

 

Press releases

Eurojust's Annual Report 2014 demonstrates increasing number of criminal cases from Member States

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The Hague, 15 July 2015

On 15 July, the President of Eurojust, Ms Michèle Coninx, presented the AR14 to the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament.

Eurojust's Annual Report 2014 reveals that the number of serious organised crime cases registered with Eurojust has grown steadily every year since 2002, when Eurojust had 202 cases. In 2014, the number of cases increased to 1 804, an increase over 2013 of 14.5 %, and demonstrates the increased demand by the Member States for Eurojust's cross-border judicial support.

In 2014, Eurojust's casework in priority crime areas constituted 65% of its operational workload, and includes fraud, corruption, criminal offences affecting the EU's financial interests, mobile organised crime groups, drug trafficking, cybercrime, illegal immigration, terrorism and trafficking in human beings.. Money laundering, environmental crime and maritime piracy were other crime areas Eurojust actively dealt with. Eurojust also has a contact point for child protection for cases involving

victimised children.

Case of the year: The new 'case of the year' section presents Operation BlackShades, an extremely successful cybercrime case involving 16 countries: the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, Finland, Austria, Estonia, Denmark, Italy, Croatia, the USA, Canada, Chile, Switzerland and Moldova. The operation resulted in 359 house searches, 97 arrests, the seizure of the BlackShades website domain, as well as 1 100 data storage devices, drugs, firearms and cash.

The focus of the year is on the European Arrest Warrant. Eurojust contributes at operational and strategic level to the swift application of this mutual recognition instrument. Nearly 15% of all cases dealt with by Eurojust in 2014 concerned the improvement of the execution of the EAW, constituting 266 cases.

Two of Eurojust's judicial cooperation tools, coordination meetings and coordination centres, successfully bring together judicial and law enforcement authorities, resolving legal and practical challenges with direct contact and exchange of information. In 2014, Eurojust organised 197 coordination meetings and held 10 coordination centres at its headquarters in The Hague.

Joint investigation teams (JITs) are a very effective operational tool, facilitating legal assistance in cross-border investigations. In 2014, Eurojust supported 122 JITs, and funded 67 JITs.

Eurojust has 32 contact points in third States (Bolivia and Peru were added in 2014), as well as many cooperation partners, including liaison prosecutors for the US, Norway and Switzerland stationed at Eurojust, three networks housed at and supported by Eurojust: the European Judicial Network, the JITs Network and the Genocide Network, as well as Europol, OLAF and the Consultative Forum of Prosecutors General and Directors of Public Prosecutions of the Member States of the European Union.

Background:

The Annual Report is a comprehensive overview in 72 pages of the activities of the previous year, along with graphs, case examples and photographs. Each year, the prior year's report is formally presented in writing to the Council of the European Union, which issues its conclusions and recommendations. The President of Eurojust also presents the Annual Report to the European Parliament (LIBE

Committee).

The hyperlinked English version of the AR2014 is available on our website. Eurojust's Annual Reports are published in all official languages of the European Union, and 23 other language versions, as well as the Council Conclusions, will soon also be available on our website.

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