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From: Presidency
To: Standing Committee on operational co-operation on internal security (COSI)
Subject: European Police Chiefs Convention

Delegations will find attached the summary of the European Police Chiefs Convention, which was held at Europol on 30-31 May 2012.

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Introduction

On 30 & 31 May 2012, Europol hosted the second European Police Chiefs Convention (EPCC) at its headquarters in The Hague. It was a joint event between Europol and the Danish National Police, in the context of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The purpose of the 2012 EPCC was to cover the threats associated with organised crime and terrorism in Europe, and also encompass other topical subjects. For example, the current global financial crisis is putting a strain on law enforcement worldwide, with budgets and staffing levels being cut, despite an increased demand for policing. The Convention would address this common issue, allowing delegates to present and exchange views, share knowledge, and explore how to deliver effective policing with fewer resources, whilst examining the concept of 'smart policing'. This would also include assessing the impact that this pressure is having on the work of Chiefs of Police and how, under their leadership, law enforcement agencies are evolving under these constraints.

As part of the Convention activities, Europol facilitated bilateral and multilateral meetings between different law enforcement authorities. In addition, a Europol exhibition allowed specialists to present details of Europol's products and services to our law enforcement partners.

The Convention was attended by 240 high-level representatives, from 41 countries¹ as well as from the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Eurojust, European Commission, European Parliament and Interpol.

1 All 27 EU Member States plus Albania, Australia, Colombia, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.

Opening Remarks

The Convention was officially opened on 30 May 2012 by **Mr Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol** who introduced the theme of the event: Smart Policing.

In these times of financial austerity, additional challenges are being faced by law enforcement chiefs in Europe who must provide high quality services, even under these conditions. The question to be addressed was: *How can we do more with less?*

Mr Wainwright went on to explain that the programme would explore how these challenges are being met in Europe and how to be very smart in policing even with constraints on resources.

Mr Stefano Manservigi, European Commission, Director General for Home Affairs, spoke from the perspective of the European Commission (EC) whose aim is to create more growth – ultimately a security agenda for growth.

He explained how the Commission had just adopted recommendations for this, exploring the key challenges and how to tackle them. By penetrating the illicit economy, working much more closely together and creating a better environment for the *licit* economy, this will in turn create a safer environment for economic activity, for citizens, and will fight corruption and counter the efforts of organised crime (OC).

The rise of the digital, or e-economy, creates more jobs and positive economic activity. However as the e-economy develops, so does fraud, identity theft and cybercrime – which is a rather hidden area of crime.

Our efforts to tackle these must be more intense and we must attack organised crime where it is taking advantage of the single market. There must be a focus on freezing the assets of criminals.

The European Commission is in a position to inform about how to improve internal security and a policy debate would give rise to discussion on the reform of Europol, and other agencies, to bring about these improvements.

Mr Manservisi concluded that EU Member States must make more use of Europol - more joint investigation teams (JITs), more sharing of knowledge, and so on - and that we should build policy and common objectives around these ideas.

Ms Sonia Alfano, Chair of the newly-created European Parliament Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (CRIM), was next to speak.

She explained how the establishment of this committee was supported by all European Parliament political groups. From a legislative perspective, all relevant EU legislation must be adopted by Member States if we are to tackle organised criminal groups more effectively. To do this, a political and institutional campaign must ensue if we are to signal our common commitment.

If political will and the capacity of judicial and investigative authorities are brought together, it will produce excellent results and ultimately the freedom and security required for our citizens.

With a perspective from outside the European Union, participants then heard from **Mr Ranko Ostojić, the Croatian Minister of the Interior.** Croatia, who will become the EU's 28th Member State in 2013 and has a population of 4.5 million people who are policed by 21 000 law enforcement officers.

From a geographical point of view, Croatia is affected by the 'Balkan route' which is of strategic relevance to the problems of illegal immigration, drugs and weapons trafficking in Europe.

The Minister explained how a great difference can be seen in Croatian law enforcement, compared to 10 years ago. This is a result of an increase in the exchange of data and criminal intelligence with its international law enforcement partners.

24 hour cooperation with their international counterparts has produced many more operational results and, importantly, also creates a different atmosphere amongst police officers. With this international integration they feel that successful police operations in partner countries are also their successes – which is a totally different atmosphere than that of a decade before.

Finally, **Mr Øystein Mæland, Norway's National Police Commissioner**, addressed the audience to recount how, in 2011, a bomb blast killed eight people and ruined huge parts of government headquarters in Oslo. Straight afterwards, on an island near Oslo, the same lone perpetrator went on a shooting spree, killing another 69 people.

The Norwegian government have set up a national evaluation committee who will soon present their findings and report on those events in July 2011. The mandate of the committee is to evaluate the Norwegian people's response to the events and to evaluate how prepared Norway's law enforcement authorities were for these emergencies. No new legislation has been introduced up until now, as the government awaits the findings of the committee.

Shortly after the incident last year, the Norwegian Prime Minister was able to gain support from almost all parts of Norwegian society including political parties. He stated that what the nation had experienced should not lead them away from democracy or being an open society. On the contrary, what they require is *more* democracy and *more* openness.

The size and strength of police districts are important in Norway and they cannot expect a large increase in police budgets to increase efficiency. Therefore, Norwegian law enforcement authorities must enter into more structural debates, such as these at the EPCC, to explore how to increase effectiveness with more or less the same resources.

Mr Wainwright concluded by summarising the contributions of the speakers and highlighting the impact of the economic crisis. Living and working under these conditions can create an environment for organised crime to grow, aided by corruption in certain sectors. EU citizens are living through a time of uncertainty, with unprecedented financial challenges, all in the face of evolving organised crime threats and challenges. He called on the delegates to address these challenges during the sessions of this year's Convention.

Part 1: Cybercrime

On 31 May, after some welcoming remarks from the Director of Europol, the Convention addressed the subject of cybercrime from a business perspective.

Mr Owen Tripp, an internet entrepreneur and **co-founder of Reputation.com**, first explained the two major types of rising trends. *Low-tech crime on a high-tech platform* covers, for example, social networking targets like Facebook, which has a billion users. Financial details, names, addresses and other personal information are stolen by criminals who don't necessarily need to have a high level of technology knowledge to commit the crimes. Mr Tripp's statistics showed how:

- Social network scams: Users are 68% more likely to be scammed than non-users
- Identity theft saw a 13% increase in 2010–2011
- Social & website brandjacking: Counterfeiters captured 28% of search engine results for sports brands in 2011.

Secondly, statistics about *high-tech crime committed on high-tech platforms* showed how:

- Data breaches saw a 67% increase in 2010–2011
- Through mobile phone attacks, 7% of smartphone owners have been victims of cybercrime
- Via pay-per-click brandjacking, 580 million clicks were stolen from the hotel industry alone in 2011.

The big picture of cybercrime was illustrated with further statistics:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 200 000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of credit cards harvested in a May 2011 data breach• Cost to remediate: \$22 million |
| \$5.9 million | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Median annualised cost of cybercrime to any given business• 56% increase over last year |
| \$388 billion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual global cost of cybercrime• \$114 billion for the crime itself• \$274 billion for time lost and other setbacks |
| 431 million | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of adult victims of cybercrime last year• 69% of online adults |

Europol's Assistant Director of Operations, Mr Troels Oerting, then took the floor to present details of the forthcoming European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), which will be hosted at Europol from January 2013.

Mr Oerting spoke about the threats posed by cybercrime and their impact on governments, the economy and citizens which results in billions of dollars lost worldwide and untold emotional trauma, especially for victims of online child sexual exploitation.

Cybercrime is constantly evolving as data becomes increasingly mobile, stored in the cloud, and people are victimised in ways impossible to imagine just 10 years ago.

As internet technology develops on a daily basis, so does cybercrime. Criminals spot opportunities before they emerge, then swarm to exploit them to the full before law enforcement can catch up. An example of this is the rise in hacktivism. No-one expected the distributed model of online disorder to be so massively popular, nor the possibility that it could be used for more sinister aims, such as the destruction of critical infrastructure, by hackers with vendettas.

This is a huge challenge for governments and police – keeping ahead of new vulnerabilities, getting to the criminals in disparate jurisdictions before they move on to something else, and dealing with terabytes of data. Many Member States' high tech crime units are already swamped.

EU law enforcement authorities should not have to deal with this on their own, and it is not efficient for EU authorities to do it 27 times over. Also, the vast majority of internet infrastructure and data is not under government control – to just find out what's going on, we need to work in partnership with a range of sectors to fight cybercrime.

With the internet being global and borderless, and therefore all cybercrime transnational, there is a need for a force multiplier. EC3 will be the force multiplier that the EU needs, improving the effectiveness and coordination of cybercrime investigations.

EC3 will be an information focal point, to pool expertise, to improve support to Member States' investigations and be the collective voice of the European Union. It will focus on:

- Cybercrimes committed by organised crime groups, particularly those generating large criminal profits such as online fraud
- Cybercrimes which cause serious harm to their victims, such as online child sexual exploitation
- Cybercrimes (including cyber-attacks) affecting critical infrastructure and information systems in the EU.

EC3 will provide a 24/7 response for law enforcement authorities in both EU Member States and other countries outside the EU with which Europol cooperates.

EC3 will also build capacity, provide cutting edge forensic support and tools, and greater strategic insights into vulnerabilities and criminal methods than ever before. It will provide a collaborative response, drawing on expertise from a range of specialist agencies – Eurojust, CEPOL, ENISA, CERT-EU - to name but a few. In addition, EC3 will also reach out to Computer Emergency Response Teams, internet security experts and service providers, the financial sector and many others.

Progress to date as regards EC3 has included: setting up the implementation team; building functions; developing existing operational support; additional research and development (R&D); strategic and data fusion capabilities. Europol has been working with the European Commission and EU partner agencies to deliver this.

The centre will be operational from 1 January 2013, but there is still plenty of time for EU law enforcement authorities to shape it. Chiefs of police are encouraged to tell Europol what they want to see and what services should be provided. Europol wants to build a centre that law enforcement wants to use, that adds value, and makes criminal investigations more effective.

The European Cybercrime Centre will make the EU smarter, faster and stronger in its fight against cybercrime.

Part 2: Smart Policing

The second part of the European Police Chiefs Convention started with an insight into public security and the fight against organised crime in Mexico, presented by **Ms Maribel Cervantes, General Commissioner of the Mexican Police**. Despite a very challenging crime environment, law enforcement in Mexico is undergoing a transformation, with the federal police striving to work in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner. Mrs Cervantes went on to explain how Mexico is on the right track and becoming the force that it needs to be in order to reduce violence and organised crime. This is of course with support and cooperation from other international police forces and Europol.

Mr Jens Henrik Højbjerg, National Commissioner of the Danish Police, defined smart policing as any management solution which ultimately leads to better use of the available resources to obtain operational results.

The Danish Police was successfully reorganised in 2007, resulting in major structural changes, with the intent of strengthening and enhancing their performance and efficiency.

The Danish Police have launched a multi-annual strategy for 2011-2015. The strategy dictates the course of action for important focal points and strategic goals. Several part-strategies and policies have been developed including a National Operational Strategy. During this timeframe a key issue will be to measure how successful the Danish Police have been in combating organised crime.

The management structure, the multi-annual strategy and part strategies, plus the multi-annual financial agreement form the main framework of the daily work of the Danish Police.

Incentive contracts have been drawn up for all Commissioners in the Danish Police to measure performance. The contracts are evaluated annually and a possible bonus is calculated on the basis of the results.

Activity-based budgeting will become more common. Services provided by the Danish Police have to be costed to provide transparency to the taxpayers and the Ministry of Finance. This will result in more pressure to achieve goals using the cheapest and most efficient means.

In addition, studies in five main areas are also being carried out by Danish Police staff on the organisation of operational police work.

A possible public-private partnership with the security industry, to provide security cover for industrial areas, could provide closer cooperation and benefits.

The Danish Police have scrutinised the composition and qualities of staff within its workforce. A new police study programme, accredited to a Bachelor Degree, was initiated in 2011 focusing on an analytical approach to everyday police duties. In addition, the final details of launching a Masters Degree in Police Governance are being considered.

Experience has shown that keeping good open communication with staff can aid the natural fear of change. Also, affiliated organisations, such as unions, must realise that yesterday's solutions are not the answer to the problems of tomorrow. We must work together to promote the positive benefits of change. The way in which leaders behave and conduct their roles by communicating what and why things are expected has a direct implication on the impact of core values and core identity with our employees. Showing the way is leading the way.

Finally, as a result of the reorganisation, its structure and efficient functioning, the Danish Police are heading on a successful path to the future.

Mr Ints Kuzis, Chief Commissioner of the Latvian State Police, explained how, in 2009, the State Police budget was dramatically reduced by up to 40% due to Latvia's economic recession. Many police officers had to be dismissed and for the remaining officers, salaries were reduced by 35%.

There used to be 27 regional police departments, run by a Chief, each with its own administrative structures, financial/accounting personnel and an HR management department. But, after September 2009, restructuring took place, resulting in the creation of just five regional departments.

Further internal assessments revealed uniformed police officers were undertaking tasks that were not specifically police functions. By 2016 there will have been an assessment of official posts in the police and some roles – up to 400 positions - may change where the main functions are support tasks.

The Latvian Police are concentrating on recruiting University graduates and paying more attention to training and career education issues. That way, the Latvian police force will be better qualified, well educated, with good English skills, and an understanding of international police cooperation and what goes on in other countries. There is a positive feeling about the future of the Latvian police.

Mr Ignacio Cosidó Gutiérrez, Director of the Spanish National Police, spoke of the need for change in policing and how the European Police Chiefs must lead the transformation process.

He highlighted that police need to be in the right place at the right time and be capable of meeting public demands. Intelligence is a critical factor for achieving law enforcement's goals and the challenge is how to ensure the intelligence flows between law enforcement authorities. Through intelligence received by cooperating with other European law enforcement agencies, Spain has been able to establish links, for example, between the trafficking of hashish and terrorism, and between organised crime and the trafficking of human beings.

In this ever-advancing world of technology and the internet, police authorities must invest more in research and development. With regards to social networking channels, the Spanish police consider them vital for connecting to and cooperating better with citizens, providing a valuable tool for law enforcement.

Crime is the most globalised activity on the planet so international and multilateral cooperation is essential, for example by using Joint Investigation Teams. Spain is proud to have splendid cooperation arrangements with many countries, but it is paramount for all Member States and third parties to use platforms such as Europol to promote this cooperation even more than has been done in the past.

Criminals are able to move around Europe more easily due to relaxation of border controls, therefore Schengen, SIRENE and such other tools and facilities must be used more fully to inhibit their activities.

Public/private cooperation, for example to provide security measures, should also be enhanced. In Spain, there will be a new law to broaden the scope of services provided by private companies, i.e. prison guards, body guards and infrastructure security. In contrast, there is a need to eliminate redundancies in law enforcement agencies.

Mr Petr Lessy, President of the Police of the Czech Republic addressed the audience next and detailed how the Czech police underwent extensive developments in 2005, going from 48 000 police officers to having a force of 38 825 police officers today.

The Czech Police will employ a Competency Model - a management tool which defines the education standards of the police. The Competency Model is linked with a new national structure and is harmonised with new methodologies.

In setting up the Model, the Czech Republic would like to identify characteristic fields of activity, also to define key abilities and skills. In addition, the Model describes specialist knowledge and also draws on public sector skills and abilities. The entire process has already started with the description and they are now working on the architecture and then preparing a proposal for the police force, which the Home Office must approve before people are trained and the model introduced throughout the police force. There have been five steps so far: experts recruited; collection of information on competencies; timetable established; international cooperation; and the collation of experiences from previous use.

Within the Model, it was proposed that an international workshop should be arranged to discuss best practice and to exchange information within the Competency Model. This is a route that the Czech Republic would like to take during the present economic situation, to contribute towards the education of law enforcement officers' skills and abilities, to establish how we can make better use of our people and to develop international best practice.

Mr Jörg Ziercke, President of the German Federal Criminal Police (BKA), addressed the audience with some questions: How can we control the new threats and opportunities? How can the police be a step ahead in a world where, on every street corner, you can buy a computer which fits into your trouser pocket? Mr Ziercke then went on to explain how, with this in mind, the BKA is successfully building on a three-point strategy:

1. Strategic perspectives to support purposeful decisions in criminalistics
2. Implementation of necessary action through research and development of new methods
3. Operational services for investigations – anytime and mobile.

The BKA maintains a strategic overview so that, looking ahead in a criminalistic manner, they can make sensible decisions about technical issues. They implement measures once the need is identified - researching and developing new methods in order to strengthen operational services. In the end, no strategies can help if they cannot also counter new fields of crime, such as cybercrime, with their own know-how.

Using technology monitoring developed by the BKA, they look at a time line of three to ten years in the future. Together with the analysis of new fields of technology, monitoring is the basis for selective research and development shortly before the technology is brought onto the market. Technical support will allow operational services to be mobile and available around the clock. Technology monitoring, and the early detection of new technologies and applications, is the basis for making sensible decisions to target future crime areas. For example, an important trend is the 'Internet of Things'. At the moment, there is no internationally recognised definition for this phenomenon. One can describe it as an extension of the internet, integrating things and intelligent objects. These applications will change our lives, not least because objects will learn to act and react autonomously. It will make it possible for objects to be partially independent from people.

The BKA does not restrict the use of the method described to the internet. They also look at other fields of technology in a similar way, for example detection systems and video surveillance.

The common objective must be even greater international cooperation between all relevant actors in the field of internal security and especially also in connection with the new technologies and crime areas. The creation of a European Cybercrime Centre at Europol is a good example in this context.

Mr Fabrizio Lisi, Director of the Italian International Police Cooperation Service, expressed how he is profoundly convinced that, as law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are confronted with serious financial difficulties, it is only through intensive international cooperation that we can adequately tackle criminal organisations. These criminals can rely on huge resources and do not fear the current financial crisis, but rather take advantage of it. LEAs must take advantage of the coordination and support services that Europol offers in the fight against organised crime and terrorism.

Part 3: Itinerant organised crime groups

Mr Jens Henrik Højbjerg, National Commissioner of the Danish Police opened the next session on the subject of itinerant organised crime groups, which has had increased focus over the last few years, as it has become an extensive problem in all EU Member States. It is also a subject of increasing political focus and awareness of the politicians in the EU.

When referring to itinerant criminal groups, there are two types. The first group consists of people who leave their country or region of origin hoping to find a job and better times elsewhere. When their plans fail, they find themselves in a situation without financial support, feeling forced to commit crime to support themselves.

The other type are those that travel with the sole aim of committing crime. This type is further divided into groups, where one part is recognised as being travellers, who stay only a very short time in the same place, while the other type have a more permanent time frame, but can move to a new place if they feel the police are closing in on them.

There are a number of common denominators for these groups. They often have a very well-defined internal structure with several people (the groups occasionally consist of both children and adults) and they commit many types of criminal offences.

The criminal offences committed by the itinerant groups are on a smaller scale, when looked at individually. The typical offences are burglaries, petty theft, shop lifting, theft of metal, etc, but also more sophisticated types of crime such as skimming of credit card information.

But there are two main reasons why the criminal offences deriving from itinerant groups cannot be tolerated. The first one is of course the fact that the criminal offences cannot be viewed as isolated incidents, as they are pearls on either a string of poverty-led actions, or on a string of well-organised persons.

The second reason is no less important, as the criminal activities of itinerant groups influence the entire community. Their actions have consequences for all kind of citizens in society, who feel unsafe in their own homes and on the streets. They have consequences for small businesses who are undermined by larger thefts, and they too have consequences for the many foreign nationals, who are residing in our countries with the intention of making an honest living. These people are paying a high price for this phenomena.

As with many other crime areas, it is of great value to have an analytic and investigative approach to the problem of itinerant crime groups, with efforts centralised around intensified monitoring.

The Danish Police are increasing their checks of the relevant criminals who display suspicious behaviours, and their vehicles, with the intention of presenting a far more applicable intelligence picture. It will also assist the police in following the criminals around the country, mapping them in numbers and their geographical extent, and in correlation with other groups. They will also increase the collection of information from their checks on foreign nationals in order to establish their legal stay and work in Denmark. Further to these measures, a project has just recently been launched on a number plate recognition system.

The value of cooperating through international police liaison officers is immense when it comes to mapping the criminal groups and uncovering the links between the individuals in Denmark as well as the people working behind in their home country. Also the assistance of Europol and the national desks of other Member States have been very valuable.

These are measures based on the situation that are faced on a local, regional and national level in Denmark. But combating itinerant groups cannot stop here, as almost all the itinerant criminals in Denmark originate from other countries and other Member States. This calls for intensive European cooperation between the Member States' national contact points, across the EU's internal borders and especially with Europol.

Internationally we have to address the problem in a united way, and when the current intelligence picture points towards this being a regional problem in Europe, it makes no sense not to address the problem in this forum amongst colleagues, and in the European Union.

Mr Højbjerg then went on to say how he was happy that the Operational Action Plan (OAP) related to the EU Police Cycle priority on mobile organised criminal groups is starting to get going. The OAP accentuates the need for a focus on the creation of a better EU intelligence picture in relation to this problem and a streamlined framework for feeding the Europol database.

As in other areas of crossborder crime, Europol should be a focal point for efforts within the EU. The combined resources of EU police forces, assisted by Europol, will really make a difference in addressing this type of crime.

For that reason, during the Danish Presidency the Law Enforcement Working Party has drawn up draft Council conclusions on the increased use of the Europol Information System in the fight against crossborder crime including crime committed by itinerant groups.

The draft Council conclusions invite Member States to – amongst others – promote knowledge of the capabilities and functioning of the Europol Information System; facilitate access to the system; set up national guidelines for the use of the system; and clear the path for increased use of the Europol Information System via regular uploads and searches.

At the same time, Europol is invited to promote knowledge, technical and administrative solutions to make the Europol Information System easily accessible, and to present annual statistics on the use of the system. The draft Council conclusions will be submitted to the Justice and Home Affairs Council on the 7-8 June 2012, where it is expected they will be adopted.

A lot of resources have gone into creating the Europol Information System which was done when we had more money available. We know that itinerant criminals travel across borders and we need to identify them and their activities. The time has come for us to undertake a quantitative goal of uploading and extracting a certain amount of information into, and out of, the European Information System.

We should approach the problem united, looking at exploiting some of our most useful and best-known measures and instruments. As heads of the EU's police forces, we should start by committing ourselves to an intensified use of the Europol Information System.

Ms Catherine de Bolle, General Commissioner of the Belgian Federal Police, specifically focused on the EMPACT project around mobile organised crime groups.

The Belgian national security plan includes connecting strategic decision-making with the European policy cycle. Other points of interest are related to the implementation of a coherent police force policy on the basis of analysis of the geostrategic situation, cooperating with neighbouring countries and making a real contribution to integrated border supervision of the external borders.

It is clear that the crimes committed by these mobile organised crime groups, among which are burglaries of houses and other premises, has a serious impact on the feeling of safety amongst the general public. As a matter of fact most crime phenomena in which these criminal organisations are active are currently increasing substantially in Belgium: house burglaries, metal thefts and pick pocketing in Belgium are rising between 10% and 30% a year. Although the current economic crisis has an impact on this, this once again shows the importance of tackling this phenomenon.

Belgium recently introduced an initiative that requires jewellers and scrap merchants to legally record certain information. This recording requirement will simplify police checks on, for example, corrupt jewellers. 40% of house burglaries go hand in hand with jewellery theft, and this jewellery has to be sold somewhere.

Mrs de Bolle expressed how she was satisfied that the necessary attention is being given at a European level to the multidisciplinary and administrative approach required to combat organised crime. As the head of the Belgian delegation to COSI, she will keep a very close eye on the developments of this established network.

She also went on to say how EU police authorities should consider whether we can succeed in tackling this phenomenon through joint efforts. In that respect there have already been important steps. The enlargement of the EU in 2004, and 2007, was in that respect very beneficial and made things possible for police forces that were previously impossible. The recovery of stolen goods, confiscated in the new European Member States, was a very positive experience for the victims, and was also highly appreciated by the political and judicial authorities.

Mr Ruud Bik, Incoming Deputy National Commissioner of the Dutch Police, spoke of a number of factors that make the Netherlands vulnerable to mobile organised criminal groups. Data from the European Commission shows that the Netherlands is one of the EU's wealthiest Member States, which provides these groups with ample opportunity to commit crime.

The nature and scope of mobile criminal groups in the Netherlands has only been identified quite recently. Local and regional police forces often do not realise that 'lighter' offences, such as residential burglaries (80 000 year - 15% by mobile gangs) or company break-ins, may have been committed by internationally-operating perpetrators. As a result they tend to take an incident-oriented approach. Though the Dutch police information position on this subject currently leaves a lot to be desired, serious efforts are being made to improve it. This is one of the reasons why the Netherlands decided to joint EMPACT's mobile organised crime groups project.

First, the Dutch aim is to improve their information position by gaining insights into, and an overview of, mobile organised criminal groups at a national level. They try to achieve this by creating awareness among local and regional police forces regarding the activities of internationally-operating groups of criminals, thus enabling a national approach. In addition, their participation in EMPACT is vital. It enables them to make connections between neighbourhood policing and the world at large.

Second, they are also working on a more systematic approach that includes further investigation of known individual perpetrators and groups of perpetrators. The information gathered is subsequently exchanged with Europol through analysis work files and Europol's Information System, which they hope will lead to more operational cooperation with the source and target countries.

Third, in addition, the Dutch law enforcement authorities are enhancing their incident-oriented approach with a 24/7 policy and by speeding up the exchange of records within the EU to enable the Examining Magistrate to remand the suspects in custody. This is a very serious problem in the EU – when this type of criminal are arrested they are often assumed to be first-time offenders. The European Criminal Record Index System is a good starting point that will hopefully contribute to more swift and effective investigations.

Fourth, they are also striving for an integrated approach that includes the involvement of local authorities in connection with licensing for pubs, restaurants, etc, using citizens as the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood, for instance through a network of citizens who can connect to the police by telephone (ie anonymous tip-off numbers, through websites, etc). In the Netherlands there are 700 000 citizens who subscribe to these specific social media tools and alerts. They are also raising awareness among staff of hotels, bars and restaurants as part of their partnership agreements with trade and industry. It is one of the most effective strategies when it is well implemented.

A broad-based European approach will see all police forces band together to exchange information more swiftly and more effectively, and/or make it available through Europol. It is vital that both the target countries, the ‘hunting grounds’, so to speak, and the ‘source countries’ in central and eastern Europe work together closely to combat this serious problem that we share.

As this type of criminality evolves and mobile gangs become more mobile, the source countries of today will become the target countries of tomorrow.

Of course we will expect Europol to carry out a thorough analysis of the data that can be used for operational purposes during investigations and law enforcement. That way, Europol’s brief, technical analyses can lead to the development of more operational cooperation with the target and source countries. The EMPACT mobile organised criminal groups project will contribute significantly to the tracing and prosecution of High Value Targets and the confiscation of their assets.

Ms Mireille Ballestrazzi, Vice President for Europe on the Interpol Executive Committee, was next to speak on the subject of itinerant criminal groups, first asking what is meant by that term. She said that it is clear which incidents come under this definition: various types of thefts which range from uncivilised behaviour (even simple rudeness) to serious serial crime, committed by individuals born into itinerant populations and acting methodically on the territory of one or several EU Member States, whatever their nationality.

In France, the criminalised fringes of these communities, having a clan-type structure, have developed characteristic types of crime: thefts and assaults on the elderly in their homes, theft of goods (cigarettes, perfumes, etc) from heavy goods vehicles, warehouses or depots, or, for the more experienced itinerant criminals, attacks on secure premises or armoured vehicles, drugs trafficking and protection rackets. Counterfeit currency production and trafficking, art theft and trafficking are other specialties of such criminalised groups.

Ms Ballestrazzi explained how she had examined the methods used to deal with these types of crime at an EU level, and it raised a question in her mind. In most European reference texts on the subject, one finds the concept of ‘mobile (itinerant) criminal groups’. This is the wording of one of the eight priorities of the policy cycle on organised crime, and that of EMPACT and the operational action plan deriving from it.

It seems that *itinerant* is the right word to use – the opposite of a sedentary life - no base, constantly on the move. It calls to mind the idea of perpetual movement, of a wandering way of life, a lack of permanent base or registered address. It is the opposite of a sedentary lifestyle.

The simultaneous reference to ‘mobile’, however, raises concerns. All things considered, mobility is actually typical of most types of modern crime. With the introduction of the concept of ‘mobility’, one runs the risk of passing from itinerant criminal groups to the mobile organised crime as a whole, and thus to transnational organised crime as a whole. This ‘broad’ concept of ‘mobile’ itinerant crime may be detrimental to unsettled populations, insofar as it tends to condemn them, suggesting that they are similar to mafia-type organisations.

Above all, confusion between the Russian-speaking or Balkan mafia-type organisations and itinerant criminal groups is likely to hinder or delay proper consideration of the threat. Burglaries or other acts of violence committed by some individuals from the travelling community cannot be dealt with in the same way as the long-term setting up of Russian-speaking criminals connected to logistic and structured networks within the EU, who are not, under any circumstances, itinerant, even though they are very mobile.

Consequently, Ms Ballestrazzi summed up by saying that the term ‘itinerant criminal groups’ should be used on a European level instead of the expression ‘mobile (itinerant) criminal groups’ and that is what EMPACT will be dealing with.

Ms Michèle Coninx, President of Eurojust, was the next speaker who opened by talking about seizing the proceeds of crime. For this, she said, we must ensure national coordination, as well as judicial and police cooperation and coordination, and go after the money flows.

Being smart in this case, at the EPCC, means joining forces, getting more organised, sharing skills and expertise and of course includes Europol and Eurojust working closely together. Getting more organised includes producing good and complete evidence and having more swift procedures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime lists eight priorities (from the OCTA) which we must all work on – EU Member States and involved agencies such as Europol and Eurojust – and join in a collaborative effort. In the case of itinerant organised crime groups (OCGs), the driver is Belgium, co-driver France, and the aim is to reduce the general capabilities of mobile itinerant OCGs.

Vital to this succeeding is information exchange. Also vital is ensuring thorough investigations and proper prosecutions. Confiscation of the criminals’ assets is crucial, to take away their revenue, their motivation to commit crime and discourage them as much as possible.

There must also be a thorough administrative approach – to engage and ensure proper interaction between all potential actors such as tax authorities, the private sector, customs, etc. And if there is a need for legislation, it should be harmonised, for example in the seizure of criminal proceeds.

This is where Eurojust is involved. One of the key added values of Eurojust is its organisation of coordination meetings. It’s main, most important, task is to ensure multilateral judicial coordination.

Ms Coninx concluded that Eurojust's most successful cases are the ones where they work with Europol, which we must do more of to tackle the problem of itinerant organised crime groups.

The next speaker on the agenda was **Mr Pat Byrne, Assistant Director of Projects, Europol Operations Department.**

He explained how Europol will soon finalise a report on itinerant organised crime groups. Europol analysis has identified how these groups engage in serial burglaries, organised scams, crimes against the elderly and vulnerable, as well as traditional forms of serious organised crime such as trafficking in human beings, drugs, money laundering, distribution of counterfeit goods, payment card fraud, extortion and racketeering. Prior to this, Europol has issued threat notices (OC-SCAN) on the subject.

A key issue for law enforcement authorities is that many of these organised gangs deliberately try to operate 'under the radar' and the orchestrated nature of their activities can go unnoticed. When discovered (sometimes after considerable damage is done) they move their sphere of operations to another jurisdiction.

Europol's analysis indicates that these gangs can operate in loose networks, or are hierarchically based or come from familial or clan-based origins. The increased exploitation of minors and adults for sexual purposes and forced labour is a growing concern.

In order to effectively identify and target these mobile organised crime groups (MOCGs) and pick up their activities at an early stage, the sharing of law enforcement information and intelligence is vital. Europol has a number of products and services which are tailored to support Member States and other partners in this area.

Europol is currently implementing the single Serious Organised Crime Analytical Workfile which will simplify procedures for sharing information on MOCGs, including the ability to identify cross-overs between crime areas or groups operating in unison. This will also improve intelligence and analytical capabilities.

Europol also has the capacity to store relevant DNA data and analyse it. With fingerprints and other evidence links can be made and extra intelligence given to investigators in different Member States, which may not have been picked up at a national level.

Additionally, if EU law enforcement authorities were to make full use of the Europol Information System (EIS), all suspects could be checked against the database, potentially leading to the solving of crimes linked to mobile organised crime groups.

Mr Jens Henrik Højbjerg, National Commissioner of the Danish Police took the floor again to stress how, if the real and serious growing problem of itinerant organised crime groups is to be successfully tackled, every Member State must make it a priority. There must be clarity in the definition of the problem so that the rights tools for cooperation are chosen.

All EU law enforcement authorities must be committed, and must take advantage of all available support from Europol, which includes giving Europol the best quality data. Prosecution and police services must work closely together, as this is how the best results are achieved.

Mr Højbjerg concluded by saying that he feels that we're heading in the right direction for better and enhanced cooperation. EU law enforcement authorities need each other as they share the same problems. And we must support and help each other as those source countries for itinerant crime groups will inevitably become target countries.

Mr Cuasanta Garcia, General Head of Judicial Headquarters of the Spanish Guardia Civil spoke about coordination and how important it is for smart policing. In Spain, coordination is everything between their police forces and they have also had to establish relationships with police forces outside of Spain to effectively fight organised crime and terrorism. Guardia Civil's relationship with Europol is seen as absolutely vital, to take advantage of Europol's ability to analyse data, gather intelligence and coordinate operations. Using agencies like Europol helps to achieve better results and makes the best use of the resources available. With the economic crisis, there is all the more reason to continue in this way, making the utmost use of Europol's tools.

Mr Michalis Papageorgiou, Chief of Cypriot Police, was one of the last speakers at the Convention. Cyprus will take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU from July-December 2012 and Mr Papageorgiou therefore ran through the current and planned activities of the Cyprus Police during the Presidency.

In summarising the major role the Cypriot Police will play in supporting their country's Presidency of the EU, he highlighted the Cypriot Police initiatives which include:

- Possible production of a guide on how to spot fake documents
- Seminar on Aviation Security against terrorist threats (Working Group on terrorism)
- Seminar on Best Practices against Cybercrime incl child sexual exploitation, in cooperation with EU Member States
- Exploring how to help with the new European Cybercrime Centre
- Establishment of a network of experts on the illicit trafficking of cultural property
- Seminar on overcoming the reluctance of victims to cooperate in domestic violence cases - EU Handbook of Best Police Practices.

Two joint police operations are to be organised:

- Joint Operation 'Aphrodite' - Combating illegal immigration. All the routes that networks are using with the EU and Schengen countries
- Joint Operation 'Cy Car' - Combating vehicle crime (stolen, shipped and sold).

Closing remarks

Mr Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol, took to the stage for some closing remarks. He recalled how, in the last 24 hours, the European Police Chiefs Convention had explored the concept of smart policing from many perspectives, including:

- How the EU law enforcement community can respond with agility to the new manifestations of organised crime such as cybercrime and itinerant crime
- How we can respond with prudence and cost-effectiveness in the face of economic austerity
- How indeed police and other law enforcement authorities can play their part in securing the economic recovery by preventing organised crime from exploiting the current economic conditions.

In conclusion, smart policing can be delivered by:

1. Developing new technologies
2. Cutting waste and bureaucracy
3. Employing smarter human resources policies
4. Focusing ever more resources on core tasks
5. Being smarter with intelligence capabilities and the information held
6. Working more intensively at an international level to exchange that information, and
7. Using the services available in the EU to coordinate effective operational actions.

Mr Wainwright confirmed that Europol would issue a Convention report as last year and added that Europol very much values participants' feedback in terms of future European Police Chiefs Conventions.

The next EPCC would most likely be held in the first half of July 2013, on a date to be confirmed, and Mr Wainwright will co-host with the Lithuanian Police Chief under the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Programme & Speakers

30 May 2012

Opening of the European Police Chiefs Convention 2012

Mr Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol

Keynote speakers

Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Home Affairs, European Commission

Ms Sonia Alfano, Chair of the European Parliament Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (CRIM)

Mr Ranko Ostojić, Minister of the Interior, Croatia

Mr Øystein Mæland, National Police Commissioner, Norway

31 May 2012

Keynote speakers on Cybercrime

Mr Owen Tripp, internet entrepreneur and co-founder of Reputation.com

Mr Troels Oerting, Assistant Director of Operations, Europol

Keynote speakers on Smart policing

Ms Maribel Cervantes, General Commissioner, Mexican Police.

Mr Jens Henrik Højbjerg, National Commissioner, Danish Police

Mr Ints Kuzis, Chief Commissioner, Latvian State Police

Mr Ignacio Cosidó Gutiérrez, Director of the Spanish National Police

Mr Petr Lessy, President, Police of the Czech Republic

Mr Jörg Ziercke, President, German Federal Criminal Police (BKA)

Mr Fabrizio Lisi, Director, Italian International Police Cooperation Service

Keynote speakers on Itinerant organised crime groups

Mr Jens Henrik Højbjerg, National Commissioner, Danish Police

Ms Catherine de Bolle, General Commissioner, Belgian Federal Police

Mr Ruud Bik, Incoming Deputy National Commissioner, Dutch Police

Ms Mireille Ballestrazzi, Vice President for Europe, Interpol Executive Committee

Ms Michèle Coninx, President of Eurojust

Mr Pat Byrne, Assistant Director of Projects, Europol Operations Department

Mr Cuasanta Garcia, General Head of Judicial Headquarters, Spanish Guardia Civil

Mr Michalis Papageorgiou, Chief of Cypriot Police

Concluding remarks

Mr Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol