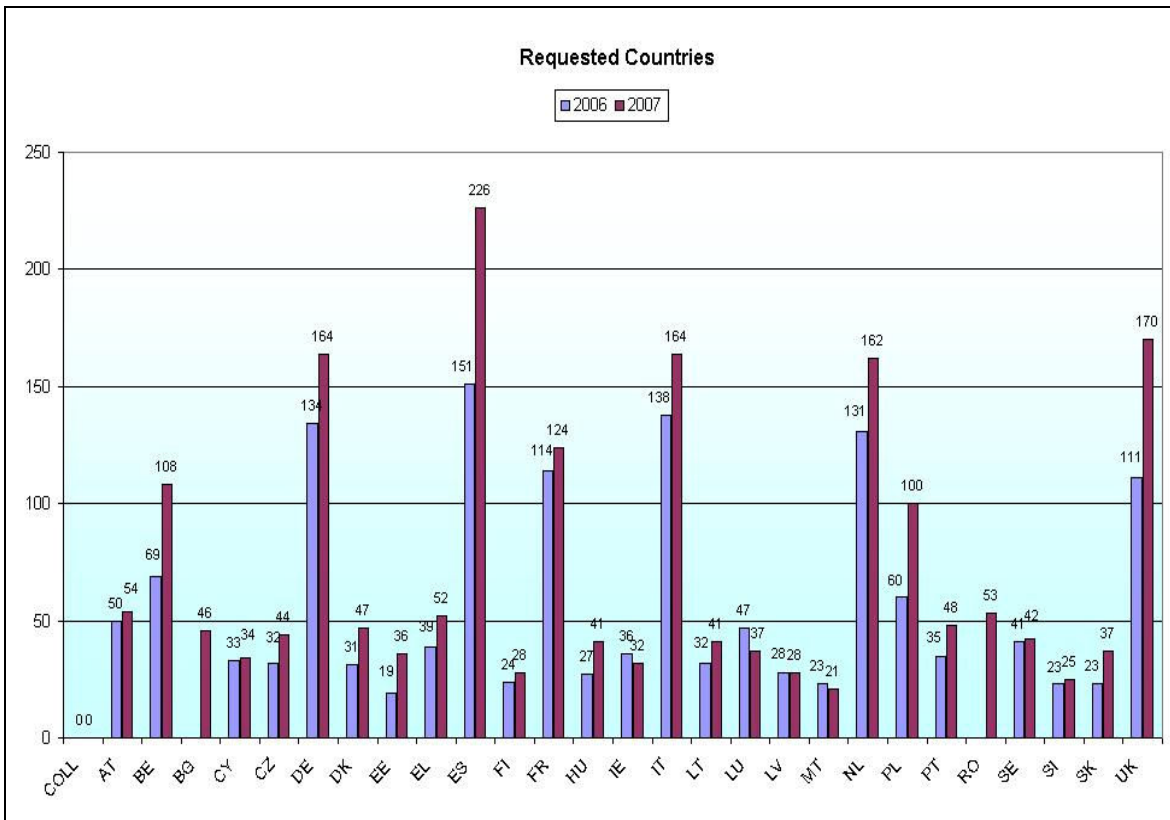


Figure 9

Figure 9 shows the number of times that a National Desk was requested to provide assistance.

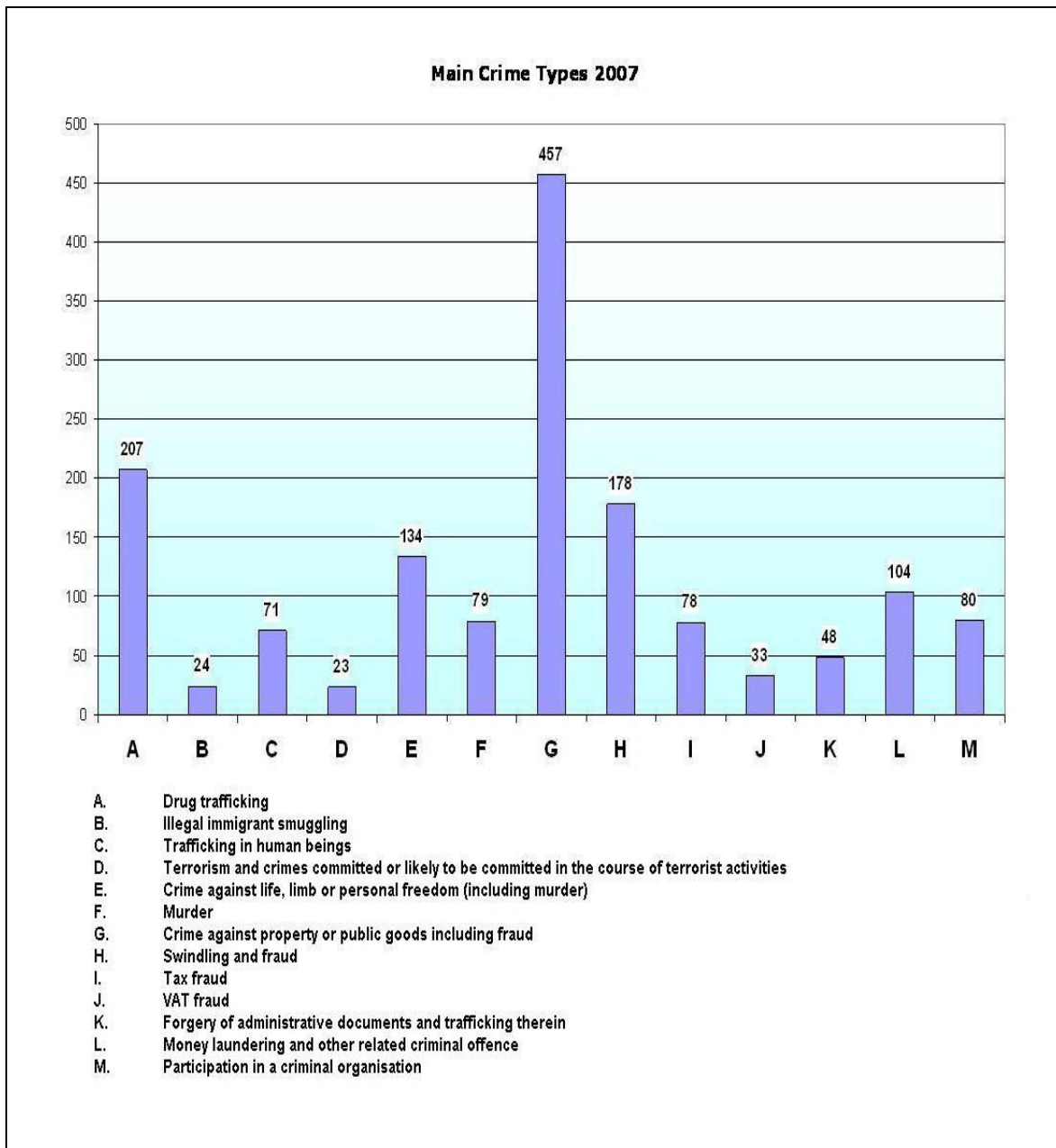


Figure 10

Criminal activities dealt with by Eurojust followed a similar pattern as in the previous years.

Eurojust registered 49 different types of criminal activities in 2007. One case can have links to several other crime types, and a National Member can identify subsidiary offenses besides the main offence.

In general, referrals of all types of criminal activities increased in 2007, some significantly, such as trafficking in human beings and money laundering. However, drug trafficking and crime against property or public goods including fraud cases still represent the highest percentage of criminal activities referred to Eurojust.

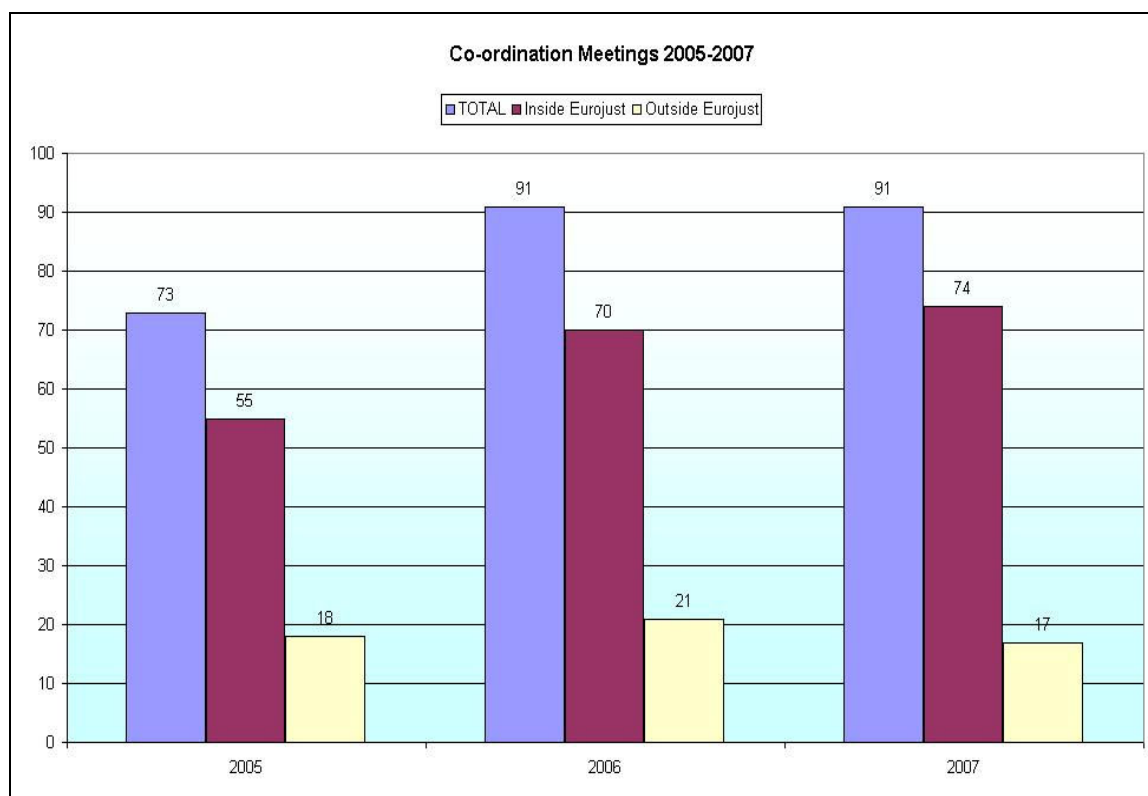


Figure 11

The number of co-ordination meetings did not increase compared to 2006: 91 co-ordination meetings were organised or supported by Eurojust, of which 74 took place on our premises and 17 in the Member States. Increased capacity of some National Desks, the contacts established over the years and previous successes in cases made it possible for National Desks to co-ordinate cases without a need to organise a co-ordination meeting.

Video conferencing facilities at Eurojust were tested in the frame of a co-ordination meeting, and opened new channels of communication with the Member States (*see* Chapter 3).

Most of the co-ordination meetings (50) held in 2007 were multilateral and involved between 3 and 30 countries.

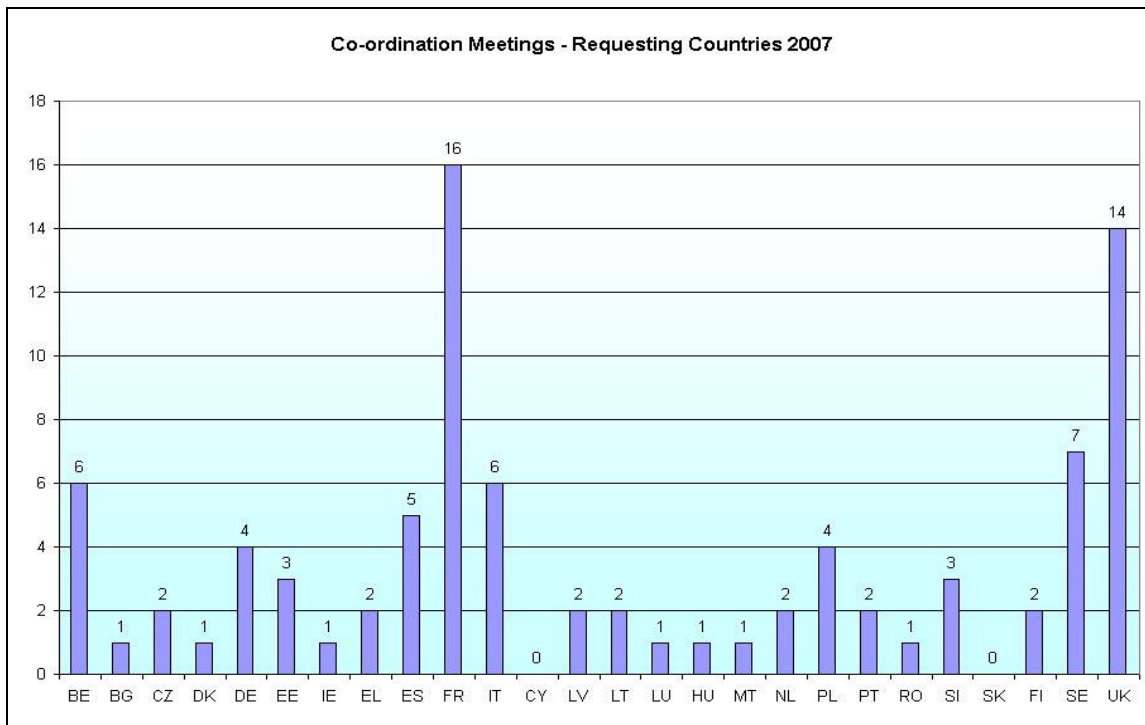


Figure 12

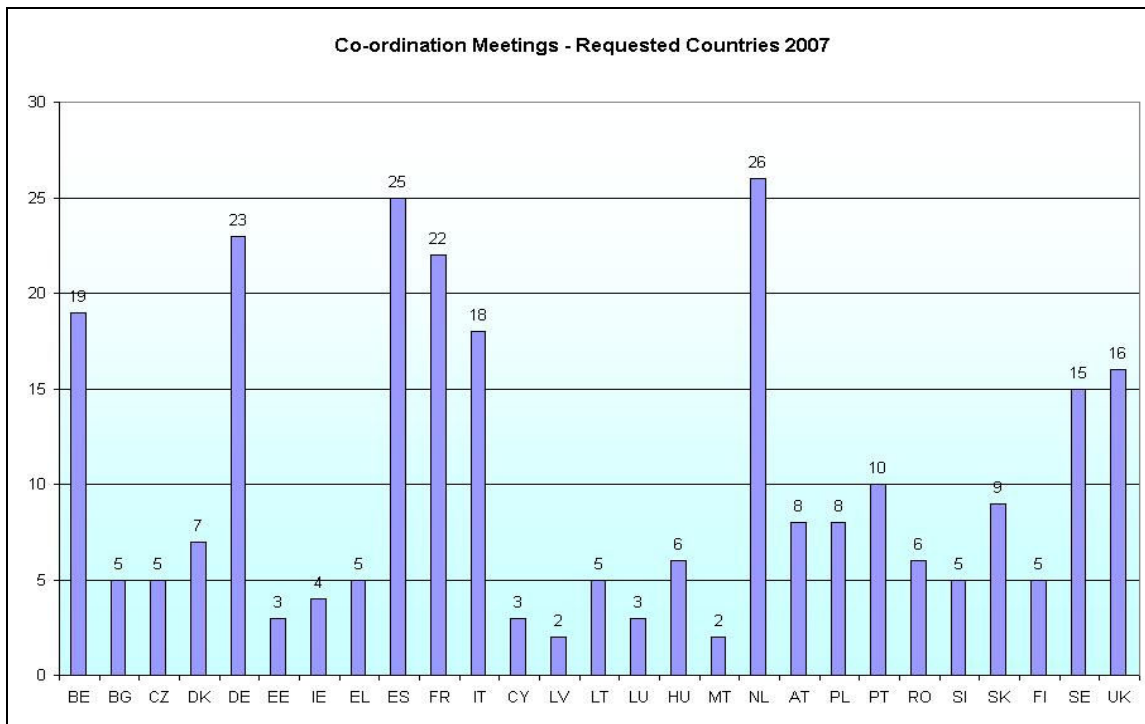


Figure 13

Cases that required co-ordination meetings were mainly related to crime against property or public goods including fraud (30), drug trafficking (24), money laundering (17), crime against life, limb or personal freedom (5), trafficking in human beings (5), and terrorism (4).

In relation to the involvement of third States in Eurojust’s operational work, there has been a significant increase in cases registered by National Members involving third States outside the European Union, compared to previous years, as well as a greater need for their participation in co-ordination meetings. In 2007 Eurojust requested the involvement of third States on 188 occasions, compared to 60 requests in 2005 and 117 in 2006.

European Bodies and International Organisations

	2005	2006	2007	Co-ordination meetings in 2007
Europol	6	7	25	12
IberRed	1	1	0	
OLAF	6	2	4	1
United Nations	0	0	1	1
Interpol	0	0	1	0
Nordic Customs and Police Cooperation	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	13	10	32	14

Table 1

Table 1 illustrates the other bodies within the European Union and other international organisations that were requested in Eurojust operational cases and that took part in co-ordination meetings.

Formal Requests re Articles 6 and 7 of the Eurojust Decision

During 2007, three case recommendations were issued under Article 6(a) of the Eurojust Decision.

The first recommendation, based on Article 6(a)(ii), relates to a case of fraud. The National Member for Portugal recommended Portuguese authorities to accept that they were in a better position to prosecute a case transmitted by French authorities.

The second recommendation, based on Article 6(a)(i), is related to a British case of murder, counterfeiting and fraud. Here, the Spanish National Member asked Spanish authorities to undertake an investigation or prosecution of specific acts.

The third recommendation, also based on Article 6(a)(i), relates to a Spanish case of child pornography on the internet. In this case, the Portuguese National Member requested Portuguese authorities to undertake an investigation of specific acts.

During 2007 two cases were handled by the College under Article 7 according to Article 5(1)(b)(i) of the Eurojust Decision.

The first recommendation, based on Article 7 and agreed by the College, is related to a German case. Here, the College decided to recommend to the French and Spanish authorities that Germany was better placed to deal with the totality of offences alleged against the German national (*see* Chapter 2, Case 12).

The second case relates to a British VAT carousel fraud involving 18 Member States. This extremely important case was adopted by the College in accordance with Article 5(1)(b)(i) of the Eurojust Decision, thereby making available to the College its full range of powers under Article 7 of the Eurojust Decision (*see* Chapter 2, Case 10).

European Arrest Warrant Notification of Breaches of Time Limits

In 2007 the following 8 Member States reported breaches of time limits to Eurojust: Czech Republic (14); Portugal (3); Sweden (3); Romania (2); Ireland (1); Belgium (1); Spain (1); France (1).

It is, however, unlikely that only 8 Member States out of 27 encountered problems in the execution of European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) in the time frame given by the Council's Decision. We therefore believe that the judicial bodies of most Member States have omitted to inform Eurojust in accordance with Article 17/7 of the EAW Framework Decision. In the future, Eurojust encourages all judicial authorities to inform about breaches of time limits.

Joint Investigation Teams

Statistics show that the initiatives of the last years to promote the setting up of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) have borne fruit. Today, practitioners recognise JITs as a valuable co-operation measure for cross-border investigation and use it more frequently. It is interesting and promising that Eurojust's involvement in the establishment of JITs is increasing. So far there are 14 cases entered in the Case Management System (CMS) where the creation of a JIT was considered by respective National Members. Of those 14 cases, 2 were generated in 2006 and another 10 in 2007, indicating a strong upward trend. The types of crime recorded are drug trafficking, fraud, money laundering, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting and organised robbery.

Positive results were also reflected by the Third Experts Meeting on JITs, which took place on 29 and 30 November 2007. This meeting, jointly organised by Eurojust and Europol, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission, focused on the exchange of experience on running a JIT and procedures for setting up and operating a JIT, and provided a platform for experts to discuss legal and practical difficulties and solutions.

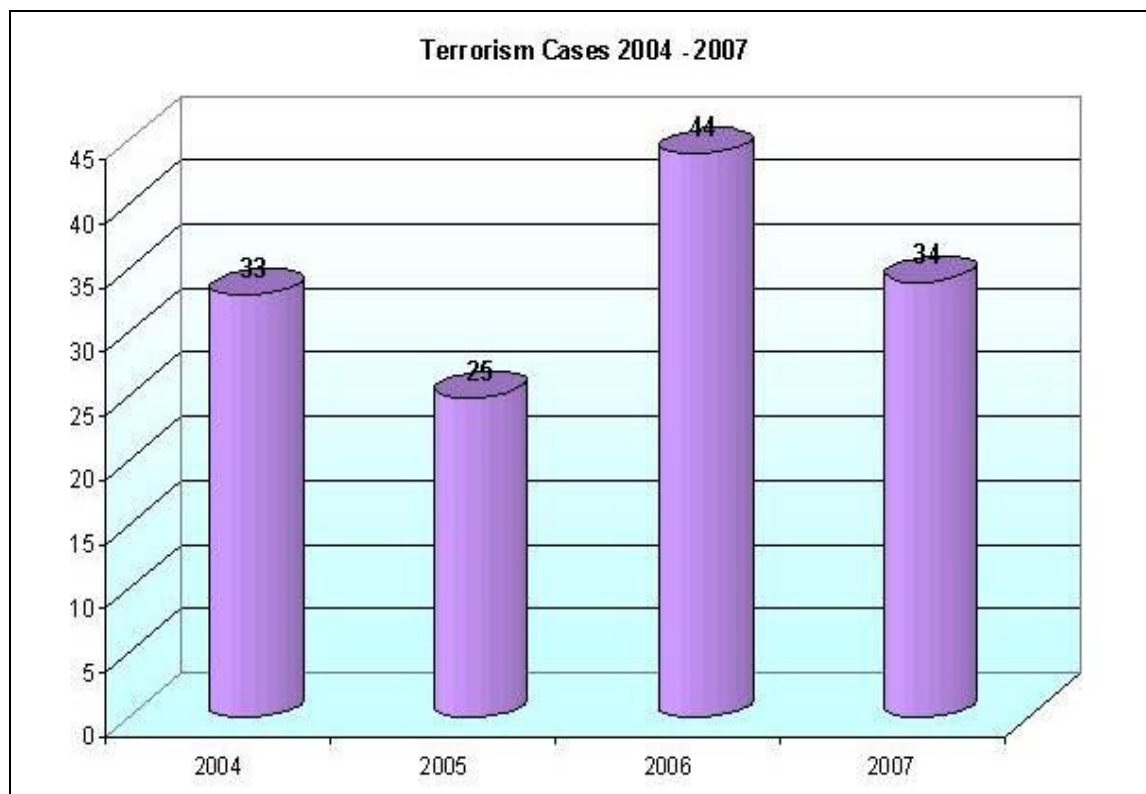
Eurojust and Europol's co-operative projects continued as well. The guide on EU Member States' legislation on Joint Investigation Teams will be updated and published on Eurojust and Europol's joint JITs webpage, which was launched 28 November 2007. A manual is also being produced that will guide practitioners on how to set up a JIT. Furthermore, the possibility for Eurojust to obtain Community funding to co-finance JITs under the Commission Programme, "Prevention of and Fight against Crime", is being explored and a first step was taken in 2007 by Eurojust becoming a framework partner.

Main Crime Areas

Below you will find information on specific criminal offences and activities connected to each of the following areas: Terrorism, Counterfeiting, Drug Trafficking, Trafficking in Human Beings, Money Laundering, Crime against Property or Public Goods including Fraud, and Crime against Life, Limb or Personal Freedom.

These types of criminality involve a large number of cases. The effort to support national authorities in these cases has high priority for Eurojust.

Terrorism



Terrorism poses a serious threat to democracy, human rights, and economic and social development. Given that most terrorist groups are active in several countries, Eurojust has an important added value in co-ordinating cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

Terrorism Cases 2007	Total
Financing of terrorism	5
Terrorism and crimes committed or likely to be committed in the course of terrorist activities	23
Other types	6

In 2007 Eurojust registered 34 new operational cases, compared to 44 in 2006.

Cases were connected to various forms of terrorist activity. Eurojust's aim is to establish a centre of expertise on terrorism, following trends and patterns in all fields of terrorism including terrorism financing, cyber terrorism and nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism.

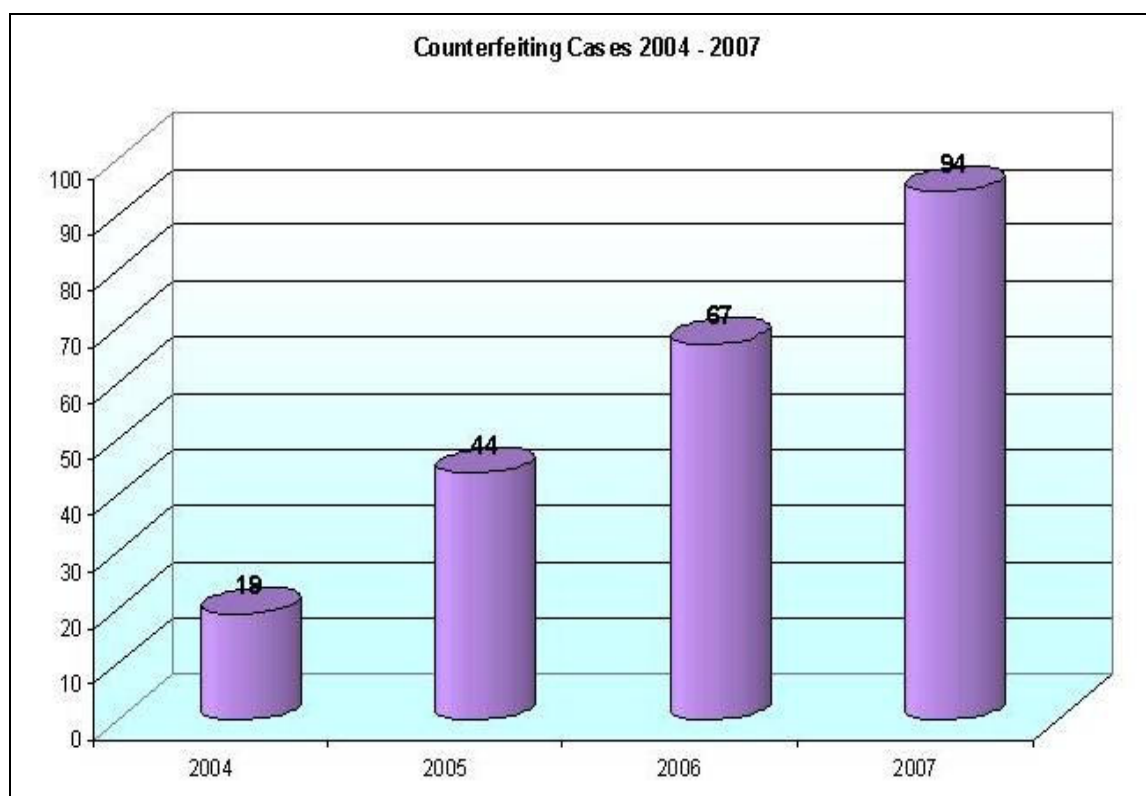
To achieve this goal, strategic and tactical meetings were organised to promote and reinforce judicial co-operation among Member States, while offering a platform for the exchange of information and good practices.

One strategic meeting was organised on terrorism, including all Member States as well as the Liaison Prosecutors for Norway and the United States. Europol was also represented. The focus was on the implementation of the JHA Council Decision of 20/9/2005 on information exchange.

A tactical meeting brought 19 Member States, third States and Europol together to discuss an ethno-nationalistic separatist terrorist group. The main objective was to provide a platform for prosecutors and national experts dealing with cases related to this group, to discuss concrete cases, and to exchange information and experience related to the criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions of individuals or groups linked to this terrorist group in their countries. In 2007 4 co-ordination meetings were also held.

Furthermore, a project on information exchange regarding terrorism was finished. Based on its results, Member States were encouraged to improve the flow of information to Eurojust.

Counterfeiting



Counterfeiting is a major world-wide economic problem that requires intensive international co-operation in the area of law enforcement. The number of Eurojust counterfeiting cases is on the increase.

Counterfeiting Cases 2007	Total
Forgery of administrative documents and trafficking therein	48
Forgery of money and means of payment	38
Counterfeiting and product piracy	8

In 2007 Eurojust registered 94 new counterfeiting cases compared to 67 in 2006.

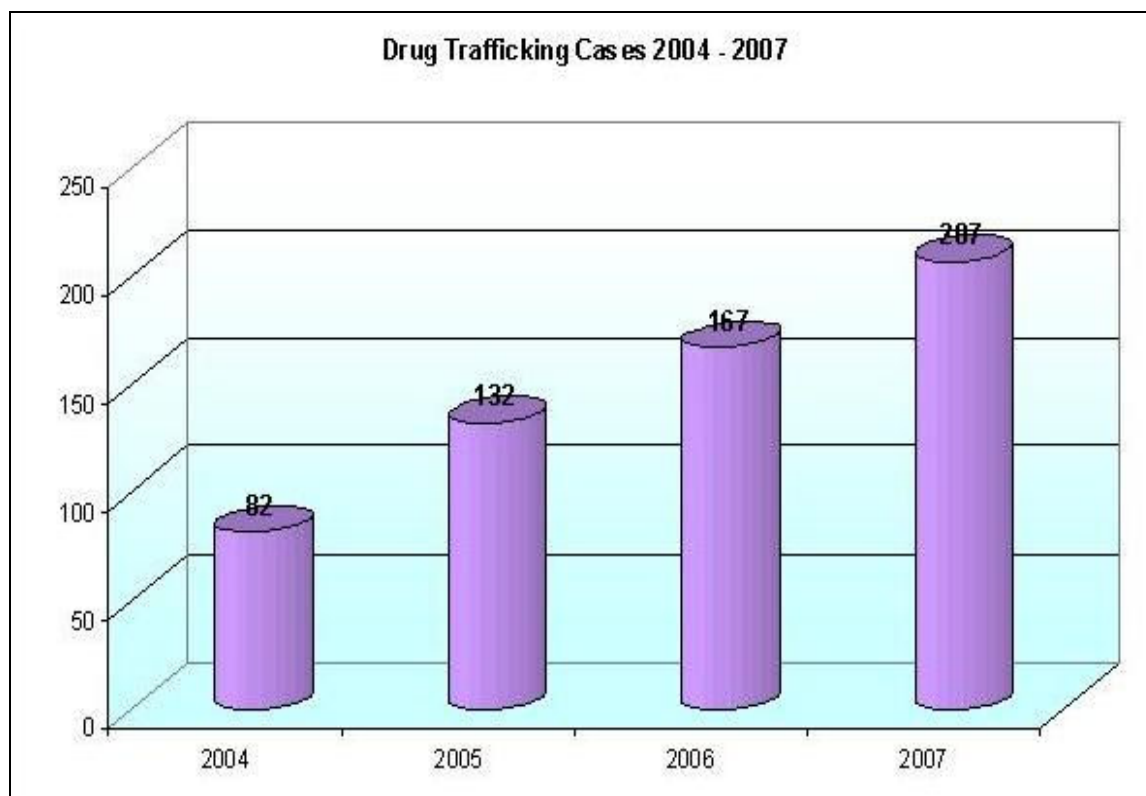
Eurojust's cases on forgery and trafficking of administrative documents were mainly connected to economic crimes against property or public goods, swindling and fraud, organised robbery, participation in criminal organisations and illegal smuggling of immigrants.

With regard to forgery of money and the means of payment Eurojust registered 38 new cases in 2007 *inter alia* related to Euro counterfeiting. To protect the Euro against counterfeiting, the EU is promoting a series of important measures such as a system for exchanging and centralising information, improving analytical standards for the withdrawal of counterfeit notes and coins and, of course, activities in co-operation with third States. Eurojust encourages co-operation between relevant authorities in the Member States, in particular between the National Central Offices established under the Geneva Convention, the European Central Bank and the European Commission, for the purpose of strategic analysis and mutual assistance in the prevention of counterfeiting.

Eurojust's co-operation activities with Europol to fight Euro counterfeiting are strong and effective, with several ongoing cases where information is exchanged.

Eurojust organised four co-ordination meetings on counterfeiting.

Drug Trafficking



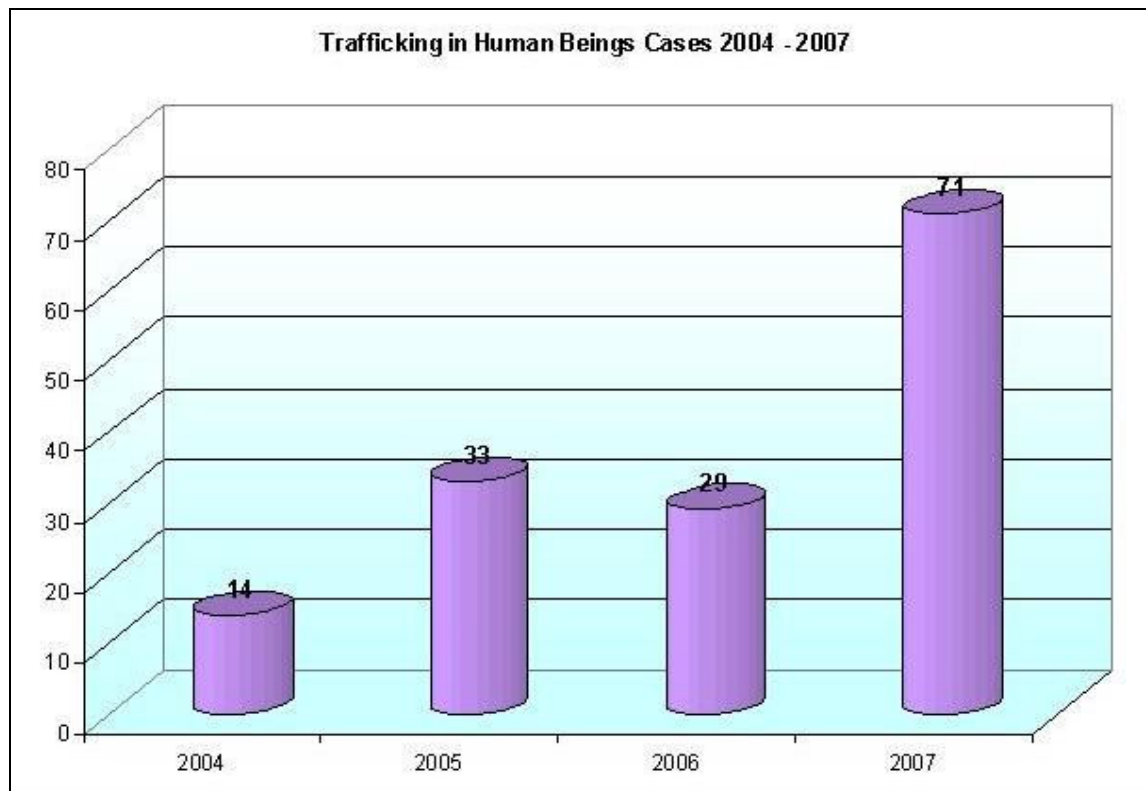
Eurojust aims to establish a centre of expertise on drug trafficking by providing case analysis to identify links and MLA blockages, enhancing the exchange of information, organising meetings to promote experiences and good practices, acting quickly and efficiently in the event of transnational cases, setting up a legal database with an overview of available legal instruments on drug trafficking, and strengthening co-operation with Europol, EMCDDA and FRONTEX in matters of drug trafficking.

In 2007 Eurojust opened 207 new drug trafficking cases, compared to 167 in 2006.

The casework on drug trafficking has continued to increase in line with the general caseload of Eurojust. France registered the highest number of cases, followed by Germany, while Spain was the National Desk most requested by other National Members, followed by the Netherlands.

Twenty-four co-ordination meetings were held.

Trafficking in Human Beings



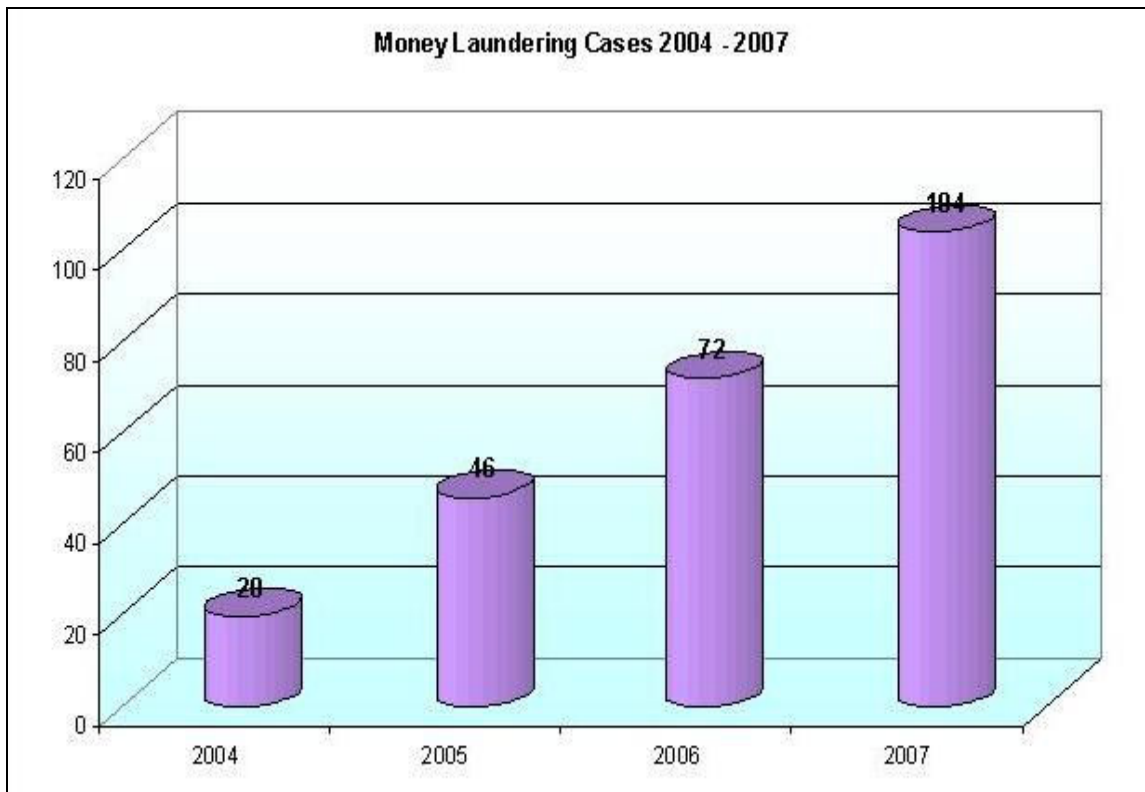
Eurojust aims to establish a centre of expertise on trafficking in human beings (THB) and related issues by, for example, providing case analysis and exchanging information, organising strategic and tactical meetings, establishing a central contact point for missing persons, setting up a legal database with an overview of available legal instruments on THB, and strengthening co-operation with other European and international crime-fighting organisations in matters of THB.

Trafficking in human beings as defined by EU law is not only a crime aimed at the sexual or labour exploitation of persons, mainly women and children; it is also a fundamental violation of human rights.

Eurojust opened 71 trafficking in human beings cases, compared to 29 in 2006, which is an increase of almost 150%.

Five co-ordination meetings took place on the subject of trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, 24 cases were registered on illegal immigrant smuggling compared to 14 in 2006. On the latter crime type 5 co-ordination meetings took place.

Money Laundering



Laundering of money is often done by means of cross-border transactions and activities. Countering this criminal activity requires substantial international co-operation and co-ordination between the Member States' judicial authorities in areas such as the exchange of information and the collection of criminal records, convictions and indictments to link criminals' money laundering activities in one Member State with offences committed in other countries.

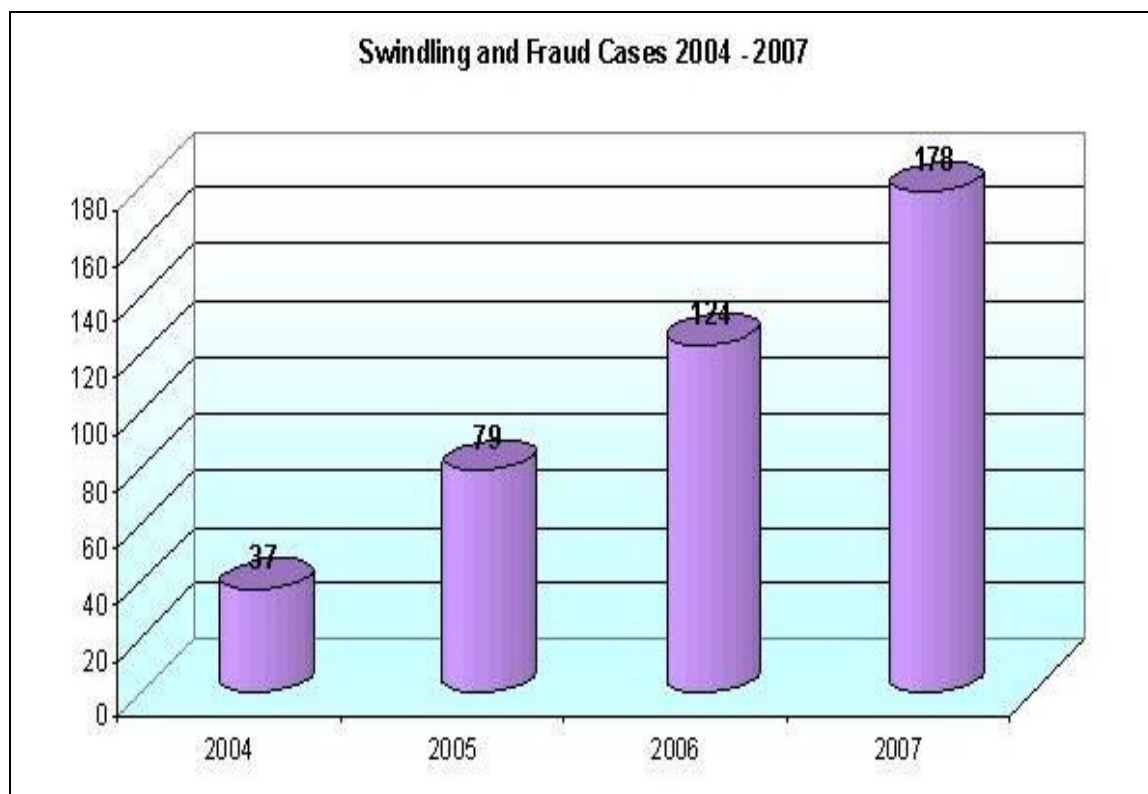
In 2007 Eurojust registered 104 new money laundering cases, which is an increase of 44% compared to 2006.

Eurojust organised 17 co-ordination meetings on money laundering, with participation from 22 Member States as well as such third States as the USA, Switzerland and Ukraine.

Spain is the Member State most often involved in money laundering cases. Due to geography, the presence of numerous organised criminal groups and an abundance of bank facilities Costa del Sol has become one of the most attractive European regions for illegal money practices.

On a Spanish initiative Eurojust organised a tactical meeting on Best Practices for Anti-Money Laundering Investigations in Costa del Sol. Delegates representing 14 Member States made the following observations: the majority of money laundering activities take place on the Mediterranean coast and the Canary Islands; these activities are usually connected to drug trafficking; the cases referred to Eurojust show that these activities are executed by professionals; and international trusts based in offshore tax havens act as “shell” corporations connecting the holders of illegal funds with well-known law firms in Costa del Sol and on the Mediterranean coast.

Crime against Property or Public Goods including Fraud



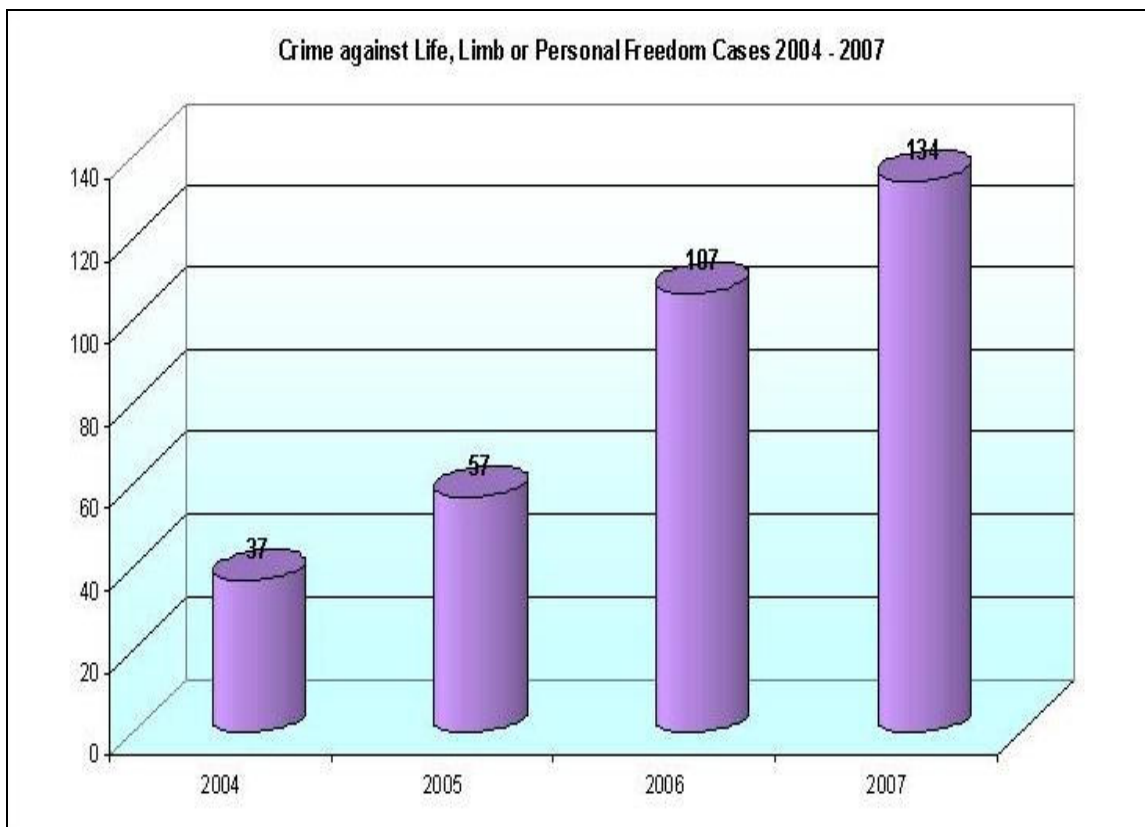
Eurojust has always had relatively many cases of swindling and fraud. In 2007 Eurojust received a total of 178 new cases on this main crime type, an increase of 44% compared to 2006.

Swindling and Fraud Cases 2007	Total
<i>Swindling and Fraud including:</i>	178
Tax Fraud	78
Computer Fraud	19
Advanced Fee Fraud	18
Misappropriation of Corporate Assets	26
VAT Fraud	33

Eurojust registered a wide variety of fraud cases. Almost two-thirds of all swindling and fraud cases concerned tax fraud and VAT fraud. This year a VAT carousel fraud case was registered by the UK Desk and later adopted as a “College case” under Article 5(1)(b)(i) of the Eurojust Decision (*see* Chapter 2, Case 10).

Fourteen co-ordination meetings to support co-operation and co-ordination in criminal cases relating to swindling and fraud were organised.

Crime against Life, Limb or Personal Freedom



In 2007 Eurojust registered 134 cases of crime against life, limb or personal freedom compared to 107 in 2006.

Crime against Life, Limb or Personal Freedom Cases 2007	Total
Murder	79
Grievous bodily harm	39
Kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking	16

The Eurojust statistics on this main crime type can be divided into the above crimes. Out of the 134 cases registered under this crime type, 79 cases involved murder. A “serial killer” case was brought before the College for a decision to prevent conflicts of jurisdiction (*see* Chapter 2, Case 12).

In 2007 5 co-ordination meetings were organised by Eurojust in cases involving crime against life, limb or personal freedom.

Casework Illustrations Introduction

A selection of casework and contributions to complex national investigations is presented below, covering a wide range of serious cross-border crimes.

Case 1 – Drug Trafficking

In mid-2006 Slovenian police authorities started an investigation of suspected members of an organised international criminal association engaged in the transport of illicit drugs from Kosovo through Slovenia to Italy and other countries in Western Europe

At an early stage of the investigation, three Slovenian couriers were arrested in Italy, one of whom later revealed important information about the operations of the criminal organisation, run by Albanian nationals operating in Ljubljana. From the Slovenian capital, criminals organised the transport of heroin through a network in Kosovo that also provided the heroin and arranged sales in Italy and Switzerland. Couriers were engaged in Slovenia by sub-organisers.

By the end of 2006, 13 couriers had been arrested, eight in Italy, two in Sweden, two in Switzerland and one in Slovenia, and 140 kilos of heroin, hidden in automobiles, were seized. More couriers were arrested in Italy but they could not be connected to the organised criminal association. Another successful investigation in Ljubljana on 29 June 2007 resulted in eight arrests.

Eurojust was initially approached by the Slovenian prosecutor, and organised a quick co-ordination meeting between the two countries' legal authorities, since proceedings were being held simultaneously against the same drug trafficking organisation in Slovenia and Italy. The meeting established the kind of information and evidence that could be used or exchanged and was essential to the Slovenian prosecutor's case. As a consequence of Eurojust's efforts, the Slovenian prosecutor was able to substantiate a request for investigation and later to accuse members of the organisation of drug trafficking.

Case 2 – Drug Trafficking – Controlled Delivery

A controlled delivery with national authorities in Sweden, Belgium and Germany resulted in the apprehension of drug traffickers

Customs authorities in Gothenburg discovered a container with 200 kg of cocaine on a ship from Peru. As a tactical move, the authorities replaced the drugs with a fake drug substitute. The customs authorities and the prosecutor in Sweden believed that the narcotics were bound for Antwerp, but they did not know the identities of the traffickers.

Eurojust quickly established contact between the involved countries, and requests for MLA were handed over to each country. Eurojust assisted in the making of prompt agreements between Sweden, Belgium and Germany on controlled delivery, including permissions for technical surveillance equipment. Belgian and German authorities saw the transportation as an aggravated drug trafficking crime. Europol was involved to facilitate co-operation between the different police forces.

The container was shipped to Antwerp and then transported by road to Düsseldorf, where German police authorities arrested a handful of persons as they were opening the container.

The operation led to successful criminal investigations in both Germany and Sweden, where ongoing criminal proceedings are taking place.

Case 3 – Terrorism

A large-scale international anti-terrorist action resulted in the arrest of 26 suspects

On 3 November 2007 Eurojust was requested to assist in an operation, initiated by the Prosecution Office and investigating magistrate in Milan, Italy, following investigations in Genoa. Several European Arrest Warrants were issued by the court in Milan. Eurojust was able to co-ordinate, in only a few days, simultaneous arrests in Italy, France, Romania, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

The suspects were members of a criminal organisation specialising in forgery of residence permits, ID cards and passports. They were also involved in THB and smuggling of cigarettes. All these actions were designed to collect funds to be used in terrorist actions. By trafficking in human beings, the organisation was also able to smuggle members of its organisation into Italy.

The organisation's goal was to commit terrorist actions in Italy, Afghanistan, Iraq and other Arabic countries. They were well structured, with clearly defined roles for the different sections. The investigation showed a clear link to Al-Qaeda. The group was also involved in the recruitment and training of "sleeper cells", consisting of future members, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Documents found during the arrests showed manuals for making explosives as well as paramilitary training schemes.

Case 4 – Trafficking in Human Beings

French, Italian and Bulgarian judicial authorities cracked down on an illicit trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (THB) operation involving 100 Bulgarian women abused by Bulgarian nationals operating in France and Italy

Profits from the criminal activities amounted to approximately € 10 million between 2002 and 2006. After thorough investigations into the criminal organisation's operations, 13 European Arrest Warrants were issued by French authorities, of which six were already executed and three are pending issuance by the Bulgarian authorities. One suspect continued to conduct illicit operations from prison via fax and telephone.

According to intelligence sources, the criminal group was organised in a hierarchical structure with family connections among members. The main organisation was devoted to THB, but had links to another organisation in Albania that was involved in money laundering.

Through illicit operations the leaders had amassed great wealth, and used threats against witnesses as well as violence against group members, including murder and grievous bodily harm, and forced women into prostitution, to maintain their position. The Bulgarian network, however, was also using business structures for the purpose of money laundering.

At present, efficient co-operation is taking place between judicial authorities in Bulgaria, Italy and France with the assistance of Eurojust.

Case 5 – Money Laundering

Co-ordination meetings proved useful in several money laundering cases

A case involving Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland later led to an investigation into money launderers managed by a well-known law firm in Costa del Sol and international trusts.

International trusts primarily are based in offshore tax havens and act as “shell” corporations connecting the account holders of illegal funds with, in this case, a Spanish law firm. Offshore tax havens such as the Channel Islands, the Virgin Islands and the State of Delaware in the United States provide anonymity and secrecy to stakeholders who invest their illegal profits. The money launderers of illegal funds are authorised to withdraw money from bank accounts opened by these “shell” corporations and trusts.

A co-ordination meeting gave its participants the necessary information to understand the complexity and sophistication of money laundering while establishing a platform for co-operation in the future.

A second money laundering case involved Spain, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Here the goals of the co-ordination meeting, held in The Hague, were to request assistance, to exchange information, to collect criminal records, convictions and indictments concerning possible crimes, and to link money-laundering activities in Spain with offences committed in other European countries.

Case 6 – Fraud

A successful joint action by Eurojust and Europol led to the dismantling of a credit card fraud network in Romania

Following questioning in Lyon, France, in June 2006 of three Romanian nationals in possession of large amounts of money, a search and subsequent investigation led to the discovery of a network of international trafficking in counterfeit credit cards.

In order to co-ordinate the activities of the police and judicial authorities in Romania, Italy, Germany, Austria and Spain, the Organised Crime Authority of Lyon (JIRS) contacted Eurojust. In response Eurojust organised, in December 2006, a co-ordination meeting with the authorities involved. Analysis by Europol shed light upon the different aspects of the case, identified actors involved and gathered evidence showing links to various countries.

On 5 February 2007 a joint action plan was co-ordinated in Romania and Italy by Eurojust, involving simultaneous house searches and questionings and leading to the discovery of an office in Craiova, Romania, where a number of counterfeit cards and special devices used to commit fraud involving cash withdrawal machines were found. The identities of two of the main suspects were disclosed and European Arrest Warrants were issued.

The early intervention by Europol and Eurojust permitted both European organisations to effectively support the French authorities. Furthermore, the results highlight the importance of co-operation among the Member States, and the importance of analytical resources and effective co-ordination of investigative activities.

Case 7 – Counterfeiting

French authorities uncovered an internet network selling counterfeit pills

In 2007 a French judicial investigation by the Public Health Department of the Public Prosecutor unveiled a ring of international traffickers of counterfeit pharmaceutical products, produced in unhygienic environments and then sold and consumed without any medical control. The counterfeiting of pills constitutes a serious fraud and an important health risk, as the drugs are made widely available via the internet to all consumers, including minors.

Following synchronised international letters rogatory by two investigating magistrates, four simultaneous police actions were performed on 24, 25 and 26 April 2007 in Sweden, the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark, all prepared and co-ordinated by Eurojust and involving eleven French investigators.

These actions led to a series of searches in Sweden, the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark and two arrests in Sweden based on European Arrest Warrants, finally resulting in the dismantling of an internet network selling counterfeit pills. The drug, “Rimonabant”, is an appetite-suppressing drug.

Internet crime is, by definition, anonymous and borderless, and therefore requires an adapted judicial response. At Eurojust, preparatory meetings were held with all the Member States involved to assess the situation and develop countermeasures. These meetings showed an exceptionally high level of co-operation.

For the first time, the efficiency of international co-operation in the domain of drug fraud showed the need to build and further establish a European judicial area to tackle this type of crime. For the countries concerned, the joint judicial and operational response resulted in effective actions against cybercrime in the area of public health.

Case 8 – Cybercrime

In July 2007 Milan's prosecution office executed 26 custodial orders against Italian and Romanian citizens responsible for fraud against hundreds of online users of home banking services

The investigation was a first attempt to structurally tackle the phenomenon of organised criminal gangs involved in "phishing", i.e. the use of forged websites to collect credit card numbers and passwords from clients of internet banking facilities.

Eurojust played an extremely important role in the co-ordination of joint actions by the different Member States involved. Eurojust's role was to facilitate the exchange of information, often in real time, between Romania and Italy.

The investigation led to subsequent house searches, telephone intercepts and analysis of online conversations in Italy and Romania, yielding information vital to the ongoing investigations. The results also proved to be of essential importance in identifying, locating and arresting one so-called "phisher" operating from Romania.

In the aftermath, 24 people were charged with criminal association, falsification of IT communication content, unauthorised access to IT systems, aggravated fraud, and unauthorised use of credit cards.

Case 9 – Child Pornography

A worldwide child offender network was dismantled

Operation "Koala" began in 2006 when a child abuse video was discovered in Australia. A Belgian perpetrator and two victims were identified. Consequently, the producer of the material, a 42-year-old Italian national, was arrested by Italian authorities in Bologna. The suspect, who made more than 150 sexually explicit videos of underage girls and sold the videos worldwide via his website, was arrested and is facing prosecution. At the end of 2006 Eurojust started the judicial co-ordinations.

After the arrest, Italian authorities forwarded all the confiscated digitalised material, including customer details, to Europol, which then analysed and disseminated the material to the countries where customers had been identified.

Soon after, Eurojust, working in close co-operation with Europol, invited representatives from 28 countries to three co-ordination meetings in The Hague, resulting in simultaneous and co-ordinated actions in 19 countries within and outside the European Union.

In the co-ordinated actions, 2 500 “customers” in 19 countries were identified; thousands of computers, videos and photographs were seized, and more than a million files and pictures were retrieved. In addition, 23 underage victims, between 9 and 16 years of age, were identified.

On 5 November 2007 a joint Eurojust-Europol press conference took place. Operation “Koala” is a prime example of how the difficult challenges presented by international organised criminals using the internet can be tackled.

Case 10 – VAT Carousel Fraud

A co-ordination meeting in March 2007 on an international VAT carousel fraud case estimated at € 2.1 billion led to concrete actions

The case, which was originally registered by the UK Desk, was later adopted as a “College case” under Article 5(1)(b)(i) of the Eurojust Decision. The co-ordination meeting gathered representatives from 18 Member States, Switzerland and Europol.

A large sum of money was seized in the Arab Emirates, whose authorities also assisted. Several VAT carousel frauds operating through the Member States led to the laundering of funds through bank accounts in the Netherlands Antilles and Dubai.

By their very nature, these crimes are difficult to trace because of the many money flows taking place, the deliberate attempts of the perpetrators to hide their activities and the use of remote, foreign bank accounts. However, by sharing information, the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the Member States can stay one step ahead of criminals.

Those attending the meeting exchanged information about ongoing investigations and prosecutions both within the EU and beyond and agreed a co-ordinated approach to co-operation measures to effectively support each other's ongoing and future investigations/prosecutions.

Case 11 – European Arrest Warrant

Successful co-ordination in Operation “Baltico” against criminals responsible for more than 200 armed robberies in the course of two years at up-market jewellery shops resulted in multiple arrests

In June 2006 Eurojust scheduled meetings in the Netherlands and Italy to co-ordinate, along with Europol and the Member States, a common approach to these armed robberies. During these meetings, it became clear that Italy was best placed to investigate and prosecute all cases.

On 20 February 2007 an Italian judge issued 35 European Arrest Warrants to 6 Member States: Estonia (25), Finland (4), France (2), Spain (2), Lithuania (1) and Germany (1). The European Arrest Warrants, co-ordinated by Eurojust and Europol, were executed simultaneously and involved police and judicial forces in Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Spain, France and Germany.

Operation “Baltico” was the largest police action in Estonia on a European level. It led to the arrest of all key figures of the criminal organisation.

Case 12 – Serial Killer

Prevention of conflict of jurisdiction led to the successful outcome of a Europe-wide serial killer case with at least 19 victims in 3 countries

A 48-year-old German lorry driver, travelling regularly from Germany to France and Spain, was arrested for the murder of at least 19 persons and other attempted murders between 1974 and 2006. Most of his victims were prostitutes. The suspect, while disposing of one of his victims, was recorded by a CCTV camera operated by a private Spanish company. The man was identified and arrested by German police following an MLA request and a European Arrest Warrant issued by the Spanish authorities. When confronted with the evidence, he confessed to five other murders in Spain and France as well as one in Germany.

The murders took place mainly in Spain, France and Germany, but other countries may also be involved. To prevent a conflict of jurisdiction, the German prosecution office asked Eurojust for support, primarily by co-ordinating the exchange of information and proceedings. This was important especially regarding time pressure for indictment as the suspect was under pre-trial detention.

During a co-ordination meeting on 14 March 2007 the involved National Members discussed with their national colleagues from the Spanish, French and German police, as well as prosecutors and judges, the state of affairs and existing problems of the case. They considered all relevant arguments, also including the interests of the victims and their relatives. By a unanimous College decision, Eurojust decided that Germany was best placed to prosecute the suspect and they asked involved judicial authorities to accept their advice.

Case 13 – Organised Criminal Network

Successful co-operation destabilised a criminal network in Belgium resulting in several arrests and the seizure of large amounts of drugs, weapons and other stolen objects

In July 2006 an investigation was started in Belgium against an Albanian criminal network operating in Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and the UK. The criminal organisation was involved in drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering, trafficking of illegal arms and trafficking in stolen vehicles, document fraud and organised transnational burglary.

Several co-ordination meetings were organised at Eurojust in 2006 and 2007 to enhance close co-operation between the countries concerned. Europol was actively involved in all of these meetings.

On 13 June 2007 simultaneous actions in seven Member States were conducted based on European Arrest Warrants by the investigating magistrate in Liege, Belgium. The Europe-wide co-ordinated police and judicial action led to several arrests, and the seizure of large amounts of drugs, weapons and other stolen objects. A joint Eurojust-Europol press release was disseminated.

A co-ordinated and coherent approach between Eurojust, Europol and national authorities contributed to the success of operations while showing the added value of co-operation in areas such as the exchange of police information and the centralisation of the case.

Eurojust and Europol will continue to support national authorities in their fight against criminal networks by following this strategy.

3 ADMINISTRATION

General Developments

During 2007 the administration made a substantial contribution to the achievements of the strategic objectives set by the College for 2007 - 2008. In addition, multiple projects were successfully monitored on the basis of its Work Programme 2007.

Support to the operational work of the National Members and the College improved considerably. Case Management Analysts provided added value to the casework and furthered the development of the Case Management System by contributing to the extension of functionalities, organising courses and making better use of the system. Seven new Case Management Assistants were recruited. The capacity of the National Desks has also been enhanced by the recruitment of Seconded National Experts (SNEs).

Making progress on the final Eurojust headquarters was a major challenge in 2007. Eurojust will move some of its staff to satellite offices as the capacity of the current premises has been reached. Eurojust appreciates the firm commitment of the host state to provide new suitable premises by 2012, in line with the spatial and security requirements laid down in the program of requirements.

In 2007 the position of Internal Control Co-ordinator was published, with the goal of putting in place a robust internal control and quality management system. The new post-holder will be responsible for co-ordinating the audit activities of the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors. In addition, procedures and workflows will be strengthened.

Eurojust planned to initiate a review of the organisational structure of the institution in 2007 in order for Eurojust to achieve its objectives. But when the European Commission announced, in early 2007, an evaluation of Eurojust, this internal review was temporarily postponed to assess the potential impact of two simultaneous exercises and to analyse the best way forward. In the meantime the Commission has cancelled the proposed evaluation. The Eurojust-initiated internal organisational structure review will now take place during 2008.

In May 2007 the Security Committee was formally established by the College. The Security Committee is composed of nominees from the College, the Heads of Security and Information Management, a member of the Legal Service and the Data Protection Officer, and is chaired by the Administrative Director. The Security Committee has focused on the further development of Eurojust Security Rules, and has, so far, provided advice to the College and the Administrative Director on ICT risk assessment methodology, secure mobile telephony, the secure links to the Schengen Information System and to Europol and the pilot member state connection to the Slovak Republic.

Budgetary Management

Eurojust was granted an operating budget of € 18.4 million, an increase of 25% over calendar year 2006. Just over € 526 000 was allocated for its AGIS-funded E-POC project. Eurojust executed 98.5% of its commitment appropriations from this operating budget. Expenditure relating to the Case Management System was planned as the project moved forward. The number of SNEs co-funded through the Eurojust budget increased as well, to meet the needs for more support to the operational work of the National Desks.

Due to the rapid rate of growth of Eurojust and the resulting need for a new Eurojust headquarters, the project bureau that is responsible for obtaining extra temporary office space incurred expenses in 2007. It worked closely with the host state to secure new temporary premises by September 2008.

During 2007 approximately 6 650 transactions were processed, which represents a 41% increase over 2006. Part of this increase was due to Eurojust's decision to fund the costs of participants taking part in co-ordination meetings at Eurojust and elsewhere in Europe. The number of budgetary transfers decreased compared to 2006, which shows that the budgetary planning and management are now better able to meet the actual needs of the agency as a whole.

Eurojust was among the first agencies to prepare for ABAC, the European Commission's "accrual based accounting" system. On 1 October 2007 ABAC went live at Eurojust and was used to close the 2007 financial year. In addition, the so-called "e-Missions" system was used for the first full year, and has made the processing of missions faster. Also, the Eurojust Financial Regulation was published in the Official Journal in 2007. As in previous years, the accounts of Eurojust were audited by the European Court of Auditors and received an assurance of integrity. The Internal Audit Service performed its first full audit of Eurojust in November 2007.

The European Parliament has, based on the proposal of the Council and the report of the European Court of Auditors, granted discharge to the Administrative Director in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2005.

Staff Management

During 2007 the primary focus was on the recruitment of new staff members. Due to discussions on the criteria for eligibility to Eurojust posts, recruitment only commenced in April 2007, leading to delays in the employment of staff and unfilled vacancies. However, appropriate measures were taken to be able to catch up in 2008.

In 2007 48 vacancies were published; 1 468 applications were received; 167 invitations for interviews were sent; 136 candidates were invited for interviews; and 36 contracts were offered.

By the end of 2007, 96 Temporary Agents were employed, in addition to Contract Agents, SNEs and a considerable number of interim staff. In total, 131 post-holders were working at Eurojust at the end of 2007.

In 2007 the first Multi-Annual Staff Policy Plan was drafted, covering the period 2007 - 2010, and was adopted by the College. Considerable time and effort were also given to procurement tasks, such as tender specifications for HR services (interim staffing companies, multi-purpose consultancy, training and occupational health services).

Preliminary measures were taken to launch a consultation process for a new appraisal system and reclassification/promotion policy and preparatory work was done to improve the working conditions at Eurojust.

Further, a new recruitment policy was adopted by the College, which describes the legal framework, principles, selection process, roles and actors involved. Implementation is planned for the first quarter of 2008. Eurojust also intends to sign the Inter Agency Job Market Agreement to improve the horizontal mobility of EU staff.

The increase in staff triggered an increase in training requests. Therefore, a training plan and a provisional guide on staff training were adopted by the Administrative Director. Seven information sessions were organised for staff, and an induction program was launched.

New Functionalities and Facilities

In 2007 the Case Management System has further developed in the framework of the E-POC III Project, which is co-funded by the EU. The updated version will put emphasis on the user-requested improvements while developing added functionality to allow information to be exchanged between different E-POC installations such as those in Member States.

In the area of secure communications, a number of advances were made. These include the technical implementation of a dedicated secure communication facility between Eurojust and Europol and the successful completion of a pilot project with the Slovak Republic. The advances will provide National Members with the ability to securely communicate with their Member State contacts. A new project was launched towards the end of 2007 that will extend this pilot to include all 27 Member States. In addition, the first draft of a business continuity plan was produced and the procurement process for secure mobile telephony between National Members was completed.

Eurojust's connection to the Schengen Information System was launched in December 2007. An in-house search tool was developed that provides access to information for National Members, in accordance with the Council Decision of 24 February 2005. Eurojust also implemented a state-of-the-art video conferencing system. The Eurojust system, which is one of the first of its kind in Europe, is able to connect to different remote systems using various protocols and standards while acting as a bridge between the different systems, significantly enhancing Eurojust's ability to coordinate at a European level. The video conference system was first used on 18 April 2007 for the Conference of Authorities Responsible for Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance.

Eurojust took yet another step towards becoming more environmentally friendly by initiating so-called "paperless" meetings. This tool, used in conjunction with a new document management system, will allow attendees to view the latest version of documents on screen and give access to other computer-based information resources. In this way meetings can become more efficient. The tool, currently used in a pilot phase for some administrative meetings, is ready to be extended to meetings of the College and College teams.

4 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

European Parliament, Council and Commission

Eurojust held several meetings with European institutions, as well as regular meetings with the EU Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Troika), the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission to discuss matters of common interest.

Through its contact point, Eurojust maintains good working relations with the Commission. For example, Eurojust contributed to the Communication on the Future of Eurojust and the EJNI, and the Commission was invited to participate in its Lisbon seminar.

Eurojust was invited to present the Eurojust Annual Report 2006 at the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament in 2007. This was an opportunity to illustrate the activities of Eurojust and to ensure that our stakeholders are well informed.

Eurojust is also involved in working groups such as the Multidisciplinary Group against Organised Crime and the COPEN Working Party and also accepts invitations to participate in other working groups such as CATS and the informal JAI meetings.

EU Partners

Europol

Important advances in the co-operation between Eurojust and Europol were achieved, although progress has not always been as rapid as hoped.

In the area of analysis work files (AWFs), one significant advance was made. The Protocol of 27 November 2003 amending the Europol Convention, the so-called "Danish Protocol", created the possibility for Europol to invite experts of third States or third bodies to be associated with the activities of an analysis group. Eurojust signed six Arrangements with Europol on 7 June 2007 and appointed National Members and case analysts to be associated as experts from Eurojust on judicial co-operation. A Europol-Eurojust joint working party on AWFs has been established to examine legal and practical difficulties of Eurojust's involvement. In 2008 Eurojust will continue its work on assessing its involvement and defining the added value of Eurojust's participation in AWFs.

Furthermore, a secure communications link was established to facilitate the exchange of information between Eurojust and Europol. Negotiations on the table of equivalence of different security classification categories, which will allow the exchange of sensitive information between the two organisations, are still ongoing. Eurojust believes that the secure link should be fully operational from June 2008.

European Judicial Network

Eurojust maintained privileged relations with the contact points of the European Judicial Network (EJN). The EJN Secretariat, which forms part of the Eurojust Secretariat, functions as a separate and independent unit. A new EJN Secretary, Fatima Pires Martins, took up duties on 1 October 2007.

The EJN contact points met in Brussels, Trier and Obidos. In these meetings topics such as practical experience with the EAW, all networks in criminal matters, cross-border co-operation, Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and the Communication of the Commission on the Future of Eurojust and the EJN were discussed. Eurojust representatives also attended these meetings.

The two main projects of the EJN Secretariat, as far as information tools are concerned, were the development of the Compendium and of the Atlas Editor. The Compendium is the first EJN online execution tool that facilitates the creation of a letter rogatory by local judicial authorities in a uniform manner within the European Union. The tool, which is of fundamental importance in the practical application of the MLA Convention, will be available on the EJN website on 14 January 2008. The Atlas Editor facilitates the work of national correspondents in updating all of the EJN Atlases.

Furthermore, the *Fiches Belges* for Norway and the EAW Atlas for Romania came online in 2007. The EJM Secretariat continued to improve the functionalities of the EAW forms, which are available on its website.

European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

Eurojust and OLAF continued to devote substantial efforts to make co-operation more efficient.

The partner relationship was further established through quarterly meetings.

The College OLAF Team acts as an exchange for cases of mutual interest to be referred to the involved National Members for their input and assistance.

The first joint conference, aimed at prosecutors, tax and customs investigators, was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 March 2007. It emphasized the co-operation and assistance provided by OLAF and Eurojust to national authorities fighting fraud and corruption affecting the European Communities' financial interests.

Furthermore, the Director General of OLAF and the President of Eurojust met in June 2007 to review their current objectives and future co-operation. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for early 2008. In addition, senior OLAF officials visited Eurojust to exchange views and ways of improving further co-operation with Eurojust. Eurojust post-holders similarly conduct study visits to OLAF to increase mutual understanding.

It was not possible to complete a formal agreement to further facilitate co-operation between OLAF and Eurojust. Eurojust is, however, committed to the completion of an agreement to improve practical co-operation arrangements with OLAF as soon as possible.

Eurojust was represented at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for Fraud Prevention (COCOLAF), and participated in the OLAF Annual Prosecution Conference. OLAF was represented at the "Eurojust - Navigating the Way Forward" seminar in Lisbon.

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. These are referred to as "Liaison Magistrates".

On 1 and 2 October 2007, Eurojust organised a meeting with Liaison Magistrates and Eurojust contact points in The Hague with the aim of creating a forum for effective networking and information-sharing in cross-border investigations and prosecutions. More than 30 Liaison Magistrates and contact points attended this meeting.

Presentations were given by Liaison Magistrates on activities in the host states, and gave participants a better understanding of each others' expertise. The conference illustrated how Eurojust, Liaison Magistrates and contact points can make better use of their respective competences, add value to one another's work, and overcome overlapping.

EU Networks

Genocide Network

Each year the EU Presidency organises a meeting of the European network of contact points in respect of persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, or the so-called Genocide Network, which was created as the result of a Council Decision of 13 June 2002.

These meetings, which have taken place since 2004 on the Eurojust premises, are attended by representatives from the Member States, the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Eurojust, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council and Interpol.

Eurojust hosted the fourth Meeting of the Genocide Network on 7 and 8 May 2007.

European Judicial Training Network

In 2007 Eurojust made an important step in furthering its relationship with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) by setting up regular links between Eurojust and the EJTN. In addition, a prosecutor from Spain and a prosecutor from Romania visited Eurojust for several weeks to learn about the workings of Eurojust and to disseminate this knowledge in their home countries. Eurojust is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the EJTN. The purpose of the MoU is to establish and regulate co-operation between Eurojust and the EJTN in the field of judicial training.

Other Networks

CARIN Network

Eurojust continues to be an active participant in the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency network (CARIN), a Hague-based initiative supported by Europol and its Secretariat. CARIN is a network of practitioners and experts in the cross-border identification, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime and other property related to crime, and seeks to enhance knowledge of methods and techniques in this field.

Eurojust is a permanent member of the steering group and has participated in the network's regular meetings throughout 2007, as well as at the annual conference in May 2007 held in Hampshire, United Kingdom.

Cybercrime Network

The European Commission has adopted a general policy against cybercrime to increase awareness of this type of crime in the Member States.

Eurojust's intention is to further develop this awareness while taking advantage of its privileged position in the fight against serious criminality. The Commission's policy is also an opportunity for Eurojust to highlight its own work in cyber criminality such as child pornography, economic crimes and terrorist offences through the internet.

In 2007 Eurojust launched an initiative with the aim of building up a network of prosecutors, judges and contact points on cybercrime. Eurojust will organise a strategic meeting on cybercrime in 2008, involving contact points from all the Member States. The purpose of this meeting is to create a permanent network of specialists in this field.

International Organisations and Bodies

International Association of Prosecutors

Eurojust is an institutional member of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), a worldwide prosecutorial community, which gathers prosecutors from more than 130 prosecution offices all over the world. Through the IAP network Eurojust has developed valuable contacts on other continents in the fight against cross-border crime and strengthened its own casework.

In March 2007 Eurojust welcomed 50 visiting prosecutors from North and Western Europe. The same year Eurojust was represented in Odessa (Ukraine), at a conference gathering some 100 prosecutors from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and at the annual IAP conference in Hong Kong with more than 500 participants. The National Member for France, François Falletti, was elected President of the IAP during the conference in Hong Kong in 2007.

International Criminal Court

On 10 April 2007 a Letter of Understanding was signed between Eurojust and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to explore areas of co-operation and start negotiations for an agreement.

IberRed

The number of co-ordination meetings with Central and South American countries involved through IberRed (La Red Iberoamericana de Cooperación Judicial) increased in 2007. During a meeting on 5 June 2007 with representatives of IberRed, it was agreed to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), since IberRed is not a legal entity. This Memorandum of Understanding, Eurojust's first ever with a non-EU body, was approved by the College and later discussed at the third annual conference of IberRed contact points in Uruguay.

Eurojustice

As in previous years, Eurojust participated in the annual Eurojustice Conference of Prosecutors General held in Slovenia on 25 and 26 October 2007. This conference provides an important opportunity for fruitful exchanges between high-level members of the prosecution offices to discuss the current challenges to the building of the European space of freedom, security and justice. Eurojust was able to stress its added value in the fight against environmental crime, which was one of the main topics for discussion.

Third States

Criminals do not respect borders and Eurojust cannot act alone in combating organised crime. It is therefore imperative to work with neighbours and other partners around the world to combat global crime. Consequently, Eurojust continues to develop and strengthen its relationships with countries outside the European Union. It is a high priority of Eurojust to continue building strong relationships with non-Member States.

Contact Points

Eurojust continues to develop its list of contact points in non-Member States. In 2007 Eurojust had 31 contact points from 23 countries within and outside Europe and works regularly through its contact points on cases involving non-EU countries.

The countries in which Eurojust has contact points are as follows: Albania, Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Egypt, FYROM, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and USA.

Co-operation Agreements

Norway

A co-operation agreement with the Kingdom of Norway was signed on 28 April 2005 and has proved to be a powerful tool to enhance the effectiveness of Eurojust's operational work.

A Norwegian Liaison Prosecutor is situated at Eurojust and participates regularly in the work of Eurojust and in cases involving Norway. In 2007 Norway submitted 27 new cases to the College, of which 24 were operational and three related to questions of national legislation in the Member States.

In May 2007 a Norwegian delegation visited Eurojust to monitor the progress of co-operation between the parties. Both Norway and Eurojust were very positive about present and future co-operation.

Iceland

An agreement with the Republic of Iceland was signed on 2 December 2005. In 2007 Eurojust worked on the first two cases involving Iceland after signing the agreement. Since Iceland has no Liaison Prosecutor at Eurojust, co-operation took place through contact points.

USA

Since the agreement between the USA and Eurojust was signed in November 2006, co-operation has intensified considerably. After the agreement came into force in January 2007, US authorities seconded a Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust. This secondment was of high importance for the intensive co-operation between Eurojust and US authorities. In 2007, Eurojust worked on 30 cases involving the USA, compared to six in 2006. On 11 July 2007 Eurojust organised a meeting on Russian organised crime based on a US initiative.

Croatia

Formal negotiations with the Republic of Croatia started on 8 May 2007 and were successfully completed with an agreement approved by the Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs on 9 November 2007. The agreement has not yet entered into force.

Switzerland

As mentioned in the Eurojust Annual Report 2006, the *Bundesrat* of the Swiss Confederation agreed at the end of 2006 to open negotiations with Eurojust for a co-operation agreement. The first round of formal negotiations took place on 12 and 13 April 2007. Delegates agreed on the main issues and made plans for a second round of negotiations. Amendments and comments were also exchanged. Eurojust is pleased with the progress of negotiations, which will continue in 2008.

Russian Federation

Two rounds of negotiations with the Russian Federation took place in 2006. Due to the differences in legal systems, some important issues are still unresolved, including whether Russian international public law considers Eurojust an international organisation and data protection. Further negotiations are necessary.

Ukraine

Since Ukraine has no legislation on data protection, a co-operation agreement is not yet possible. However, as soon as necessary progress is made on this issue, negotiations will continue.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A FYROM delegation showed willingness and interest to start negotiations for an agreement after a visit to Eurojust on 9 July 2007. As a candidate country, FYROM is on Eurojust's priority list for negotiations, and when their data protection legislation is in place the parties can start negotiations. Eurojust hopes that the first round of negotiations will take place at the beginning of 2008.

Moldova

In September 2007, Eurojust was visited by the Ambassador of Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the EU, who also expressed interest in strengthening operational co-operation with an agreement.

Other Third States

During 2007 Eurojust continued to develop its relations with other countries in the Western Balkans while contributing to ongoing EU regional projects and initiatives in the region. Eurojust also hosted several study visits from countries all over the world. In October 2007 a Japanese prosecutor came to Eurojust for a month-long mission to assess whether an agreement would be useful. In 2008 a similar visit from a Korean prosecutor is planned.

5 FOLLOW-UP TO COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

In June 2007 the Council adopted Conclusions on the fifth Eurojust Annual Report (EU Document 9920/07, 24 May 2007). The Council also formulated guidelines and tasks to be taken into consideration by Eurojust, the Member States, EU working groups and the Commission.

Eurojust welcomes the Council Conclusions that call upon Member States to comply with EU legislation and to implement actions to strengthen the effectiveness of Eurojust, which can be achieved by referring complex and serious cases to Eurojust at an early stage of an investigation, providing high-quality and up-to-date information about ongoing investigations, promoting awareness amongst practitioners to systematically involve Eurojust in Europol's analysis work files (AWFs) and providing National Members with adequate support to perform their tasks effectively.

Below, Eurojust has set out a commentary giving feedback on the implementation of the Council's Conclusions and more specifically on the key guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust, an exercise Eurojust started in its Annual Report for 2006:

Subject	Guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
The Communication on the Future of Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN)	Allow for a mid-term assessment of the effectiveness of Eurojust's performance, referring in particular to the Commission's Communication.	Eurojust has initiated different projects in relation to the Commission's Communication, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drafting an initial contribution to the Communication of the Commission (<i>see</i> Council doc 13079/07);- Circulating a questionnaire on the implementation of the Eurojust Decision (<i>see</i> Council doc 11143/07); and- Organising a seminar "Eurojust - Navigating the Way Forward" (<i>see</i> Council doc 15542/07).

Subject	Guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
Figures/ caseload assessment/case illustrations	Analyse the causes for reluctance to make full use of Eurojust facilities and, if necessary, take any initiatives at national level to overcome legal or practical obstacles.	The compilation of the answers provided by the Member States to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Eurojust Decision serves as a first analysis of causes for reluctance to make use of Eurojust. National Members took account of these replies and consider actions when necessary.
Case Management System (CMS)	<p>To process received information effectively according to Council Decision 2005/671/JHA by developing the CMS.</p> <p>Strengthen its capacity to deal with and analyse data related to casework, and stress the importance of exploiting the full potential of the CMS with a view to a possible request to Member States, on the basis of cross-referencing analysis to initiate investigations.</p>	<p>The Case Management System has been developed to hold information on all investigations and prosecutions reported to Eurojust. Information, including that of terrorist-related offences, is treated equally. With regard to information on convictions a proposal to enhance the capacity of the CMS is currently being implemented. In addition, statistical information on cases related to terrorist offences can be traced via main crime types (<i>see</i> Chapter 2).</p> <p>Eurojust has increased the analytical capacity of the Case Management Team by recruiting seven assistants to the Case Management Analysts. So far, analysts have supported fourteen complex operational cases involving co-ordination and produced strategic analysis on the basis of statistical data from the CMS. Eurojust also made contributions to the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) Report and the "Terrorist Activity in the European Union: Situations and Trends Report" (TE-SAT).</p> <p>Eurojust has established security patterns on communications between National Members when using the CMS. The CMS allows for in-depth case-by-case cross-referencing analysis of all existing connections on cases, and can provide</p>

Subject	Guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
Co-operation with Europol - casework as source of information	To work together with Europol and to blend their respective analytical capacities in relation to criminal phenomena.	<p>an overview of all the involved actors. This capability, however, depends on the correct and complete insertion of data received from the national authorities.</p> <p>In 2008 Eurojust will continue to allocate all necessary resources to improve the CMS.</p> <p>The College appointed an ad hoc OCTA drafting team to collect answers from National Members on the OCTA 2008 Intelligence Requirements. Eurojust's contribution was based on a quantitative analysis of the CMS and a qualitative analysis of interviews with the National Desks.</p> <p>On 7 June 2007 Eurojust signed Arrangements on the association of Eurojust to the activities of six analysis work files and identified representatives from the College and Case Management Team to be associated with the activities of the analysis groups (<i>see</i> Chapter 4).</p> <p>In 2008 Eurojust will develop its analytical capacities in order to ensure that the analyses conducted by Eurojust and Europol are complementary and not duplicative.</p>
Casework	To continue the assessment of casework and focus on complex cases.	Throughout 2007 the distinction between standard and complex cases was used in all cases opened in the College. This distinction will continue to apply in 2008. In addition, other statistics are also being used to illustrate the nature and complexity of cases and casework (<i>see</i> Chapter 2).
	To assess whether there is	

Subject	Guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
	a need to have statistics on National Members' activities, which are not recorded in the CMS.	A survey among all National Members shows that a vast majority have casework which is not registered in the CMS, and almost two-thirds do not have statistics on this unregistered casework. However, two-thirds of the National Members see a need for such statistics, and also for other activities by National Members such as meetings, seminars and training. Eurojust will continue its work in compiling statistics in 2008.
Limited use of Eurojust's powers under Article 7	To analyse the underlying reasons for the limited use of Eurojust's powers under Article 7, and to maintain its proactive approach towards judicial co-operation.	A survey of all National Members shows that very few requests were made to the College on the use of its powers under Article 7, and that National Members have rarely felt the need to make such a request. The underlying reasons given by National Members are that the Member States concerned have reached agreements themselves through co-operation and co-ordination, possibly facilitated by Eurojust, and that the National Members' positions and powers on a domestic level, possibly in conjunction with the powers under Article 6, have provided sufficient basis for the requests and recommendations made, and for the Member States to comply.
Eurojust-EJN	A need to clarify the nature of cases that should be dealt with by Eurojust and the EJN.	In its 2006 Annual Report Eurojust announced that it would assess the possible development of guidelines on the types of cases that should be dealt with by Eurojust and the types of cases that should be dealt with by the EJN. In addition, Eurojust would assess whether figures on the involvement of the EJN can be produced.

A survey of National Members shows that very few National Members have figures on the amount of cases referred to the EJM from Eurojust and vice-versa. Furthermore, very few National Members have figures on cases that EJM contact points deal with on a domestic level, while only roughly one-third of the National Members consider the retrieval of such figures to be possible, one reason being that many EJM contact points are placed at central authorities, and it is not possible to separate cases they deal with in their capacity as EJM contact points.

Eurojust does not consider it possible to define strict criteria or mechanical formulae that make it possible to identify cases for which the national authorities should seek the support of Eurojust or the EJM.

Therefore, Eurojust believes that the way forward is not simply to define such criteria, but to clearly structure the link between Eurojust and the EJM at national level to provide adequate guidance for the national authorities concerned, while respecting the principle of the complementarity of tasks between the two bodies.

To consider the possibility of joint seminars with National Members and the EJM contact points to raise awareness among practitioners on their respective tasks.

It should be noted that joint seminars have been organised in the past. Both Eurojust and the EJM are committed to continue to strengthen their work relations in order to establish complementarity, clarity and certainty. This relationship was a topic for discussion in the Lisbon seminar and is part of the European Commission Communication as well as the proposals on the future of Eurojust and the EJM (*see* Chapter 6).

Subject	Guidelines and tasks addressed to Eurojust	Status of implementation
Eurojust-OLAF	To conclude a co-operation agreement.	Eurojust is currently finalising its negotiations with OLAF.
Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)	Calls on Eurojust to ask the relevant authorities in the Member States to consider setting up JITs.	A survey of all National Members shows that very few have formally recommended the setting up of a JIT under Article 6. Approximately half of the National Members have made such a recommendation informally, or have considered doing so. The primary reasons for not setting up a JIT or not recommending one are that JITs have not been considered necessary until now, since other forms of co-operation were found in the specific cases by the Member States concerned to have been sufficiently effective. A few National Members have referred to the lack of implementation of the Council Decision on JITs at domestic level.
European Arrest Warrant (EAW)	Arrest To report on breaches of time limits and the data received and analysed.	Eight Member States reported breaches of time limits. Due to the lack of commitment of the Member States to inform Eurojust, Eurojust saw no added value in making an analysis (<i>see</i> Chapter 2).
Relations with third States	To develop relationships with third States according to the priority list set out for 2007.	A co-operation agreement between Eurojust and the Republic of Croatia was signed on 9 November 2007. Negotiations with the Russian Federation and Switzerland are still continuing. The negotiations with Ukraine are postponed because legislation on data protection is not yet in place. FYROM and Moldova expressed their desire to commence negotiations. These third States are on the priority list for negotiations in 2008.

6 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND THE FUTURE

Objectives and Achievements 2007

This chapter outlines the strategic objectives decided by the College for 2007 and 2008. As in previous annual reports, a preliminary assessment is made on status and as an evaluation of the achievements of 2007.

As shown below, some of the objectives are multi-annual and form part of Eurojust’s strategic objectives for the next two-year period, 2008 - 2009.

<p>1. To ensure that, by the end of 2008, on terrorism issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurojust handles terrorism casework more effectively, 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. • Eurojust contributes to policy issues related to terrorism. 	<p>Eurojust meets regularly with the National Correspondents on Terrorism. In June 2007 Eurojust held a strategic meeting with these correspondents, presenting the “Information Exchange Project”, and introducing a template for the exchange of information on terrorism cases, in accordance with the Council Decision.</p> <p>With regard to information on convictions a proposal to enhance the capacity of the CMS is currently being implemented. A legal database on terrorism giving an updated overview of the available national, European and international legal documents and instruments on terrorism was set up.</p> <p>Eurojust participated in various conferences, offering training to magistrates and prosecutors on terrorism-related issues. In addition, Eurojust develops and maintains contacts with non-EU countries on terrorism matters. Eurojust also developed good contacts with the EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator.</p> <p>Furthermore, Eurojust’s Security Committee was formally established by the College in accordance with the Security Rules laying down the regulations on the processing of classified information (<i>see</i> Chapter 3).</p>
--	--

<p>2. To increase the number of high-quality cases referred to Eurojust by the Member States.</p>	<p>Eurojust considers raising its profile as a first step. National Members, Deputies and Assistants, as well as members of the administration, attended national and international seminars, meetings and conferences. As a result, there has been an increase in the case referrals to Eurojust. Furthermore, Eurojust distributed a questionnaire on the implementation of the Eurojust Decision, which allowed Eurojust and the Member States to identify the obstacles preventing the increase of high-quality cases (<i>see</i> Chapter 5). Eurojust will continue the work in 2008.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Visits to Eurojust by ministers, prosecutors general and Member States' authorities, as well as regular contacts between College Members and their national authorities, contributed to the awareness of Eurojust in 2007. Eurojust is continuously building trust and confidence and encouraging Member States to supply the appropriate support for National Members by assigning the necessary human resources to the National Desks and by building up national platforms and structures required for the effective work of the National Members in the Member States.</p> <p>The results of a survey of National Members regarding the need for added support to their Desks will be concluded in 2008. On the basis of this survey, and in light of the reform process on Eurojust and the EJM following the Lisbon seminar, Eurojust will determine if any further action is required.</p>
<p>4. To conclude formal co-operation agreements with more non-European Union countries.</p>	<p>In the calendar year 2007 an agreement was signed with Croatia and formal negotiations were initiated with others (<i>see</i> Chapter 4).</p>
<p>5. To create a strong and secure ICT support environment for casework and for communication through implementation of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of secure transmission links to national authorities in all Member States; and • The creation of a secure mobile communication facility. 	<p>In 2007 Eurojust and the Slovak Republic successfully completed a pilot project involving the creation of secure transmission lines between the two. In 2008, secure links are expected to be launched between Eurojust and selected national authorities in all Member States.</p> <p>Following a public tender and evaluation procedure, Eurojust decided to initiate a pilot project on the use of encrypted mobile phones in 2008. If successful, the project is expected to be extended to all relevant post-holders during 2008 and 2009.</p> <p>The EPOC-III Project, ending in 2008, aims <i>inter alia</i> to develop an exchange mechanism that can connect the CMS to selected national authorities and allow for a structured exchange of information.</p>

Objectives 2008 - 2009

In May 2007 Eurojust reviewed its strategic objectives for 2007 - 2008 with a view to adjusting and setting up the strategic objectives for the next two- year period.

The College has adopted the following strategic objectives for 2008 - 2009:

1. To ensure that, by the end of 2008, on terrorism issues:
 - Eurojust handles terrorism casework more effectively, 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.
 - Eurojust contributes to policy issues related to terrorism.
2. To improve casework by:
 - creating standardised procedures for casework
 - setting up a Casework Measurement System
 - creating a secure mobile communication facility
 - creating a strong and secure ICT support environment for casework
 - creating secure transmission links to national authorities in all Member States
3. To increase the number of complex cases referred to Eurojust by the Member States.

4. To persuade the Member States to provide the Eurojust National Members with the appropriate support to enable them to handle casework and other responsibilities as National Members.
5. To structure and further develop co-operation between Eurojust, the EJM, Europol and OLAF.
6. To conclude at least three formal co-operation agreements with non-European Union countries and international bodies, and enhance co-operation between Member States and non-European countries.

Lisbon Seminar: “Eurojust - Navigating the Way Forward”

Eurojust organised a seminar entitled “Eurojust - Navigating the Way Forward” in Lisbon on 29 and 30 October 2007. The aim was to examine Eurojust's current situation and to consider the way forward, in light of the Commission’s Communication on the Future of Eurojust and the EJM, and the replies to the Eurojust questionnaire on the implementation of the Eurojust Decision.

The seminar attracted participants from both within and outside Eurojust, EJM contact points, Liaison Prosecutors seconded to Eurojust, Ministry of Justice representatives and practitioners from the Member States, as well as representatives from the European Parliament, the Commission (including OLAF), the General Secretariat of the Council and Europol.

The Lisbon seminar confirmed once more that the time has come to move forward into a new phase of operational co-ordination and support to judicial authorities in fighting cross-border crime. The outcome of the seminar can be found in the general report on the seminar, Council document 15542/07.

The basic problem is the lack of full implementation of the Eurojust Decision in national legislation.

To enable Eurojust to live up to its potential, the seminar focused on three objectives, which were identified as main priorities:

- A. Strengthen and increase the powers of National Members and the College
- B. Improve and expand the exchange of information
- C. Clarify the relationship between Eurojust and the EJM

Based on the practical experiences gained in the last years, discussions highlighted the need to ensure that powers granted by the Eurojust Decision are exercised with the best possible effect and that the competences of the National Members and the College are reinforced. Furthermore, the permanent representation and availability of the National Desks was stressed as essential for an effective functioning of Eurojust.

On the issue of judicial powers granted to the National Members in their capacity as national authorities, contributions showed a near consensus on the need to remedy the diversity of powers resulting from Article 9(3) of the Eurojust Decision and to create a minimum standard of equivalent powers. Additional powers to those already foreseen by Articles 6 and 7 of the Eurojust Decision were also discussed. In this context, the Lisbon participants considered in particular the competence of National Members to transmit and to follow up requests beyond those listed in Article 6 as well as the possibility to take one-off measures in urgent cases. These exceptional competences could include the authorisation of a controlled delivery.

Furthermore, possible additional powers of the College were discussed. Participants focused on the binding nature of requests, particularly in the area of conflicts of jurisdiction, College decision-making powers to create Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and the opening of analysis work files at Europol.

Equal emphasis was placed on the need to improve the exchange of information with the Member States. An important factor in this respect is the ability of the National Members to have direct access to national criminal databases and the possibility to exchange this information directly within Eurojust without going via national authorities. During the meeting the need for systematic and structured transmissions of relevant information and the establishment of a secure information system were stressed.

There was a broad consensus on the need to clarify the relationship between Eurojust and the EJM, in order to enforce the effective and complementary functioning of both bodies. To make it compulsory for Member States to appoint national Eurojust correspondents found wide approval. A multitude of participants highlighted in this respect their positive experiences in appointing the same person as Eurojust national correspondent and EJM contact point.

The appointment of a national EJM co-ordinator was discussed. In this context, the idea of creating a national platform was brought up consisting of the Eurojust correspondents and EJM contact points, including the national co-ordinator of the EJM. Such a platform at national level would establish a link between Eurojust and the EJM and provide adequate guidance to national authorities.

7 EUROJUST'S MISSION, TASKS AND STRUCTURE

Mission and Tasks

Eurojust is a judicial co-operation body created to help provide a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice. It was established as a result of a decision by the European Council of Tampere (15 – 16 October 1999) in order to improve the fight against serious crime by facilitating the optimal co-ordination of action for investigations and prosecutions covering the territory of more than one Member State with full respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

On 14 December 2000 the Council of the European Union formally established the provisional judicial co-operation unit “Pro-Eurojust”. Prosecutors from all the Member States tried and tested concepts to improve the fight against serious crime by facilitating co-ordination of action for investigations and prosecutions within the EU.

Pro-Eurojust started its work on 1 March 2001. Eurojust itself was set up by a Decision of 28 February 2002 as a body of the EU with legal personality (*see* Council Decision of 28 February 2002 setting up Eurojust with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious crime, 2002/187/JHA). Eurojust is the first permanent body established for judicial co-operation in the European legal area, and is financed through the EU’s general budget.

Eurojust is monitored by an independent Joint Supervisory Body, ensuring that the processing of personal data is carried out in accordance with the Eurojust Decision. It also hears appeals lodged by individuals regarding access to personal information.

Eurojust is stimulating and improving the co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions between the competent authorities in the Member States and improves the co-operation between the competent authorities of the Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests. Eurojust supports in any way possible the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

At the request of a Member State, Eurojust may assist investigations and prosecutions concerning that particular Member State and a non-Member State, if a co-operation agreement has been concluded or if there is an essential interest in providing such assistance.

Eurojust's competence covers the same types of crime and offences for which Europol has competence, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting, money laundering, computer crime, crime against property or public goods including fraud and corruption, criminal offences affecting the European Community's financial interests, environmental crime and participation in criminal organisations. For other types of offences Eurojust may assist in investigations and prosecutions at the request of a Member State.

Eurojust may ask the competent authorities of the Member States concerned:

- to investigate or prosecute specific acts;
- to co-ordinate with one another;
- to undertake an investigation or prosecution of specific acts;
- to accept that one country is better placed to prosecute than another;
- to set up a Joint Investigation Team; or
- to provide Eurojust with information necessary to carry out its tasks.

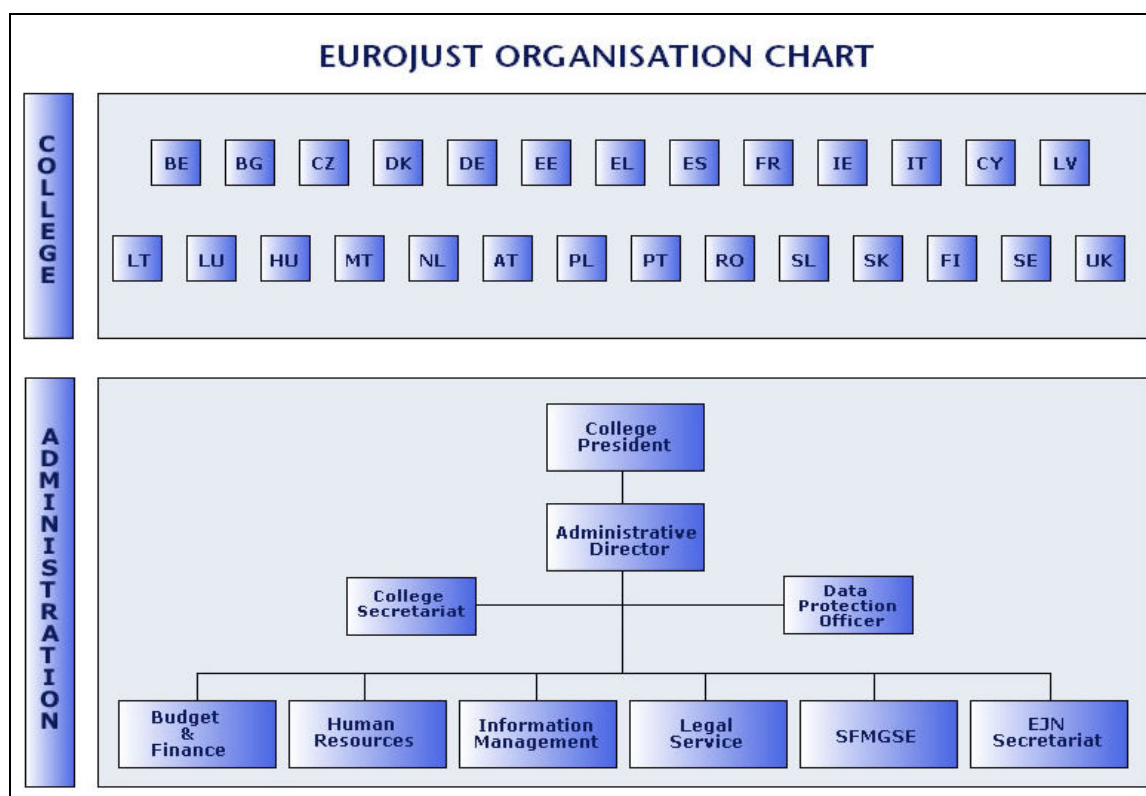
Furthermore, Eurojust:

- shall ensure that the competent authorities inform each other on investigations and prosecutions of which it has been informed;
- shall assist the competent authorities in ensuring the best possible co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions;
- shall give assistance to improve co-operation between the competent national authorities, in particular based on Europol's analyses;
- shall co-operate and consult with the European Judicial Network (EJN), and make use of and contribute to the improvement of its documentary database;

- may, in accordance with its objectives, try to improve co-operation and co-ordination between the competent authorities, and forward requests for judicial assistance when they: (i) are made by the competent authority of a Member State, (ii) concern an investigation or prosecution conducted by that authority in a specific case, and (iii) necessitate its intervention with a view to co-ordinated action;
- may assist Europol, particularly with opinions based on analyses carried out by Europol; and
- may supply logistical support, e.g. assistance in translation, interpretation and the organisation of co-ordination meetings.

In order to carry out its tasks, Eurojust maintains privileged relationships with the EJM, Europol, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and Liaison Magistrates. It is also able, through the Council, to conclude co-operation agreements with non-Member States and international organisations or bodies for the exchange of information or the secondment of officers.

Structure



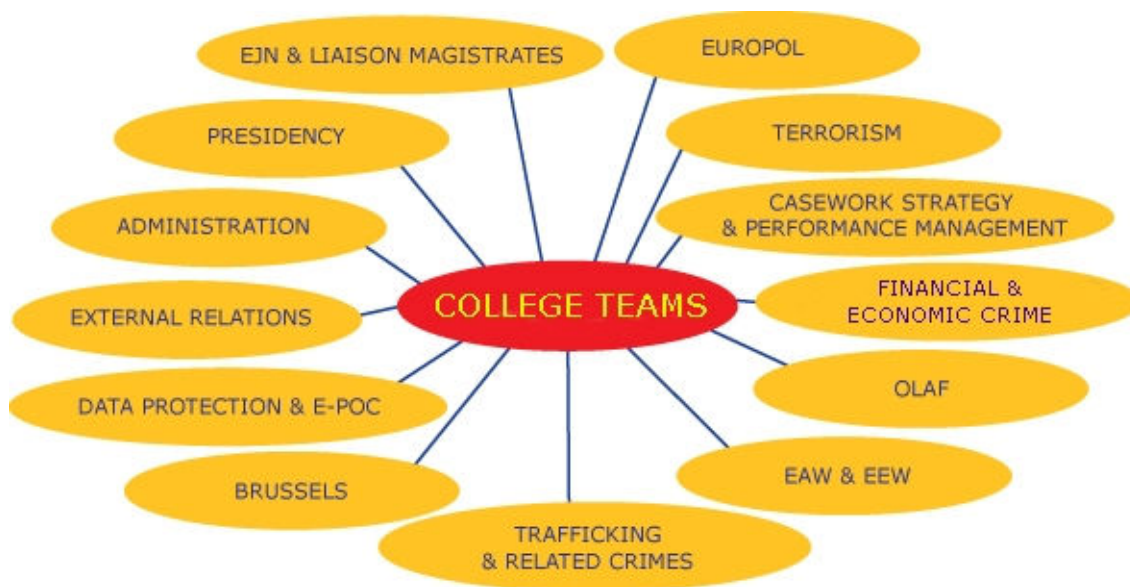
Eurojust is composed of 27 National Members, one from each of the European Union's Member States. These are seconded in accordance with their respective legal systems and are judges, prosecutors or police officers of equivalent competence.

Each National Member is subject to the national legislation of the appointing Member State as regards their status, which also determines the term of office, as well as the nature and extent of the judicial powers conferred on the National Member.

Several Member States have appointed Deputies and Assistants to help and replace their National Member. Some National Members are also supported in their day-to-day casework by Seconded National Experts (SNEs), who are seconded by their national authorities to assist in casework. SNEs are part of the Eurojust administration, but work closely with their National Desks.

The National Members form the College of Eurojust, which is responsible for the organisation and operation of Eurojust. Eurojust may fulfil its tasks through one or more National Members or as a College.

The College is supported by the administration. The Administrative Director is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Eurojust and for staff management.



Eurojust has established and implemented a system of thirteen teams and two consultancies, Cybercrime and Football Crime that help National Members to make the best use of their time, skills and resources, to expedite decision-making and to better suit the changing shape and size of the organisation. This structure also allows members of the College to work together in small groups on specific topics and issues.

The teams draw on a wide range of experience and expertise from National Members, which is used to complete preparatory work on policymaking and other practical issues. These teams report and make recommendations to the College, which is responsible for taking final decisions.

The teams are composed of National Members, Assistants and SNEs, and are supported by members of the administration.

Public Access to Eurojust Documents

According to Article 2 of the Eurojust Decision to Adopt Rules Regarding Public Access to Eurojust Documents, adopted by the College on 13 July 2004, “*any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, has a right of access to documents of Eurojust*”.

In accordance with Article 15 of this Decision, Eurojust can report that, in 2007, Eurojust received four requests for public access to Eurojust documents. In only one case was access to the requested documents refused, on the grounds that their “*disclosure would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards [...] national investigations and prosecutions in which Eurojust assists*”. This exception to the general rule of public access to documents is provided for by Article 4(1)(a), 6th indent of the Eurojust Decision to Adopt Rules Regarding Public Access to Documents.

8 ANNEX

"Eurojust shall be composed of one national member seconded by each Member State in accordance with its legal system, being a prosecutor, judge or police officer of equivalent competence."

The titles below refer to these functions according to Article 2(1) of the Eurojust Decision. Further information on National Members, Deputies and Assistants can be found on our website, www.eurojust.europa.eu.

National Desks

Belgium

Michèle Coninx is Vice-President of the College and National Member for Belgium. She is a prosecutor. She joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

Bulgaria

Mariana Ilieva Lilova is National Member for Bulgaria. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in March 2007.

Czech Republic

Pavel Zeman is National Member for the Czech Republic. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in May 2004.

Jaroslava Novotná is Deputy National Member for the Czech Republic. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in March 2007.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Petr Klement was Seconded National Expert for the Czech Republic from 1 March until 31 August 2007. He was a prosecutor.

Danuta Kone Krol was Seconded National Expert for the Czech Republic from 1 September until 31 December 2007. She was a prosecutor.

Denmark

Lennart Hem Lindblom is National Member for Denmark. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2006.

Germany

Michael Grotz is National Member for Germany. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in October 2007.

Benedikt Welfens is Deputy National Member for Germany. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in October 2006.

Susanne Stotz is Assistant to the National Member for Germany. She is a judge. She joined Eurojust in January 2005.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Hermann von Langsdorff was National Member for Germany until December 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

Jürgen Kapplinghaus was Seconded National Expert for Germany until September 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

Estonia

Raivo Sepp is Vice-President of the College and National Member for Estonia. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in May 2004.

Ireland

Jarlath Spellman is National Member for Ireland. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in June 2005.

Greece

Lampros Patsavellas is National Member for Greece. He is prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in June 2005.

Spain

Juan Antonio García Jabaloy is National Member for Spain. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in October 2006.

María Teresa Gálvez Díez is Seconded National Expert for Spain. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in 2003.

France

François Falletti is National Member for France. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2004.

Marie-José Aube-Lotte is Deputy National Member for France. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in September 2006.

Alain Grellet is Deputy National Member for France. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2007.

Anne Delahaie is Assistant to the National Member for France.. She is a lawyer. She joined Eurojust in June 2001.

Marie-Pierre Falletti is Assistant to the National Member for France. She is a lawyer. She joined Eurojust in September 2004.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Jean-François Bohnert was Deputy National Member for France until August 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in March 2003.

Italy

Cesare Martellino is National Member for Italy. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in June 2002.

Carmen Manfreda is Deputy National Member for Italy. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in April 2004.

Filippo Spiezia is Deputy National Member for Italy. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in December 2007.

Cristiano Ripoli is Seconded National Expert for Italy. He is a police officer. He joined Eurojust in November 2007.

Cyprus

Katerina Loizou is National Member for Cyprus. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in September 2004.

Latvia

Gunārs Bundzis is National Member for Latvia. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in April 2004.

Dagmara Fokina is Assistant to the National Member for Latvia. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in April 2004.

Lithuania

Tomas Krusna is National Member for Lithuania. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in July 2006.

Luxembourg

Carlos Zeyen is National Member for Luxembourg. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2006.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Georges Heisbourg was National Member for Luxembourg until April 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

Hungary

Ilona Lévai is National Member for Hungary. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in May 2004.

Malta

Donatella Frendo Dimech is National Member for Malta. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in June 2004.

The Netherlands

Arend Vast is National Member for the Netherlands. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in June 2007.

Jolien Kuitert is Deputy National Member for the Netherlands. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in June 2002.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Roelof-Jan Manschot was Vice-President of the College and National Member for the Netherlands until September 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in June 2001.

Austria

Ursula Koller is National Member for Austria. She is a judge. She joined Eurojust in December 2005.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Ulrike Haberl-Schwarz was Vice-President of the College and National Member for Austria until February 2007. She was a judge. She joined Eurojust in January 2003.

Poland

Mariusz Skowroński is National Member for Poland. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in December 2005.

Portugal

José Luís Lopes da Mota is President of the College and National Member for Portugal. He is a prosecutor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

António Luís Santos Alves is Deputy National Member for Portugal. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in April 2004.

José Eduardo Moreira Alves de Oliveira Guerra is Seconded National Expert for Portugal. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in October 2007.

Romania

Elena Dinu is National Member for Romania. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in January 2007.

Republic of Slovenia

Malči Gabrijelčič is National Member for the Republic of Slovenia. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in July 2005.

Slovak Republic

Ladislav Hamran is National Member for the Slovak Republic. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2007.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Peter Paluda was National Member for the Slovak Republic until July 2007. He was a judge. He joined Eurojust in May 2004.

Finland

Maarit Loimukoski is National Member for Finland. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in August 2004.

Taina Neira is Deputy National Member for Finland. She is a police officer. She joined Eurojust in December 2007.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Jaakko Christensen was Deputy National Member for Finland from March until December 2007. He was a police officer.

Sanna Palo was Deputy National Member for Finland until February 2007. She was a police officer. She joined Eurojust in January 2005.

Sweden

Ola Laurell is National Member for Sweden. He is a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2007.

Annette von Sydow is Deputy National Member for Sweden. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in September 2005.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Solveig Wollstad was National Member for Sweden until August 2007. She was a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in January 2003.

Joakim Zander was Seconded National Expert for Sweden until September 2007. He was a prosecutor. He joined Eurojust in September 2006.

UK

Aled Williams is Deputy National Member for the United Kingdom. He is a solicitor. He joined Eurojust in July 2006.

Phil Hicks is Assistant to the National Member for the United Kingdom. He is a solicitor. He joined Eurojust in June 2006.

Lynne Barrie is Assistant to the National Member for the United Kingdom. She is a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in October 2007.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Michael Kennedy was President of the College and National Member for the United Kingdom until November 2007. He was a solicitor. He joined Pro-Eurojust in March 2001.

Emma Forbes was Assistant to the National Member for the United Kingdom. She was a prosecutor. She joined Eurojust in July 2006.

Administrative Director

Ernst Merz is Administrative Director. He is a judge. He joined Eurojust in May 2002.

Third States at Eurojust

Liaison Prosecutors

Norway

Kim Sundet is the Liaison Prosecutor for Norway. He joined Eurojust in January 2007.

United States of America

Mary Lee Warren is the Liaison Prosecutor for the United States. She joined Eurojust in August 2007.

Left Eurojust in 2007

Mary Ruppert was the Liaison Prosecutor for the United States from January until August 2007.