



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 April 2013**

**9038/13**

**LIMITE**

**JAI 331  
COSI 45  
ENFOPOL 126  
EUROJUST 37  
CATS 19  
EJN 32  
COPEN 73**

**NOTE**

---

**From:** Eurojust and Europol

**To:** Standing Committee on operation cooperation on internal security (COSI)

---

**N° prev. doc.:** 10019/09 CATS 52 EUROJUST 29 EUROPOL 30 + COR 1  
18077/11 JAI 915 COSI 118  
9045/12 JAI 275 COSI 20 ENFOPOL 111 EUROJUST 40 CATS 28 EJN 33  
COPEN 99 + COR 1

---

**Subject:** Joint Europol-Eurojust Annual Report to the Council and Commission for 2012

---

Delegations will find enclosed the above-mentioned Joint Europol-Eurojust Annual Report to the Council and the Commission.



## Joint Eurojust-Europol Annual Report to the Council and the Commission for 2012

### I. Introduction

Eurojust and Europol have continued their efforts to foster closer co-operation and operational complementarity in the fight against serious cross-border crime by increasing information exchange and improving their strategic and operational co-operation in supporting the Member States.

Specifically, during 2012, Europol and Eurojust proceeded and enhanced their activities in the following fields:

- Connection of Eurojust to the secure SIENA Network;
- Exploration of further association of Eurojust to AWFs (Focal Points);
- Increase in information on meetings including operational and coordination meetings and participation in respective meetings;
- Close cooperation as regards the European Cybercrime Centre;
- Full implementation of the joint exchange programme.

### II. Specific Strategic Co-operation

The co-operation between Europol and Eurojust on a strategic level took place within the following framework:

#### II.1. Meetings

- In 2012 two bilateral meetings between the Presidency and the Administrative Director of Eurojust, and the Directorate of Europol were held.
- The Eurojust-Europol Steering Committee met once in 2012.
- The Task Force to implement the Europol-Eurojust Agreement met twice in 2012.
- Throughout 2012, Eurojust participated in all meetings of the Heads of Europol National Units (HENUs).

- In the field of terrorism related matters, the Counter Terrorism Team of Eurojust and the Counter Terrorism Unit of Europol held regular meetings.
- In March 2012, Europol participated in the "Strategic Seminar on A Multidisciplinary Approach to Prevent and Fight Organised Crime: Challenges for Judicial Follow-Up and a Possible Role for Eurojust" jointly organised by Eurojust and the Danish Presidency of the European Union and the Director of the Office of Public Prosecutions of Denmark.
- In April 2012, Europol participated in the "Strategic meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings" organised by Eurojust.
- In December 2012, Europol and Eurojust held a joint workshop on Terrorism with India.

## **II.2. Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams, jointly organised by Eurojust and Europol, with the support of the JIT Experts Network's Secretariat, was held at Europol's premises on 18 and 19 October 2012. The main topic of the meeting was the evaluation of JITs, which was discussed in two workshops. One workshop discussed the evaluation of a single JIT, with a special emphasis on best-practice evaluation. The other workshop examined the requirements for and the benefits of establishing an evaluation at EU level of JITs as tools for international judicial and police cooperation. In both workshops, the experts agreed that there is a need for a standard process in order to achieve consistency, to save time and to allow for conclusions and identification of common obstacles and best practices. The national experts highlighted the importance of the role of the JITs Network Secretariat in compiling the results of the evaluations in a structured way with a view to creating a "bank of knowledge".

In addition, Europol and Eurojust actively participated in training programmes and seminars (e.g. CEPOL training, activities of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe Secretariat<sup>1</sup>, as well as Eurojust participating in Europol's internal JIT trainings). Specifically, both Eurojust and Europol, contributed significantly to the development of the CEPOL E-Learning Modules, i.a. on Joint Investigation Teams.

Furthermore, Europol and Eurojust sought to encourage the setting up and running of JITs by addressing some of the financial and organisational issues Member States may encounter. To this effect Eurojust organised co-ordination meetings and continued to support JITs financially and logistically via its JIT Funding Project, providing financial assistance to 62 different JITs in 2012. The ever growing number of applications for JITs funding prove the significant importance of funding availability for an effective application of JITs. Judicial and law enforcement authorities expressed appreciation of the fact that Eurojust can provide legal, practical, operational and financial support to the steadily increasing number of JITs.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please see the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe Secretariat webpage ([www.pccseesecretariat.si](http://www.pccseesecretariat.si)).

Europol in turn continued to stimulate the setting up of JITs via the provision of financial support for operational meetings complementing the JIT funding project of Eurojust. Throughout 2012, 208 operational meetings that received financial support were held at Europol or in exceptional cases in one of the EU Member States, with about 1/3 of the meetings aimed at clarifying whether the international investigations could benefit from the setting up of a JIT. Specifically, Europol supported 35 JITs of which Europol was formally associated with 31.

Further, both Eurojust and Europol revised their websites, with a goal to ensure consistency in the information available on both websites as concerns advice and information on JITs, as well as the respective roles of the organisations.

### ***II.3. Contributions to Europol strategic reports***

In 2012, Eurojust contributed to the TE-SAT report 2012. Eurojust was equally invited to participate in all of the meetings of the TE-SAT advisory board in 2012.

As regards the SOCTA, Eurojust provided a contribution in November 2012, and participated at all SOCTA Methodology meetings and to the SOCTA Futures Workshop at the end of October 2012.

### ***II.4. Vademecum***

The practical cooperation will be supported by the launch of a handbook ("Vademecum") for post holders from Europol and Eurojust to provide guidance on how to cooperate most efficiently in practice. The Vademecum has been drafted jointly and its editing was to a large extent finalised before the end of 2012.

### ***II.5. Exchange programme***

To further enhance mutual understanding and practical co-operation between Eurojust and Europol, an exchange programme was established and implemented during the course of 2011.

This exchange programme was continued during 2012 with a total of eleven exchange visits, each lasting two or three days, hosted in reciprocity. The briefings attended during those exchanges were tailored to the specific professional background of the visiting participants. On average, each exchange was composed of 4 delegates, meaning that a total of 30 post holders of each organisation, including National Members of Eurojust, and Project Managers from Europol Focal Points, had the benefit of insights into their counterparts' work environment and practice. These exchanges have already increased cooperation in some operational cases, and are regarded as highly valuable by the participants.

### ***II.6. European Cybercrime Centre***

Following the planned establishment of the European Cybercrime Centre at Europol, Eurojust, amongst other agencies, was invited to nominate a representative as member of the Programme Board.

Additionally, Eurojust accepted the invitation by Europol to second an expert to EC3 on a part time basis for a test period.



### III. Operational Co-operation

In addition to the information regularly provided to COSI, activities of operational co-operation between Eurojust and Europol in 2012 can be summarised as follows:

- Secure Communication Link

The Secure Communications Link was replaced with the connection of Eurojust to SIENA. A MoU on a secure line was signed in 2012, and the role-out of SIENA has commenced. At the end of 2012 19 National Desks, as well as Eurojust itself, had access to SIENA, with the additional desks pending training and installation. This means that National Desks are now in a position to securely communicate with their respective Europol National Units, as well as naturally with Europol itself.

In 2012, and counting only the messages exchanged between Eurojust itself (excluding the communication of national desks via SIENA), and Europol, a total of 902 messages were exchanged.

- Eurojust's association with Europol's AWFs

Following the restructuring and commencement of Europol's New AWF Concept (NAC), Eurojust was associated to 17 Focal Points, reflecting their previous respective AWF associations.

Additional support was provided by Europol to Eurojust's provision of a feasibility study to join additional Focal Points in the new AWF Counter Terrorism.

- Eurojust's attendance at operational meetings in relation to AWFs

Based on an agreement reached between both bodies, Europol started in 2012 to inform Eurojust of operational meetings which are financially supported by Europol. This ensures reciprocity in relation to the already existing practice of Eurojust providing information to Europol on forthcoming coordination meetings. Eurojust participated in 33 out of the 164 operational meetings organised at Europol.

- Europol's attendance at Eurojust co-ordination meetings

In 2012, Europol participation took place in 85 cases which involved the holding of coordination meetings<sup>2</sup>. Eurojust extended its already existing information practice of forthcoming coordination meetings to the Europol Liaison Offices.

### IV. Conclusion

Both organisations anticipate continuing to enhance their cooperation in the coming years. Specifically the ability for all National Desks to be connected and to make use of SIENA should yield a further advancement in the closeness of cooperation between Europol and Eurojust.

---

<sup>2</sup> These figures do not refer to the actual number of meetings, but to the number of cases (involving Europol staff and/or EU Member States liaison desks personnel) that required and had a coordination meeting.

The continued implementation of the exchange programme between Europol and Eurojust has been shown to increase significantly the understanding of the structure and the working methods of the respective organisation by the visiting post holders.

It is expected that the cooperation, especially with EC3, will continue to increase and demonstrate benefits during 2013. Additional care and consultation will be required during 2013 and the following years as concerns the possible revision of both organisations' legal frameworks.

---