



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 June 2014
(OR. en)**

11305/14

LIMITE

**JAI 563
COSI 62
ENFOPOL 192
EUROJUST 122
CATS 93
EJN 66
COPEN 181**

NOTE

From:	Eurojust and Europol
To:	Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)
No. prev. doc.:	9038/14
Subject:	Joint Europol-Eurojust Annual Report to the Council and the Commission for 2013

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 2013

I. Introduction

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

Specifically, during 2013, Europol and Eurojust cooperated in the following fields:

- Connection of Eurojust to the secure SIENA Network;
- Association of Eurojust with almost all of the Europol Focal Points;
- Exchange of information on meetings, including operational and coordination meetings and participation in associated meetings;
- Cooperation regarding the European Cybercrime Centre at Europol (EC3); and
- Implementation of the joint exchange programme.

II. Specific Strategic Cooperation

Cooperation between Eurojust and Europol at strategic level took place within the following framework:

II.1. Meetings

- In 2013, one meeting was held among the Presidency, the Administrative Director of Eurojust and the Directorate of Europol, and two bilateral meetings were held between the President of Eurojust and the Director of Europol;
- The Eurojust-Europol Steering Committee met twice in 2013;
- The Task Force to implement the Europol-Eurojust Agreement met once in 2013;
- In the context of the legislative process on the two Proposals for a Regulation on Eurojust and Europol, bilateral meetings took place, addressing issues of common interest;

- Throughout 2013, Eurojust participated in all meetings of the Heads of Europol National Units;
- Regarding terrorism-related matters, the Counter Terrorism Team of Eurojust and the Counter Terrorism Unit of Europol held regular meetings;
- In June 2013, Europol participated in the Eurojust Tactical Meeting on Terrorism. Eurojust participated in the CT event in November 2013 and the open part of CT HLEM in December 2013;
- In July 2013, Eurojust organised a meeting among the Project Managers and Business Managers of the Europol Focal Points and the corresponding Eurojust Contact Points and Eurojust's Case Analysis Unit (CAU). The meeting provided an informal platform to freely share experiences and opinions, in particular, to address operational and strategic cooperation in practice and potential issues affecting smooth cooperation in the context of the Focal Points. In response, Europol invited the Eurojust Contact Points and CAU to all OAP meetings. During these meetings, the need for specific judicial support was identified and agreed upon on many occasions. This development will continue in 2014. A further, more informal gathering, organised by Europol for the Eurojust Contact Points and CAU, took place on 9 December 2013;
- Within the framework of EMPACT, Eurojust representatives to Europol Focal Points were invited to a meeting organised by Europol and CEPOL for Drivers/Co-Drivers of the EU priorities set for 2014-2017;
- Eurojust participated in all meetings regarding the development of the SOCTA and in preparation for the TE-SAT in 2013; and
- In November 2013, Europol participated in the *Strategic Seminar on cross-border excise fraud* organised jointly by Eurojust and the Lithuanian Presidency, and attended the strategic meeting, *Towards an enhanced coordination of environmental crime prosecutions across the EU: The role of Eurojust*, organised jointly by the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and Eurojust.

II.2. Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)

The 9th meeting of National Experts on joint investigation teams, organised jointly by Eurojust and Europol with the support of the Secretariat of the JITs Experts Network, was held at Eurojust's premises on 27 and 28 June 2013. The main outcomes of the meeting were the official opening of the JITs Network restricted area on Eurojust's website and the approval of the format and content of a JITs evaluation form.

In addition, Eurojust and Europol continued to actively participate in training programmes and seminars (in particular, with regard to CEPOL and JITs).

Furthermore, Europol and Eurojust encouraged the setting up and running of JITs by addressing some of the financial and organisational issues Member States may encounter.^{1 2}

Eurojust and Europol regularly exchange information on JITs they support throughout the year.

II.3. Contributions to Europol strategic reports

Eurojust contributed to Europol's annual TE-SAT report and to the SOCTA 2013. Additionally, Eurojust participated in the SOCTA 2013 evaluation process and is part of the SOCTA Advisory Group.

II.4. Vademecum

Practical cooperation was supported by the launch in February 2013 of a handbook, *Eurojust-Europol Cooperation in Practice* (previously known as the *Vademecum*), for post holders from Eurojust and Europol. The handbook, which was drafted jointly, provides useful guidance on how to cooperate efficiently and effectively, and was published on the intranet of both Eurojust and Europol for easy access of interested parties.

II.5. Exchange programme

The exchange programme for post holders of both bodies continued during 2013 with a total of 10 exchange visits, each lasting two days, hosted in reciprocity. The briefings attended during those exchanges were of a general nature and were tailored to the specific professional background of the visiting participants. These exchanges have already increased cooperation in some operational cases and are regarded as highly valuable by participants.

Eurojust and Europol agreed to decrease the frequency of exchange visits throughout next year.

II.6. EC3

Following the establishment of the EC3, Eurojust nominated a representative as member of the Programme Board.

Additionally, since February 2013, Eurojust seconded a staff member to EC3. Negotiations on a written agreement for the temporary placement are ongoing.

In 2014, Eurojust and Europol will jointly evaluate cooperation between both organisations.

III. Operational Cooperation

In addition to the information regularly provided to COSI, cooperation between Eurojust and Europol in 2013 at operational level can be summarised as follows:

- [Secure Communication Link](#)

¹ The exact figures on the JITs supported by Eurojust and the JITs for which Eurojust provided financial assistance are set out in the Eurojust Annual Report 2013, Council doc. 8151/14.

² Europol's figures on JITs supported by Europol can be found in the EUROPOL REVIEW GENERAL REPORT ON EUROPOL ACTIVITIES, Europol 2013.

At the end of 2013, 20 National Desks and Eurojust's Case Analysis Unit had access to SIENA, with the remaining National Desks awaiting training and installation. This means that the vast majority of National Desks are now in a position to securely communicate with their respective Europol National Units and with Europol itself.

In 2013, 437 messages were exchanged between Eurojust AWF Focal Point representatives, of which 60% were shared with Europol. With regard to SIENA messages, 1 324 were exchanged by Eurojust National Members, of which 35% were shared with Europol.³

Both organisations are conducting an assessment of the use of SIENA. Eurojust launched a survey on the use of SIENA in November 2013 and prepared a report on its findings.

- Eurojust's association with Europol's Focal Points

Eurojust is currently associated with 20 of the 23 Focal Points. In 2013, Eurojust became associated with Focal Points ITOC (Italian Organised Crime), MONITOR (motorcycle gangs) and EEOC (East European Organised Crime).

- Eurojust's attendance at operational meetings in relation to Focal Points

Based on an agreement reached between both bodies, in 2012, Europol began to inform Eurojust of operational meetings that are financially supported by Europol. This ensures reciprocity in relation to the existing practice of Eurojust providing information to Europol on forthcoming coordination meetings. Eurojust participated in 31 of the 214 operational meetings held at Europol.

- Europol's attendance at Eurojust coordination meetings

Europol is Eurojust's main EU partner concerning operational cases and attended 75 of the 206 coordination meetings held by Eurojust in 2013.⁴

IV. Conclusions

Both organisations anticipate continuing to enhance cooperation in the future. Specifically, the conclusion of an agreement for the secondment of a Eurojust representative to EC3 and the ability for all National Desks to be connected and to make use of SIENA should yield positive results in creating closer cooperation between Eurojust and Europol.

³ Note that the message exchange can consist of the following information exchange types:

From Europol to Eurojust, from Member States to Eurojust, from third parties to Eurojust, from Eurojust to Eurojust and vice versa.

⁴ EJ coordination meetings are attended by Europol staff and/or Liaison Officers from Member States posted at Europol.

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

It is expected that cooperation, especially with EC3, will increase and demonstrate general benefits in cooperation during 2014. Closer consultation might be required during 2014 concerning the ongoing revision of both organisations' legal frameworks.
