



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 28 March 2008

7804/08

EUROPOL 35

COVER NOTE

from: Europol
to: Article 36 Committee
Subject: Europol Annual Report 2007

1. Article 28 (10) of the Europol Convention as replaced by the 2003 Protocol¹, reads:

"Taking into account the priorities as set out by the Council in accordance with Article 2 (2) and the update by the Director of Europol as referred to in point 6 of Article 29 (3), the Management Board shall adopt unanimously each year:

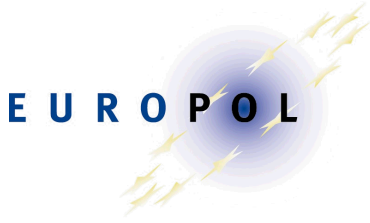
- (1) a general report on Europol's activities during the previous year;*
(2) a report on Europol's future activities taking into account Member States' operational requirements and budgetary and staffing implications for Europol.

Such reports shall be submitted to the Council to take note and endorse. They shall also be forwarded by the Council to the European Parliament for information."

¹ OJ C 2, 6.1.2004, p. 3.

2. Recently, the Management Board unanimously adopted the Annual Report 2007 and submitted it to the Council in accordance with the procedure laid down in Title VI of the Treaty on European Union. The report is set out in Annex.

3. On this basis the Article 36 Committee is requested to forward the Annual Report 2007 to COREPER / Council for it to be taken note of and endorsed by Council and to be forwarded by the Council to the European Parliament for information.



ANNEX

The Hague, 19 March 2008
File no. 1423-50r1

Europol Annual Report 2007

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present this Europol Annual Report 2007, which summarises the activities of the European Police Office and of the Europol Liaison Bureaux during the 2007 calendar year.

2007 was a very important year for Europol. The three protocols amending the Europol Convention were implemented, enhancing Europol's role in combating international organised crime and terrorism throughout the European Union. Furthermore, the Member States decided that the Europol Convention will, in due time, be replaced by a European Council decision. The change in Europol's legal basis will have significant implications for the organisation. Consequently, Europol will become an even more effective tool for the Member States. The intricate process of altering the legal basis is already under way. Europol is closely involved in this process and is actively assisting the Member States.

Europol welcomed two new Member States in 2007. Following their accession to the European Union, Bulgaria and Romania successfully ratified the Europol Convention and became full members of the Europol family on 1 August.

As far as internal processes are concerned, the Strategy for Europol was adopted by the Europol Management Board in 2007. This important document emphasises four basic goals that Europol needs to fulfil when supporting the competent authorities in the Member States.

First, Europol should serve as the platform of choice for the Member States, giving them the opportunity to share operational and strategic information through the network of the Europol National Units and Europol Liaison Officers via secure and user-friendly information exchange facilities. Second, Europol needs to supply operational analysis to the Member States and partners. Third, Europol should provide strategic analysis by broadening analytical capabilities in all priority crime areas. Fourth, Europol will provide operational support to (clusters of) Member States and partners through products and services that meet their needs and expectations.

Together with Europol's vision statement and mission statement, the provisions laid down in the Strategy have become the guiding principles for Europol in carrying out its everyday tasks and fulfilling its mission.

All the developments and many successes described in this Annual Report mark a truly dynamic year for Europol.

In spring 2008, Europol will present the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2008 and the EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) 2008. If you would like to know more about Europol's work, you can consult these two key strategic documents and other threat assessments produced by Europol on the Europol website. You can also contact the Europol Corporate Communications Unit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Europol!

1. Introduction

1.1 Priority crime areas in 2007

The priorities for Europol were determined in the Annual Work Programme 2007 approved by the Council of the European Union, and focused on all forms of serious and organised crime and terrorism in line with Europol's mandate.

With regard to terrorism, Europol continued to place particular emphasis on the support of member states in identifying networks of Islamist terrorism and other terrorist groups or networks posing a specific threat to the European Union (EU).

In relation to serious and organised crime, the Council defined the following priorities:

- Drugs trafficking, especially in synthetic drugs
- Smuggling and trafficking in human beings, especially linked to illegal immigration
- Fraud, especially in the area of highly taxed goods and Value Added Tax carousels
- Euro counterfeiting
- Commodity counterfeiting and intellectual property theft
- Money laundering

These priorities are based on the EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) 2007.

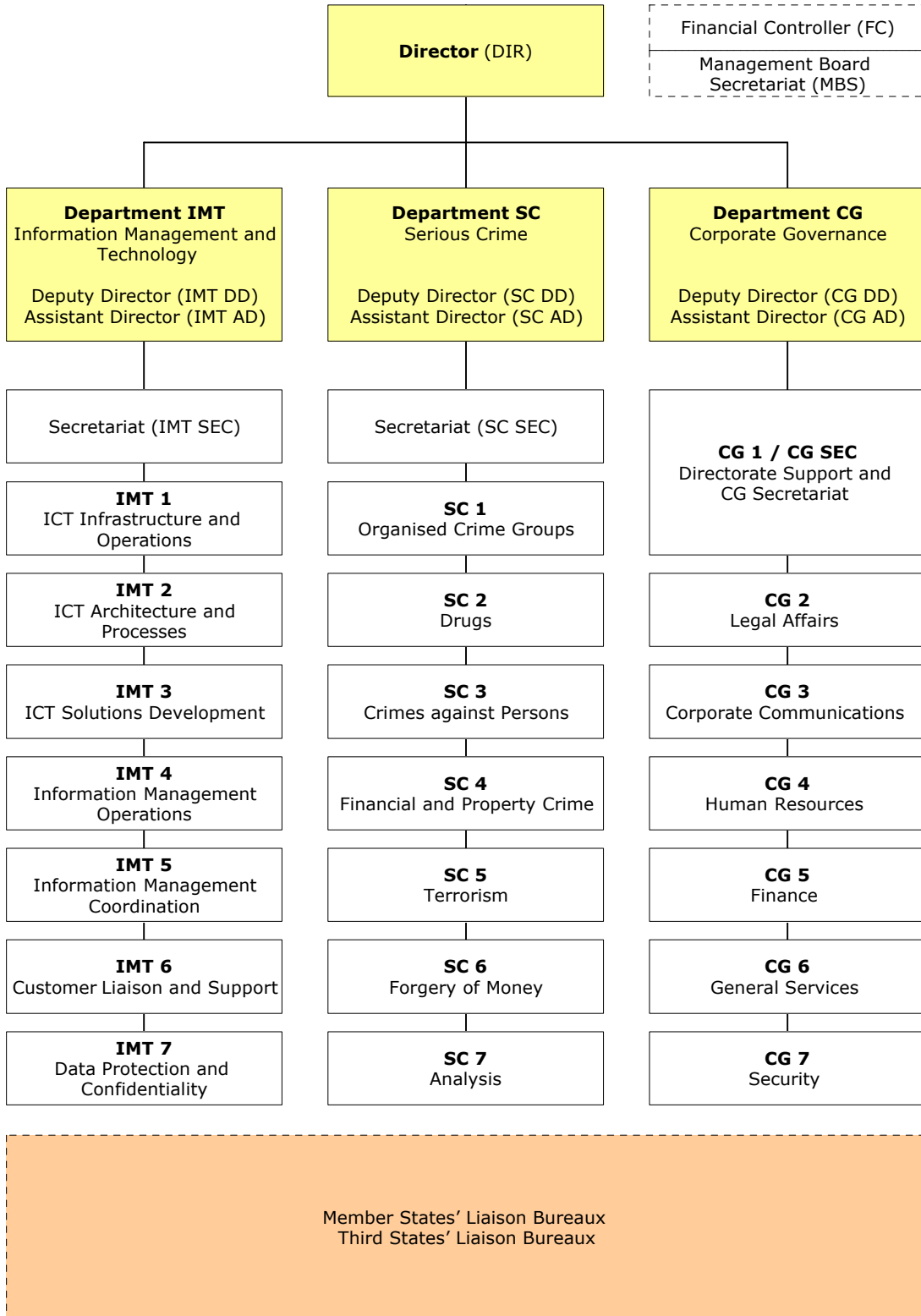
In respect of the regionally-based criminal hubs identified by the OCTA 2007,² the Council considers that the following types of organised crime should be specific commitments within the criminal markets designated as EU priorities for 2007:

- The North-West criminal hub: cocaine, heroin and cannabis trafficking, and the production of, and trafficking in, synthetic drugs
- The South-West criminal hub: trafficking in cannabis and cocaine, destination trafficking for stolen vehicles and smuggling of human beings related to illegal immigration
- The North-West and the South-West criminal hubs: organised crime committed by indigenous, Turkish and Moroccan groups and the external influence of South and Central American groups
- The North-East criminal hub: organised crime committed by Lithuanian and Polish groups, both active in the supply of cigarettes, synthetic drug precursors, cocaine and hashish, and in illegal trafficking in highly-taxed goods
- The South-East, especially the Black Sea criminal hub: organised crime committed by groups from Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine, plus Italian and Hungarian groups also active in the region.

Furthermore, in response to the identified need to enhance cooperation in the Western Balkans, a road map was agreed and drawn up to better tackle the organised crime threat originating from the region.

² EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2007, Europol, The Hague, 2007, pp. 23-27.

1.2 Organisational chart of Europol Headquarters



2. Serious organised crime, terrorism and analysis

According to Europol's Annual Client Survey, the EU member states' law enforcement organisations are satisfied with Europol products and services. Similar results were obtained from a questionnaire sent to the Heads of Europol National Units during the process of drafting Europol's Strategic Analysis, asking for their feedback on Europol's performance with regard to the strategic objectives identified in the annex to The Strategy for Europol.

The Western Balkans in particular is a priority area on which Europol was able to focus successfully and meet the expectations of the member states and its stakeholders. This success is illustrated by Europol's hosting of the first Western Balkans workshop, which resulted in a road map for the future accession countries in the region.

The entry into force of the three protocols to the Europol convention in spring 2007 allowed Europol, with the support of the member states, to further align its analysis projects to their needs. Europol achieved this by associating third states to its operational projects, thereby accessing valuable sources for improved performance.

In terms of assisting the member states in preventing and combating serious crimes, Europol made several improvements. Most importantly, for the first time, the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2007 (TE-SAT) was published under the Europol ownership. The objective of this new tool is to acquire an overview of terrorism-related trends and incidents inside and outside the EU but impacting on it. The new report was very well received and became a standard product during the course of the year.

Likewise, the Strategy for Europol, developed jointly by Europol and the member states in 2007, and the benchmarking framework with key performance indicators for the member states derived from the Strategy, will allow Europol to measure its performance better in the coming years.

In the area of training and awareness for law enforcement officers, Europol provided presentations and training courses in various member states. The Europol training curriculum, which was developed together with the European Police College (CEPOL), was further improved and its main components translated into several EU languages. Europol and CEPOL also concluded their cooperation agreement in 2007.

2.1 Organised crime groups

In 2007, no significant changes were detected compared to the previous year in the key areas of interest of the major criminal groups and individuals acting within, or impacting upon, EU member states in all serious crime areas.

Particularly worth mentioning, once again, is the level of specialisation of these groups and individuals, as well as the use that they make of legitimate business structures. They employ the latest communication technologies to maintain and expand their national and international links and to avoid being traced by law enforcement agencies.

The continuous collection of intelligence enabled Europol to identify indigenous and non-EU criminal groups assessed as most dangerous and thereby given priority.

At the request of, and in cooperation with, customs services and other law enforcement agencies in almost all member states, specific and prioritised projects were set up with the purpose of cracking down on criminal groups involved in counterfeiting and smuggling cigarettes. In addition to dismantling these organisations, the aim was to deprive criminals of their illicit proceeds. Some significant results were achieved, including the arrest and successful conviction of some the leaders of organised crime groups and the seizure of millions of cigarettes.

In the field of specific investigation techniques, such as witness protection, informant handling, controlled deliveries and cross-border surveillance, existing networks of experts were further widened to ensure that all expertise available worldwide is accessible to law enforcement agencies in the EU member states.

Special emphasis was given to sharing expertise and training. Particularly worth mentioning is that, as of July 2007, Europol took over leadership of the EU Network of Advisory Teams (EuNAT) in the area of kidnapping, hostage-taking and extortion. The network now consists of all 27 EU member states and a number of strategic partners from outside the EU.

In the area of high-tech crime, Europol produced a comprehensive threat assessment on current and new trends in the use of modern technology by criminals across the European Union.³ The report provides a general overview of the situation and is an excellent proactive tool in supporting the fight against high-tech crime. In 2007, Europol consolidated its dialogue with the private sector in order to identify new crime trends and support investigations with a high-tech crime component. In addition, Europol was given an EU-wide coordination role for training in this area.

³ Threat Assessment on Cyber Crime, Europol internal report, 2007.

2.2 Drugs

The production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, including the acquisition of related precursors, essential chemicals and equipment, involves cooperation within multilateral criminal coalitions, the exploitation of various facilitative trades and the use of specialists. The illicit business generates enormous profits which criminal enterprises use to make substantial investments or fund other criminal activities, for example, poly-drug trafficking.

The Europol project on synthetic drugs continues to support and initiate major investigations. Both member states and third parties see its operational and strategic intelligence role as increasingly important in law enforcement cooperation. In 2007, Europol also remained active in supporting implementation of the synthetic drug and precursor-related supply-reduction objectives of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008. In addition, it undertook joint reporting with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on new synthetic drugs, resulting in legislation against 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP), one of several designer drugs, pre-medicaments or other synthetic drugs like methamphetamine that have emerged on the market.

Although the overall abuse of illicit drugs in the European Union appears to have stabilised for the first time in a decade, cocaine abuse and cocaine trafficking continue to increase. The Europol project on networks involved in cocaine trafficking supported member states' ongoing investigations into criminal organisations, as well as Joint Customs Operations and regional initiatives. There is an increased diversification of trafficking routes and entry points for cocaine entering the European Union.

The stable and sometimes increasing demand for heroin in Europe is met by various organised crime groups supplying the drug through a variety of routes and employing different *modi operandi*. To support efforts to counter these criminal activities, the Europol project on networks involved in heroin trafficking focuses on specific organised crime groups by providing expertise and analytical support to law enforcement teams. This project is used by member states and third states to enhance their operational and strategic intelligence position in ongoing investigations. The project provides operational support for, and participates in, joint investigation teams (JITs).

2.3 Crimes against persons

2.3.1 Facilitated illegal immigration

The terms ‘facilitated illegal immigration’ or ‘people smuggling’ cover a variety of serious crimes all aimed at assisting, for financial gain, illegal entry into or residence in a country in violation of the laws of that country. Generally speaking, the risks taken by facilitators of illegal immigration are relatively low, while profits are high (compared to, for example, drug smuggling). The problem of facilitated illegal immigration has been exacerbated in size and seriousness by the involvement of organised crime groups. Although illegal immigrants become involved with these groups voluntarily, they can become victims, paying large sums of money to be transported from one place to another in dangerous, often deadly, conditions.

In 2007, Europol and Frontex stepped up their cooperation. The two agencies produced a joint assessment on the high-risk routes for illegal immigration in the Western Balkan countries and, under the Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) – a joint project run in collaboration with UNHCR – produced an MTM working document on the joint management of mixed migration flows, in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

2.3.2 Trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings (THB) remains one of the most lucrative organised crime activities in the EU. In 2007, it is unlikely that a single member state was not affected by THB in one form or another. This was underlined by the support given by 19 member states to the new project on trafficking in human beings. As well as being a serious crime, THB remains above all an abuse of human rights, with professional and organised criminals targeting the impoverished and vulnerable, particularly children.

With the higher levels of awareness that now exist within the EU in respect of how trafficking is perceived, it is clear that the law enforcement response in the member states is becoming more effective. There is, however, still work to be done in the area of victim identification and the development of trans-national trafficking investigations. To this end, Europol worked throughout 2007 with the European Commission and international organisations on many THB-related issues on projects linked to data collection and victim identification and referral.

The project on trafficking in human beings provided specific expert and analytical assistance for THB investigations in member states. Europol continues to provide support for a number of other initiatives, namely for the PCTF in the framework of the COSPOL THB project, the G6 Human Trafficking Initiative, leading on the ‘intelligence strand’, and earlier in the year, the high level Greek anti-trafficking project ILAEIRA.

Europol maintained its commitment to providing EU member states and border states with expert training and advice, primarily through participation in THB investigators’ courses and awareness programmes. It also continues to support and assist CEPOL in developing its THB curriculum.

In 2007 Europol supported a number of international agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in producing an advanced THB training manual for investigators. It also assisted the International Labour Organization (ILO) in developing forced labour indicators, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in two projects: one on data collection and information management, and the other aimed at developing a trans-national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking.

In recognition of the role played by civil society, Europol continued to work hard in 2007 to maintain good working relationships and high levels of cooperation with many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the fight against THB.

2.3.3 Child abuse (including child sexual abuse on the internet)

Crimes related to the sexual abuse of children need a special approach. This form of criminality has different dynamics and characteristics to other forms of THB – particularly the vulnerability of its victims.

The internet features prominently in the distribution of child sexual abuse. Within the framework of the COSPOL initiative, Europol is supporting the EU member states in implementing filtering technology that enables their internet service providers to block user access to child abuse websites contained in a list prepared and updated by the national competent authorities.

Regarding international cooperation at strategic level, Europol supported the Council of Europe and its member states in drafting the recently approved Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Europol also supports the European Commission's efforts to improve cooperation between public institutions and the private sector by promoting specific initiatives and projects in this area of crime.

In 2007, Europol organised its 8th annual training course on Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet in Selm, Germany. The course, which is open to EU member states and other interested countries, provides hands-on training to law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to enhance their technical knowledge in conducting investigations on the internet.

One of the most successful operations supported by Europol in 2007 was operation Koala, which focused on a criminal network that was profiting from the production and sale of child abuse material on the internet through the use of different online payment systems.

2.4 Financial and property crime

Europol achieved good results in combating money laundering and cash border carriers. Its work in this area has created a more efficient network for detecting and seizing assets and interrupting criminal networks.

After drugs trafficking, financial crime is the favoured activity for organised crime groups within the EU. The main types of financial crimes range from VAT and excise fraud (usually connected with the smuggling of highly taxed commodities such as tobacco, alcohol and fuel) to money laundering.

Following the priority setting by the EU Council on the basis of the findings of the OCTA 2007, a project on missing trader intra-community (MTIC) fraud was initiated. The project aims to enhance coordination and information exchange in relation to ongoing pan-European criminal investigations on VAT fraud.

The focal points in tackling financial crime are support for cross-border money laundering investigations, recovery of the proceeds of crime, the fight against MTIC fraud, and linking suspicious transactions reported in other member states with offences committed in separate countries.

The recent extensions of the Europol mandate offered Europol the opportunity to better steer and coordinate operational initiatives conducted in the member states in the area of money laundering. It provided analytical assistance and expertise through the development of financial intelligence-led policing practices, which foresees the full exploitation of dedicated financial data from different sources. Europol is fully engaged in setting standard criteria to deal with financial data inside the organisation in line with horizontal activities and outside the organisation to improve cooperation with member states and raise the level of awareness.

The Asset Seizure Centre at Europol assists in identifying, tracing and seizing criminal assets during major investigations by member states. There are proposals to develop the centre into a Europol Criminal Assets Bureau (ECAB) with the aim of improving the provision of in-house operational support for all Europol operational projects. This should lead to even more effective seizure of criminal assets.

Europol also continues to support the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN), functioning as its secretariat. This informal network consists of judicial and law enforcement experts from over 44 states, jurisdictions and international organisations. Europol is active in improving customs cooperation to combat organised criminal networks involved in product piracy and intellectual property rights infringements (IPR). As a follow up to the 2006 survey on IPR and counterfeiting, Europol prepared the launch of a new project on these issues.

Europol annually updates and disseminates the European Vehicle Identification Database (EUVID) which was developed in cooperation with member states' law enforcement agencies. EUVID is an advanced operational tool to assist investigators in identifying vehicles and related documents. In addition, Europol developed and delivered training on motor vehicle crime and the identification of vehicles in Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. An updated assessment on motor vehicle crime was drafted and disseminated to the member states.⁴

In 2007, the project on armed robberies and organised burglaries, which previously focused on organised crime groups from former Yugoslavia, was extended to support any property crime-related operations regardless of the ethnic background of the groups involved. In addition, on a Belgian initiative, Europol established a Forum on Property Crime, a working group in which senior level officials can deal with urgent emerging problems, such as cargo theft, metal theft or crimes against the elderly.

2.5 Terrorism

As in previous years, the fight against terrorism remains a top priority for the European Union. In 2007, there were terrorist activities in several member states and investigations were carried out by the responsible law enforcement agencies. Europol was more frequently requested to support investigations in member states by providing operational and strategic analysis and assistance on site, which helped to build capacity in this field.

⁴ Motor Vehicle Crime Assessment, Europol internal report, 2007.

This support was very much welcomed by the member states and contributed clearly to their commitment to exchange sensitive intelligence in terrorist investigations via Europol databases and exchange systems.

Europol participated in various fora and contributed to several initiatives at international level. In particular, its relation to third partners was strengthened. Successful awareness and training sessions on the products and services provided by Europol were delivered to the member states and partners and resulted in specially-tailored support. Europol continued to assist member states in ensuring the security of major international events by contributing threat assessments or seconding liaison officers to assist with the events.

A new counter terrorism tool, Check the Web, was developed and implemented to share information on the use of the Internet by Islamist terrorists.

In the reporting period, the Counter Proliferation Programme (CPP) contributed to the further development of Europol's Information System. A new category was added to enable national experts to exchange information on explosive devices and arson.

As of 2 July 2007, the First Response Network was operational. This counter terrorism tool, which is the result of lessons learned from past incidents, allows flexible support for member states' investigations immediately after terrorist incidents. It consists of a network of more than 50 anti-terrorist experts from all member states. Consequently, the Counter-Terrorism Task Force 2, which was created to provide support to Spain after the Madrid attacks in 2004, was transferred to this future-oriented network.

2.6 Forgery of money and other means of payment

The Council decision of 12 July 2005, on protecting the euro against counterfeiting, designated Europol as the Central Office for combating euro counterfeiting.⁵ In fulfilling this mandate, Europol cooperates closely with EU member states, Europol's partners and the European Central Bank (ECB). This legal status also qualifies Europol as the worldwide contact point for combating euro counterfeiting. As a result, new trends in euro counterfeiting are effectively followed by the required action.

Since its introduction the euro has become the second most important global currency after the US dollar. Its economic value and level of acceptance make the euro attractive for counterfeiters and internationally operating criminal groups.

In May 2007 Europol organised the First International Conference on the Protection of the Euro against Counterfeiting in The Hague, in collaboration with the ECB. In the conclusions of the conference, more than 300 experts from the international law enforcement environment and central banks underlined their willingness to further improve their international cooperation and strengthen a multi-agency approach in combating euro counterfeiting.

As part of the operational project on euro counterfeiting, several initiatives led to focused operational action inside and outside the European Union and the euro area. A number of operations carried out by the responsible law enforcement authorities were concluded with the support of Europol.

⁵ 2005/511/JHA, 12.07.2005.

Europol successfully continued its cooperation with the private sector in combating non-cash payment fraud. In 2007, the project on payment card fraud facilitated a total of twelve meetings at Europol with private and semi-private companies including the European ATM Security Team (EAST), the Fuel Industry Card Fraud Investigation Bureau (FICFIB) and the main payment card companies (AmEx, MasterCard & VISA). Furthermore, the project members actively participated in external meetings and conferences.

Impressive results were also obtained, in close cooperation with payment card scheme representatives, in training law enforcement officers from various member states to tackle card fraud. The Netherlands, Slovenia, Romania and Malta received intensive two-day training on payment card fraud in their own countries. Furthermore, awareness sessions and training were provided at Europol for representatives from EU and non-EU states.

Payment card fraud, and especially its connections with other types of serious crime, is still an underestimated problem. The team working on payment card fraud will continue the current projects on skimming and carding.

The operational analysis provided by Europol contributed to a total of 42 arrests in various countries and the seizure of 1,020 counterfeited credit cards, 540 blank cards ('white plastics'), data on 1,280 skimmed cards and 41 tampered payment terminals.

2.7 Analysis

2.7.1 EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment

The second European Union Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA 2007) was endorsed by the European Council in June 2007. The OCTA is a core product of the intelligence-led policing concept and drafting it is one of Europol's top priorities.

The OCTA marks a new approach to the way in which Europol and the member states will think and operate in the future and it is a first step towards changing the paradigm in policing. The OCTA fits in firmly with the aim of The Hague Programme to provide a forward looking approach to fight organised crime more proactively than reactively. The OCTA allows the EU to develop complementary measures to counter organised crime, linking measures at ministerial and political level with those of the practitioners and law enforcement agencies which operate on the front line.

The OCTA, and the ensuing Council Conclusions based on the OCTA 2006, have already had a significant impact on the law enforcement community throughout Europe in terms of practices and priorities. This is the case, for example, through the European Police Chief Task Force (EPCTF/COSPOL) framework at EU level, the Baltic Sea Task Force, the Operational Inter-organisational Action Plan to Fight Human Trafficking in Greece (ILAEIRA), the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N) in Lisbon, and within individual member states.

2.7.2 Operational projects

In 2007, Europol dealt with a total of 16 operational projects (Analysis Work Files, AWFs). All projects focus on priority crime areas identified for 2007. They address specific operational targets to support live investigations in the member states or focus on issues brought forward in the framework of the Police Chiefs Task Force.

| Crime area | Number of operational projects (AWFs) in 2007 |
|------------------------------|--|
| Drugs trafficking | 3 |
| Crimes against persons | 3 |
| Financial and property crime | 2 |
| Organised crime groups | 4 |
| Terrorism | 2 |
| Forgery of money | 2 |
| Total | 16 |

In 2007, development of the Overall Analysis System for Intelligence and Support (OASIS) was fully completed. The underlying concept of OASIS is to minimise data pre-processing and to maximise analytical capabilities, allowing the analytical resources available at Europol to be fully exploited. OASIS is not a single software application, but an overall system containing several very different software applications (including text and data mining facilities, workflow management, and interface possibilities). These applications are needed to handle data from an analytical perspective, supporting the intelligence cycle by introducing comprehensive technical solutions.

All operational projects will be transferred to this new Europol Analysis System, which, once it is fully implemented, will further enhance Europol's abilities to support criminal investigations in member states.

2.8 General achievements

Europol made every effort to be recognised and promoted for supporting member states' competent authorities and its partners in preventing and combating international organised crime and terrorism from a multidisciplinary, multi-agency and global perspective. To this end Europol had to provide relevant information of a strategic, operational or technical nature. In the process of acquiring and processing the information, Europol continued to:

- identify and disrupt international crime networks in cooperation with EU member states and its partners
- support special investigation techniques and best practices
- facilitate the creation of joint investigation teams under the leadership of member states; include Eurojust as far as possible and as agreed by the member states
- provide on-the-spot assistance for operational teams in the member states on request
- assist member states in identifying emerging crime patterns and trends
- host and facilitate operational ad-hoc meetings and deliver training
- strengthen its strategic analysis and intelligence capabilities
- improve the data collection process and reporting instruments.

These outcomes will be reflected in Europol's goals for 2008.

3. Information management and technology

3.1 Overview

The Europol Information Management and Technology (IMT) Department is responsible for supplying information management and ICT (information and communication technology) solutions to its internal and external customers. Europol's main task in this area is to implement and maintain information systems to facilitate the collection and exchange of information and intelligence according to the Europol Convention. This task is performed through the development and maintenance of ICT solutions, specialised support and consultancy, information management coordination and the enforcement of data protection and confidentiality rules.

3.2 Information and communication technology

During 2007, Europol's ICT function focused its efforts in three main directions:

- 1) Development of new and improved applications to support member states and Europol serious crime units in their core mission
- 2) Investments in the technical infrastructure to support new business requirements, improve manageability as well as enhance the security of information processing operations
- 3) Improvements in ICT governance and management processes in order to provide a better and more efficient service.

3.2.1 Business applications

During 2007 the following main business applications were significantly upgraded or developed:

- The new Check the Web information system, supporting the fight against Islamist terrorism
- Two new versions of the Europol Information System and data loaders were also released, containing several functional enhancements, including improved support in addressing fraudulent and suspicious financial transactions, and bombs and incendiary objects
- The new technical components of the Europol Analysis System (EAS) for information processing, delivered by the OASIS project, were put into operation.

The following new technical capabilities were also offered to business users in 2007:

- A customised application to give Europol staff access to Schengen Information System I (SIS I)
- A new data protection and audit tool, operational on both the Information System and SIS I
- A new version of the specialised law enforcement portal system to enhance collaboration between special anti-terrorism teams (ATLAS)
- Videoconferencing capabilities deployed to all Europol National Units

- The Crime Scene Web Site, supporting cooperation and information exchange between forensic institutes in the EU.⁶

3.2.2 Technical infrastructure

In 2007 Europol made significant investments in the redesign and replanning of the network architecture, on improving the level of security assurance, and on a new identity and access management solution. The network transformation programme started implementing the new secure extranet for communication with member states. Several security improvements, both procedural and technical, have also been introduced.

3.2.3 ICT management and governance

During 2007, the ICT function deployed a resource management system for the whole of the IMT department, which will allow for an improved management of human resources, and will provide a strong basis for more reliable planning and assessment of new initiatives.

Significant progress has been achieved in ICT governance processes, through a number of initiatives including the improved separation of tasks and responsibilities between solution development and ICT operations, reinforcement of architecture control on ICT developments, structured security coordination between ICT and Information Integrity, definition of a governance framework for ICT solutions development complementing Europol Project Standards, and the establishment of an ICT service management function.

⁶ Developed in 2007 but planned to be operational in early 2008.

3.3 Information management

3.3.1 Strategic developments

Within the framework of the Strategic Information Management (SIM) Committee, the Information Management Strategy was developed in close consultation with the member states. The strategy provides the direction and the priorities for information management for the next four years.

The main priorities are implementation of the three protocols amending the Europol Convention and replacement of the Information Exchange tool (InfoEx), the application for the secure exchange of operational information. Both priorities are related to the objective to strengthen the role of Europol in the exchange of law enforcement information within the EU.

In 2007 the policies and procedures for the processing of data involving competent authorities in the member states in accordance with the three protocols were concluded, as was the capturing of user requirements for the replacement of InfoEx.

3.3.2 Information exchange

The following statistics show the overall activity (exchanged messages) and the operational cases (to which the exchanged messages are related) initiated by member states, Europol units, non-European Union states and international organisations, between January and December 2007.

| Year | Number of messages |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2006 | 210,268 |
| 2007 | 260,463 |

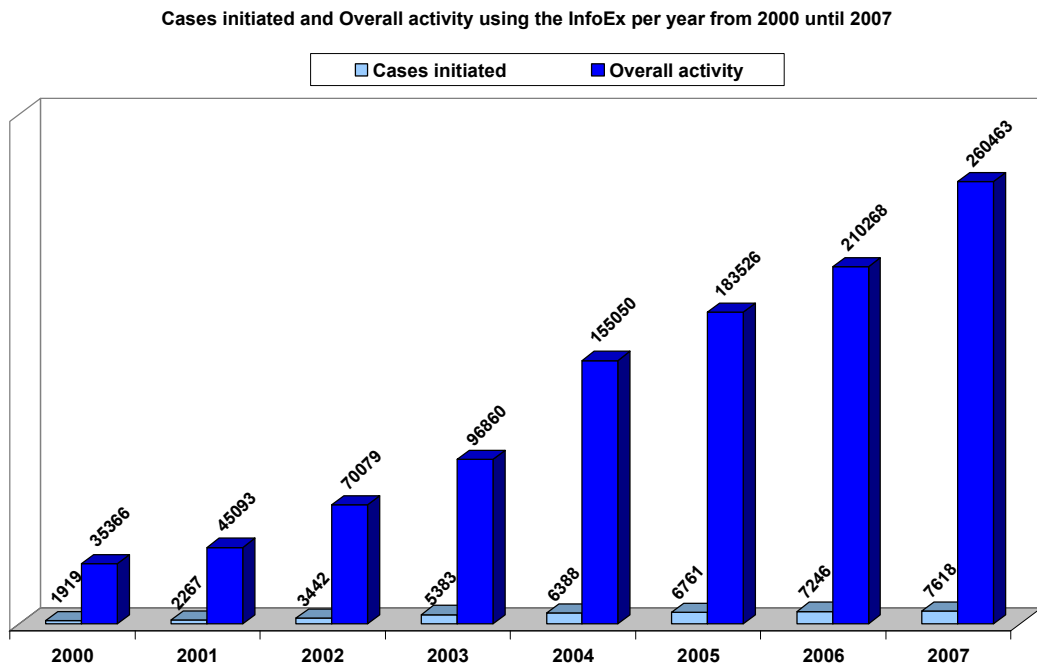
| Year | Initiated cases |
|------|-----------------|
| 2006 | 7246 |
| 2007 | 7618 |

The number of cases initiated showed an increase of 5.13%.

Illicit drugs trafficking remains the crime area with most initiated cases (28.46%).

The chart below shows the progression of the exchange of operational information using InfoEx from 2000 until 2007.

Progression of information exchange from 2000 until 2007



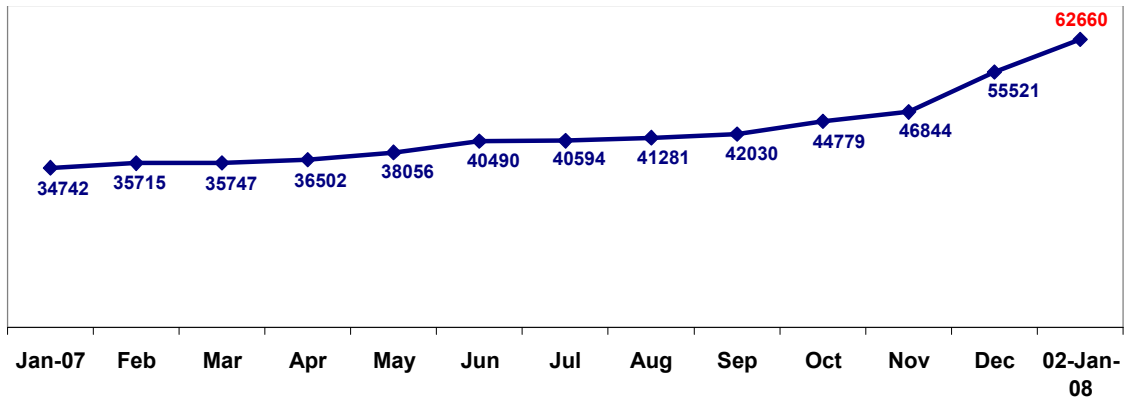
3.3.3 Europol Information System

The Europol Information System provided information exchange services to Europol and Europol National Units effectively and efficiently throughout 2007. The system was available to all member states through their Liaison Officers, and 26 countries used it through their Europol National Units.

In 2007, the information system was improved, with new functionalities added to enhance structured data storage and detection of possible hits. A strategy was developed for the system for 2008-2012 and a policy formulated in close cooperation with the member states for its extension to other competent authorities.

In 2007, 136,784 searches were performed in the Information System and, at the end of 1997, it contained 62,660 objects. The increase in the system's content is shown in the chart below. The figures only show the progression during the last 12 months.

Monthly progression of the Information System content in 2007



The figures for 2007 show a significant increase, mainly due to the use of automatic data loaders. Following Germany (November 2005) and the Netherlands (September 2006), three other member states started to upload data automatically in 2007: Denmark (March 2007), Spain (November 2007) and Belgium (December 2007).

3.3.4 Europol Knowledge Management Centre

The Europol Knowledge Management Centre (KMC) is an international search facility which stores information on uncommon and rarely used forms of investigative expertise and provides easy access to law enforcement agencies in the member states. In 2007, the centre made a start on updating its database. The entries were compiled and returned to each member state with the request, where necessary, to update the description of the expertise and experts' contact details.

The KMC devoted a great deal of energy in 2007 to creating and updating the Europol Training Module and presenting the programme to trainers at police academies in the member states.

The administrative maintenance of the Systran translation system was carried out as planned. A new translation facility, the European Law Enforcement dictionary, was completed. The dictionary is expected to be implemented at Europol and made available to staff members is foreseen in the short term.

3.3.5 Support for liaison bureaux

In 2007 Europol expanded the focus of its liaison support from logistical support to information management issues relating to the cooperation with the bureaux and national units. The concepts of ‘ideal national unit’ and ‘ideal liaison bureau’ were updated on the basis of the contributions received from the member states.

Coordination and support was also provided for the communication of the liaison bureaux and Europol National Units. To this end, two new webpages were added to the Europol intranet, which enable the liaison bureaux and ENUs to access Europol documentation and other useful information. Update training for liaison officers was developed and delivered. The preparations for the new headquarters were coordinated with the liaison bureaux and a variety of policies were checked for consistency with regard to the involvement of liaison officers. Preparations were made for the newly opened liaison bureaux of Australia, Canada, Iceland and USPIS and the liaison bureaux which will be opened in 2008, i.e the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF, part of the US Department of Justice) and Croatia, and for the arrival and departure of approximately 100 liaison officers.

3.3.6 Data protection and confidentiality

In 2007, Europol’s data protection, confidentiality and information security functions concentrated their efforts on consolidating and improving the level of assurance of the proper and secure handling and processing of sensitive, classified and personal information. In this respect, the following accomplishments can be highlighted:

- Implementation of a new security accreditation process which has significantly improved the way in which information risks are managed and systems are accredited in Europol
- Initiation of a process to establish an Information Security Management System compliant with ISO 27001
- Implementation of a Model Confidentiality Agreement to be concluded with third entities
- Successful coordination of the inspection visit by the Joint Supervisory Body and the Council Security Office
- Initiation of a framework for protective monitoring and internal auditing of IT systems
- Implementation of a secure communications link between Europol and Eurojust to allow exchange of information in a more secure environment.

4. Corporate governance

4.1 Legal framework

4.1.1 Legal basis and the amending protocols

The Europol Convention of 1995 which came into force on 1 October 1998 provides the legal basis for Europol.

Three protocols amending the Europol Convention entered into force in 2007. The Money Laundering Protocol extends Europol's competence to tackling money laundering in general, regardless of the type of offence from which the laundered proceeds originate.⁷ The JIT Protocol allows for the participation of Europol officials in a support capacity in joint investigations teams (JITs).⁸ The Danish Protocol introduced a number of changes to the Europol Convention.⁹

For example, new Article 10 (9) came into effect. This provision allows Europol, under certain conditions, to invite experts of third states or bodies to be associated with the activities of an analysis group. The new provision requires the conclusion of an arrangement between Europol and the third state or body concerned.

⁷ Council Act of 30 November 2000 drawing up, on the basis of Article 43 (1) of the Convention on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention), a Protocol amending Article 2 and the Annex to that Convention, OJ C 358 of 13.12.2000, p. 1.

⁸ Council Act of 28 November 2002 drawing up a Protocol amending the Convention on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention) and the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of Europol, the members of its organs, the deputy directors and the employees of Europol, OJ.C 312 of 16.12.2002, p.1.

⁹ Council Act of 27 November 2003 drawing up, on the basis of Article 43 (1) of the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention), a Protocol amending that Convention, OJ C 2 of 06.01.2004, p. 1.

In 2007, seven third states or bodies were invited to be associated with several of the sixteen analysis work files (AWFs) currently open. Twelve association arrangements in respect of individual AWFs were signed during the year.

Throughout 2007, Europol focused on the practical implementation of these three amending protocols.

4.1.2 Draft Council Decision

During its meeting on 12-13 June 2007 in Luxembourg, the Justice and Home Affairs Council in principle agreed that the Europol Convention would be replaced by a Council Decision to be finalised by 30th June 2008 at the latest, and that Europol would be funded from the Community budget as of 1 January 2010, provided that satisfactory answers have been found to a number of pending questions. Community financing automatically entails application of the EU Financial and Staff Regulations.

To ensure that the Council Decision is implemented in the best possible way, a Draft Council Decision (DCD) Project has been established. The DCD Project's strategic aim is to implement the Council Decision to Europol's satisfaction and in such a way that Europol's operational and strategic capabilities and the rights of Europol staff are maintained or improved.

4.2 Budget

Europol is funded by contributions from the member states according to their Gross National Income (GNI) and by the host state. The host state covers security-related costs.

The budget for 2007 was €70.35 million. Of this, €2.46 million was covered by a contribution from the host state (part C). The remaining amount of €67.89 million was covered by the member states. €64.86 million of the budget was called up.

Development of the Europol budget from 2000 to 2007 (excluding part C, host state)

| Financial year | Adopted budget | Called-up budget | Implemented budget |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2000 | 28,446,000 | 28,446,000 | 26,699,581 |
| 2001 | 36,611,800 | 36,611,800 | 35,573,298 |
| 2002 | 53,164,000 | 53,164,000 | 48,126,845 |
| 2003 | 57,833,859 | 57,833,859 | 53,409,311 |
| 2004 | 58,759,000 | 58,759,000 | 47,812,128 |
| 2005 | 63,472,610 | 60,220,610 | 51,346,913 |
| 2006 | 63,550,000 | 60,810,000 | 52,591,623 |
| 2007 | 67,894,000 | 64,864,000 | 58,940,367 |

4.3 Human resources

4.3.1 Personnel

The total number of personnel working at Europol in December 2007 was 592. This includes 421 Europol staff and 114 Europol Liaison Officers appointed by the Europol National Units of the EU member states and other states and organisations with cooperation agreements with Europol. It also includes 57 persons working at Europol in other categories (seconded and national experts, trainees and contractors).

The total figure does not include 29 vacant posts in different phases of the recruitment procedure or employees who have already been recruited but will only join Europol in the coming months. Taking these vacant posts into consideration, the total number of Europol personnel would be 621.

In December 2007, 36% of officials employed by Europol were female. This has been an increase of 1% compared to 2006.

Personnel working at Europol, December

2007



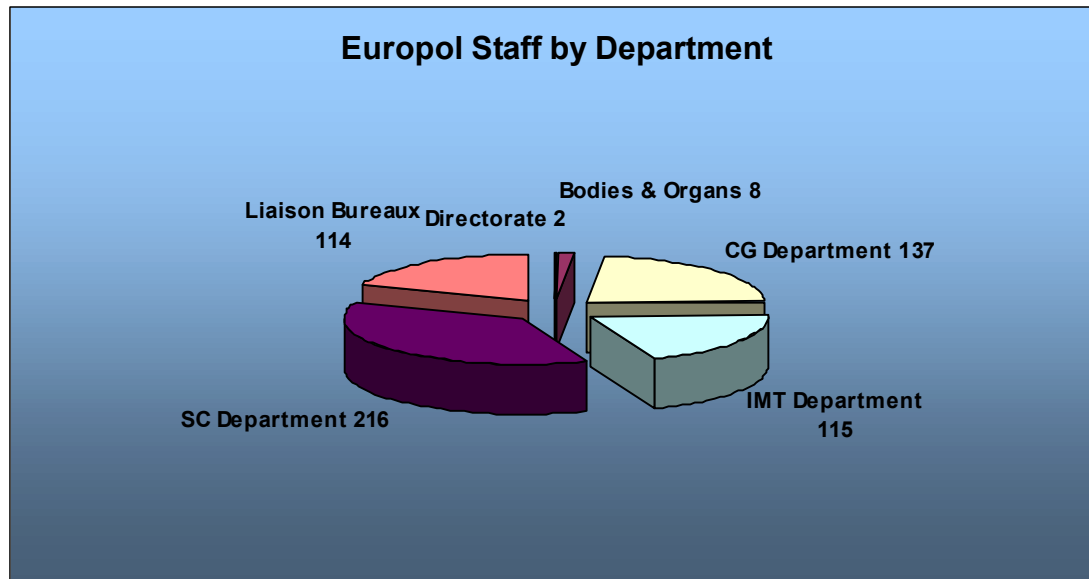
Personnel categories include Europol officials, local staff employed on the basis of permanent or temporary local contracts, staff employed to assist Europol bodies and organs (i.e. the Management Board and the Financial Controller), national experts (working within the framework of the European Joint Unit on Precursors), seconded experts (working side by side with Europol officials in Europol departments but delegated by the member states), Europol Liaison Officers (working for and under the authority of the member states or third states and organisations with an cooperation agreement signed with Europol), trainees, temporary personnel (i.e. consultants employed on temporary contracts) and security officers.

Personnel at Europol by nationality and category, December 2007

| STATE / ORGANISATION | CATEGORIES | | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | Europol officials | Local staff (excluding security) | Bodies and organs | National experts | Seconded experts | Liaisonofficers | Trainees | Contractors | Security officers (Local staff) | |
| Austria | 10 | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | 18 |
| Belgium | 34 | | 1 | 1 | | 6 | 1 | 2 | | 45 |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | 3 |
| Cyprus | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Czech Republic | 7 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | 11 |
| Denmark | 6 | | | | | 5 | | | | 11 |
| Estonia | 4 | | | | | 3 | | | | 7 |
| Finland | 11 | | | | | 3 | | | | 14 |
| France | 33 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | | | 46 |
| Germany | 37 | | 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | | | 61 |
| Greece | 13 | | | | | 4 | | | | 17 |
| Hungary | 4 | 1 | | | | 5 | | | | 10 |
| Ireland | 9 | | | | | 2 | | | | 11 |
| Italy | 34 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | | | 40 |
| Latvia | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Lithuania | 5 | | | | | 3 | | | | 8 |
| Luxembourg | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Malta | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Netherlands | 70 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | | 13 | 29 | 133 |
| Poland | 11 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 18 |
| Portugal | 7 | | | | | 3 | | | | 10 |
| Romania | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Slovakia | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Slovenia | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Spain | 14 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 6 | | | 1 | 25 |
| Sweden | 15 | | | | | 4 | | | | 19 |
| United Kingdom | 36 | | | | 1 | 8 | | 7 | | 52 |
| Australia | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Canada | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Colombia | | | | | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Iceland | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Norway | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Switzerland | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| USA | | | | | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Interpol | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 363 | 20 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 114 | 10 | 23 | 30 | 592 |

The distribution of posts across the three departments did not change, with the Serious Crime Department maintaining the majority. The Corporate Governance Department is the second largest department, leaving the Information Management and Technology Department with the lowest number of staff.

Liaison Bureaux and Europol staff by department, December 2007

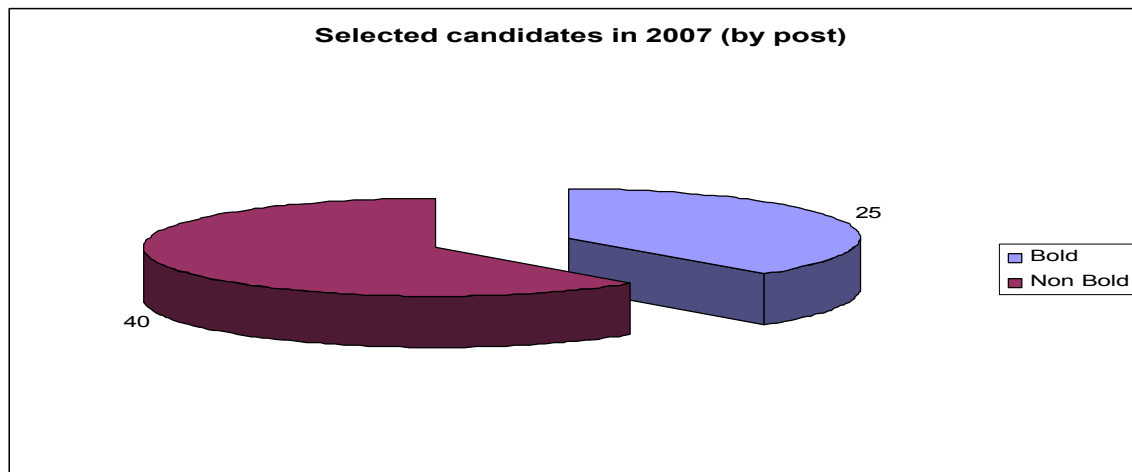


4.3.2 Recruitment and selection

In 2007, 65 selection procedures for Europol officials and local staff were conducted. Europol received 2,497 application forms, with the largest number of applicants from Italy, the Netherlands and Germany. As a result of the recruitment procedures, and after assessing 338 short-listed candidates, 65 new members of staff were recruited.

Selected candidates in 2007 by type of post¹⁰

[text in figure: Selected candidates in 2007 by type of post]



4.3.3 Training and development

In 2007 Europol conducted 120 training sessions for Europol staff with a total of 893 participants. It also gave 28 persons (12 law enforcement officers and 16 non-law enforcement interns) the opportunity to do an internship.

4.4 Public relations

2007 again saw a steady growth of interest in Europol by the media and the general public.

¹⁰ Bold posts are posts to be occupied only by personnel coming from the competent authorities in the EU member states.

To meet these growing expectations, awareness activities were organised internally and externally. Europol participated in external information campaigns promoting European and international police cooperation in several locations, including Berlin, Brussels, Mangalia and Wiesbaden.

More than 270 visits to Europol headquarters were organised, including meetings and general presentations for ministers, ambassadors, politicians, and representatives of law enforcement agencies and media. In addition, the director presented around 50 presentations and speeches at meetings in Brussels and in EU member and partner states.

Europol answered around 1,400 requests from the media and public, and published 42 press releases throughout the year. A variety of publications were produced and distributed, including general information leaflets and flyers for the member states and cooperation partners' law enforcement agencies, staff information booklets like Mission, Vision, Values and Strategy, and reports, including the Europol Annual Report 2006, the EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) 2007 and the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2007. Selected information publications were translated into twenty-seven languages and used by EU member states and Europol partner states.

The increasing interest in Europol led to very frequent visits to its internet site, which received one a half million hits in 2007.

4.5 Open sources, documentation and library

The library and documentation centre, with their collection of specialised books and magazines, are now fully functional after the move in 2006. New books and journals are constantly being added. The index of Europol books has been made available internally.

The acquisition of open source information, such as newspaper reports, press releases, journal articles or newswire transmissions, was an important part of the information gathering process at Europol. This included the monitoring, selection and distribution of news articles on a daily basis, as well as searches for specific open source information requested by Europol experts. In 2007, more than 10,000 carefully selected individual news reports relating to Europol's mandated areas were provided to the organisation, as well as 500 tailor-made searches regarding special internal requests.

4.6 New Europol headquarters

In April 2007 the final design of the new Europol headquarters was approved and signed off by Europol, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and the Dutch Government Building Agency. The Europol Director also approved the concept for the new office layout. In October, work started on the foundations of the new headquarters and, in November, the specification phase review was carried out. The construction consortium was selected and is due to begin construction of the building.

The New Europol headquarters project was presented with a GPard award by the Society for Process Management. Two GPard assessors reviewed the documentation and interviewed the New Europol headquarters project's members in October 2007. The result of the assessment was very satisfactory and the project received an ISO standards certificate, showing that it applies a high level of project management process standards.

5. Cooperation with third parties

In order to fight international organised crime effectively, Europol cooperates with a number of third countries and organisations. This is done on the basis of cooperation agreements and in accordance with the Europol Convention. The Europol External Strategy defines the framework within which Europol develops its activities with regard to third partners.

Two types of agreement determine the nature of cooperation with third parties. Operational agreements allow for the exchange of personal data with a cooperation partner. Strategic agreements make it possible for the two parties involved to exchange strategic and technical information and provide training. They do not allow for the exchange of personal data.

In 2007, an operational agreement between Australia and Europol entered into force, after being ratified by the Australian Parliament in September. Furthermore, strategic agreements with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova, as well as with the European Police College (CEPOL), came into effect.

Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union on 1 January 2007 and, after ratification of the Europol Convention by their national authorities, both became fully fledged members of Europol as of 1 August 2007. Europol had already concluded operational agreements with Bulgaria and Romania in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

Overview of cooperation agreements in place as of 31 December 2007

| Operational agreements | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| States | Organisations |
| Australia* | Eurojust |
| Canada* | Interpol* |
| Croatia | |
| Iceland* | |
| Norway* | |
| Switzerland* | |
| USA* | |

| Strategic agreements | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| States | Organisations |
| Albania | European Anti-Fraud Office |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | European Central Bank |
| Colombia* | European Commission |
| Moldova | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction |
| Russian Federation | European Police College |
| Turkey | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| | World Customs Organisation |

* Countries and organisations that have Liaison Officers at Europol headquarters

As of 31 December 2007, the following cooperation agreements are in the process of being ratified or negotiated:

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (strategic)
 - Liechtenstein (operational)
 - Monaco (operational)
 - Montenegro (strategic)
 - Serbia (strategic)
 - Ukraine (strategic)
-
- Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the European Union External Borders – Frontex (strategic).

A special area of focus was further deepening of the cooperation with Eurojust, especially in respect of Eurojust's association with AWFs. The cooperation is mainly guided by a joint Steering Committee, which was set up to monitor implementation of the operational agreement concluded in 2004 and to develop strategies and priorities. The Steering Committee met four times in 2007. In addition, there were regular bilateral meetings between the Director of Europol and the President of Eurojust. In June, a secure communication link between the two organisations was installed to allow the secure electronic transmission of information between them.

Europol and Eurojust continued their combined efforts to promote the concept and use of joint investigation teams (JITs). In this context, they coorganised the Third Meeting of National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams on 29 and 30 November 2007 at the Eurojust premises in The Hague. At the meeting, Europol and Eurojust announced the release of a jointly developed JIT webpage that can be accessed through the websites of both organisations.

Eurojust also contributed to Europol's Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) in 2007, based on requirements developed by Europol.

6. Liaison Bureaux activities

6.1 Introduction by the Heads of Europol National Units' Chairman

The liaison bureaux network at Europol consists of one bureau for each of the 27 EU member states and bureaux representing countries and international organizations with which Europol has signed cooperation agreements, i.e. Australia, Canada, Columbia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and USA. The USA is represented by various law enforcement agencies.

The Liaison Officers at Europol play a crucial role in supporting member states' investigations and maintaining cooperation between Europol National Units (ENUs) in the member states and in third countries, and Europol headquarters in The Hague.

The Heads of Europol National Units (HENUs) held six meetings in 2007 to discuss various cooperation-related issues and to advise Europol on strategic and operational matters. The representatives of Eurojust, Croatia and Australia were granted observer status at these meetings.

Throughout 2007 the HENUs maintained their primary focus on operational cooperation and related Europol activities. They paid special attention to further development of the evaluation methods of the analysis work files (AWFs), and to implementation of the three protocols amending the Europol Convention.

In line with the recommendation of the Council and the decision of the Europol Management Board, the HENUs placed significant emphasis on the progress of cooperation with the Western Balkans. Among the operational issues that the HENUs focused on were the fight against terrorism and euro counterfeiting.

The HENUs assisted Europol in the preparatory phase of producing the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) 2008 and the Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2008.

One of the most important issues addressed by the HENUs in 2007 was the Strategy for Europol. At the request of the Management Board, the HENUs discussed both operational and strategic aspects of the Strategy and committed themselves to pursuing its goals and objectives.

After completing their tasks, the HENUs Rhodes Vision working groups finalised their activities in 2007. The HENUs agreed to evaluate developments relating to a number of activities in 2008, including implementation of the model for an ideal liaison bureau and an ideal national unit, and the mechanism for sharing best practices among member states.

The HENUs devoted special attention to the progress and improvement in the use and content of the Europol Information System. In addition to development of the new platform for information exchange between member states and Europol (SIENA), the HENUs have a pivotal role to play in achieving tangible results, together with Europol, in terms of further enhancement of these fundamental tools of law enforcement cooperation.

As in previous years, the HENUs again acknowledged the crucial role fulfilled by the liaison bureaux in the effective exchange of information between the member states and Europol, and between the member states themselves.

6.2 Liaison Bureaux - EU member states' liaison bureaux activities

AUSTRIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Vienna |
| Population: | 8.3 million |
| Area: | 83,858 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | Federal Ministry of the Interior Criminal Intelligence Service Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism Federal Ministry of Finance |

Liaison Bureau Austria

Europol National Unit: Criminal Intelligence Service (CIS), Vienna

Representation at Europol: Federal Ministry of the Interior, 3 ELOs
(Represent all competent authorities from Austria)

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007 the number of new cases initiated via Europol increased significantly. Perhaps more importantly, the quality of the contributions again improved considerably. The excellent cooperation between the Forgery of Money Unit at Europol and the CIS deserves special mention. One of the biggest successes was operation Spider Web, a joint operation between Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany and Slovenia, which led to the arrest of a complete organised crime group and the dismantling of a print shop. Furthermore, cooperation between the Austrian Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism and Europol was strongly enhanced. Another highlight was operation Welfare. An Islamic fundraising organisation located in Austria and strongly suspected of illegal financing of Islamic extremists was dismantled with analytical support from the AWF on Islamist extremism and terrorism.

BELGIUM

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Brussels |
| Population: | 10.5 million |
| Area: | 30,528 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands |
| Coastline: | North Sea (73.1 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Integrated Police Force, structured on two levels Customs and Excise Administration Intelligence Service |

Liaison Bureau Belgium

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | Operational Police Information Directorate and International Police Cooperation Directorate, both in Brussels |
| Representation at Europol: | Integrated Police Force, structured on two levels Customs and Excise Administration Intelligence Service, 4 ELOs |

Major achievements in 2007:

Thanks to the cooperation of other member states and active Europol AWF support, Belgium achieved a number of major operational results. A coordinated action was conducted successfully in the ongoing Belgian Skanderbeg investigation into organised crime in Albania, which started in 2006. Operation Koala, which also started in 2006 and combats child pornography on the Internet, resulted in a worldwide coordinated action leading to numerous arrests.

The Belgian operation Vehoka, investigating itinerant groups committing large scale burglaries, led to the conviction of several suspects. Belgium (operation Nougaro) and France (operation Artigat) were also the first to set up a joint investigation team (JIT) to counter Islamist terrorism, which is still running. The Swedish operation Aladdin was successfully concluded in the Belgian operation Carwash, leading to the dismantling of a cocaine trafficking group.

Other achievements are the progress in the Belgian Customs' contribution to Europol, which should be seen as an important breakthrough, and Belgium's contribution to the development of the strategy for Europol.

BULGARIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Sofia |
| Population: | 7.97 million |
| Area: | 110,993 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Romania, Serbia, FYROM, Greece, Turkey |
| Coastline: | Black Sea (378 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Service National Investigation Service, Customs Agency |

Liaison Bureau Bulgaria

Europol National Unit: International Operational Police Cooperation Directorate, National Police Service, Ministry of the Interior, Sofia

Representation at Europol: Ministry of the Interior, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

For Bulgaria this period was marked by the full fledged membership of Europol, which became active as of 1 August 2007. Cooperation was further enhanced and this was reflected in the increased amount of information exchanged via the Europol InfoEx System. Bulgaria continued to actively contribute to the work of the Europol AWFs, where cooperation has also been largely intensified, especially in the fields of payment card fraud, euro counterfeiting and heroin trafficking. A successful operation was carried out in July 2007, resulting in the seizure of 370,000 counterfeit euro banknotes and 115,000 US dollars and the submission of the perpetrator to the Court.

CZECH REPUBLIC

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Capital: | Prague |
| Population: | 10,251,079 |
| Area: | 78,866 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Austria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Customs Service |

Liaison Bureau Czech Republic

Europol National Unit: Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, Prague
Representation at Europol: National Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

The Czech law enforcement authorities actively participated in operational information exchange and initiated several cases with Czech ENU and Liaison Bureau support. Most of the information concerned the crime areas of forging of money, other means of payment, and trafficking in human beings. The Czech competent authorities used the Europol channel in a number of operations (e.g. Silver, Majmun). There were successful meetings involving the Czech ENU and Liaison Bureau (operation Orlice) and training courses for Europol experts in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is currently a full member of 13 open AWFs.

CYPRUS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Nicosia |
| Population: | 788,457 |
| Area: | 9,251 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | None |
| Coastline: | Mediterranean Sea (735 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Customs and Excise Unit for Combating Money Laundering |

Liaison Bureau Cyprus

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | European Union and International Police Cooperation Directorate, Nicosia (Cyprus Police Headquarters) |
|-------------------------------|---|

Representation at Europol: National Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

The Cypriot Police participated in operation Icarus, in cooperation with Europol, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Two training courses were given in Cyprus in cooperation with Europol and TAIEX. The first course was on Money Laundering and Assets Tracing and included external participants from Russia and Ukraine. The second course addressed Euro Counterfeiting, with a view to Cyprus entering the euro zone on 1 January 2008.

Fifty-five Cypriot Law Enforcement Officers, mainly from the National Police, participated in the training. The total volume of information exchange cases dealt with by the Liaison Bureau increased by 40% (from 5,075 in 2006 to 7,200 in 2007). Cyprus is an active member of nine AWFs with the Liaison Bureau either participating in meetings or giving assistance to national experts who attend them.

DENMARK

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Copenhagen |
| Population: | 5.5 million |
| Area: | 44,000 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Germany |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea, North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat + inner waters (total coastline: 7,300 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Tax & Border Authorities |

Liaison Bureau Denmark:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | National Police, National Centre of Investigation |
| Representation at Europol: | National Police, National Centre of Investigation, 4 ELOs |

Major achievements in 2007:

In response to a request from the UK concerning the death of two illegal immigrants, the Liaison Bureau and the ENU provided assistance which resulted in apprehension of the perpetrator. The Bureau also participated in an Icelandic investigation resulting in the seizure of amphetamines and XTC. In addition, the Bureau received information from the US regarding illegal hormone substances, leading to arrests and seizures in Denmark.

At the beginning of the year, a large number of police vehicles were damaged in Denmark during clashes with squatters. Thanks to a swift response from the Netherlands, we acquired 16 vehicles on loan. From the initial request being forwarded on the Saturday the vehicles were operative by the following Monday morning. In a major national drugs investigation, the key suspect received the maximum penalty of 16 years imprisonment after three years of support from the Danish Bureau and assistance from more than 13 countries, including several member states.

ESTONIA

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Capital: | Tallinn |
| Population: | 1.34 million |
| Area: | 45,227 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Russia, Latvia |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea (3,794 km) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Competent authorities: | National Police Border Guard Tax and Customs Board Security Police Board |
|-------------------------------|---|

Liaison Bureau Estonia

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | Central Criminal Police, Tallinn |
| Representation at Europol: | National Police Tax and Customs Board, 3 ELOs |

Major achievements in 2007:

The keywords describing the work of the Estonian Liaison Bureau in 2007 are increasing operational information and very active international cooperation.

The most notable joint operation in which Estonia participated was operation Baltico, coordinated by Europol. This led to the arrest of thirty-two criminals of Estonian origin who had committed armed robberies at jewellery shops all over Europe. A similar joint operation with the United Kingdom is planned for the end of 2007.

Estonia also participated in a successful multilateral joint operation which resulted in the confiscation of huge quantities of drugs and firearms. Lastly, a very effective operation was carried out to combat phishing and cigarette smuggling.

To provide more operative information exchange, a third Estonian Liaison Officer was posted to Europol in October.

FINLAND

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Helsinki |
| Population: | 5.3 million |
| Area: | 338,145 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Sweden, Norway, Russia |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea, Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Bothnia (approx. 1,126 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Police Customs Border Guard Investigation Division of the Defence Staff, Finnish Defence Forces |

Liaison Bureau Finland

Europol National Unit: National Bureau of Investigation (Police), Vantaa, Finland

Representation at Europol: National Bureau of Investigation, 2 ELOs
Customs, 1 ELO
Total 3 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

A successful joint operation with Europol and several member states was directed against organised criminal structures engaged in armed robberies. This operation contributed to a considerable number of arrests.

A Finnish enquiry into an aggravated money laundering case of over €1 million and presentation of the modus operandi to Europol and the member states have resulted in another operation involving Europol, Eurojust and several member states.

The Liaison Bureau comprised four officers in the first half of 2007. This enabled the Bureau to participate efficiently in several tasks, some of which were also of an administrative nature. The focus remained, however, on operational duties.

FRANCE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Paris |
| Population: | 64 million |
| Area: | 675,417 km ² (551,500 km ² France Metro) |
| Bordering countries: | Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Andorra, Monaco and Spain. |
| Coastline: | North Sea, English Channel, Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea (3,427 km; Corsica 1,000 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police, Ministry of the Interior National Gendarmerie, Ministry of Defence Ministry for Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service, Ministry of Finance |

Liaison Bureau France

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | Unite Nationale Europol (UNE), Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire, Direction des Relations Internationales (DCPJ-DRI), Nanterre (92 – France) |
| Representation at Europol: | National Police, 5 ELOs (including 1 ELO assigned to the Support Unit of the European Police Chief Task Force) National Gendarmerie, 2 ELOs Customs, 1 ELO |

Major achievements in 2007:

A JIT was set up by the French National Police and Belgium to investigate a terrorist group. The SC5 Terrorism Unit provided analytical support and deployed analysts in the field during the arrest operations.

The French customs seized 18 tons of smuggled cigarettes. The data was sent to the Europol AWF on illicit tobacco trade. The first analytical results established links with three other AWFs, and had consequences for Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The French National Gendarmerie arrested two individuals during an investigation into skimming. The follow-up investigation, with the support of the AWF on payment card fraud, established links in Germany and Spain.

France also participated in operation Koala, which led to the dismantling of a large child abuse network (23 suspects arrested in France). These targets were identified with Europol's analytical support provided to Australian, Belgian and Italian investigators. Thanks to operation Aziyadeh, Europol established links between an investigation run by the French border police (OCRIEST) targeting a Turkish-Chinese illegal immigration network and British operation Greensea. As a result a dedicated target group Greensea was created at Europol to analyse French, British and Belgian data and support EU law enforcement authorities. Operation Safari, in the area of the LTTE (Tamils), led to fruitful cooperation between the SDAT (Criminal counter terrorism sub-directorate of the French criminal investigation directorate) and a Europol AWF, resulting in many operational successes.

GERMANY

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Berlin |
| Population: | 82,400,996 |
| Area: | 357,092,90 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea (1,489 km), North Sea (1,760 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Federal Criminal Police Office Federal Police 16 State Police Agencies Central Customs Investigation Office 8 Regional Customs Investigation Offices Federal Domestic Intelligence Service 16 State Domestic Intelligence Services |

Liaison Bureau Germany

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office) |
|-------------------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Representation at Europol: | Federal Criminal Police Office, 3 ELOs Federal Police Germany, 1 ELO Central Customs Investigation Office, 1 ELO Berlin State Criminal Police Office, 1 ELO North Rhine Westphalia State Criminal Police Office, 1 ELO |
|-----------------------------------|--|

Major achievements in 2007:

The priorities of the Liaison Bureau Germany are the exchange of operational information with the other 34 Liaison Bureaux, AWF cooperation with Europol and the coordination of cross border operations with all member states.

In 2007 the number of requests processed by the Liaison Bureau Germany increased to more than 6100. Germany participates in almost all AWFs and is one of the major contributors. To improve this successful cooperation, the Europol AWF coordinator participated in the annual AWF National Experts Germany Workshop for the first time.

The Bureau was involved in an increasing number of cross-border surveillances and controlled deliveries, especially with Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands.

GREECE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Athens |
| Population: | 10,939,605 |
| Area: | 131,957 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria, Turkey |
| Coastline: | 15,021 km |
| Competent authorities: | Police Customs Special Financial Investigation Service Coastguard |

Liaison Bureau Greece

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Greek Europol National Unit, Athens |
| Representation at Europol: | Police, 2 ELOs Customs, 1 ELO Coastguard, 1 ELO |

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007 the Greek Liaison Bureau was actively involved in the implementation of strategic and operational objectives set by the National Unit. Cooperation between Europol and the national competent law enforcement authorities (Police, Customs and Coastguard) was significantly enhanced at both strategic and operational level. Apart from information exchange, the Liaison Officers were particularly active in supporting the Greek law enforcement authorities in a wide range of operational meetings within the framework of Europol AWFs. Operations relating to drugs, illegal immigration, forgery of money, and trafficking in human beings, which are among the main priorities of the Greek law enforcement authorities, were successfully implemented in close cooperation with Europol and various member states.

HUNGARY

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Budapest |
| Population: | 10.1 million |
| Area: | 93,000 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Border Guard Customs Finance Guard |

Liaison Bureau Hungary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | International Law Enforcement Cooperation Centre, Hungarian National Police HQ, Budapest |
| Representation at Europol: | National Police Border Guards Customs and Finance Guard, 3 ELOs |

Major achievements in 2007:

The number of international operations organised and coordinated by the Liaison Bureau further increased. Results include controlled deliveries, linking cross-border investigations, the arrest of wanted criminals and seizures of drugs. One high profile case – a joint operation with Europol – entailed the seizure of eight tonnes of security paper in Hungary. Another successful international operation coordinated by the Liaison Bureau resulted in the seizure of a high value luxury boat, and the arrest of a number of perpetrators. The Bureau provided significant support and resources for the joint WCO-Europol operation Matthew, targeting the smuggling of tobacco and alcohol. It also played a major role in establishing the Target Group Moluk within the COSPOL project against facilitated illegal migration. Several investigations by participating member states were connected and perpetrators were arrested. In general, the Bureau's involvement in the fight against organised crime further increased in terms of the quantity and quality of information-exchange and joint operations.

IRELAND

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Dublin |
| Population: | 4.239 million |
| Area: | 84,412 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Northern Ireland |
| Coastline: | Atlantic Ocean, Celtic Sea and Irish Sea 3,172 km |
| Competent authorities: | An Garda Siochana (Irish National Police) Customs Service |

Liaison Bureau Ireland

Europol National Unit: An Garda Siochana HQ, Dublin

Representation at Europol: An Garda Siochana, 2 ELOs
A customs colleague is due to join.

Major achievements in 2007:

An Garda Siochana cooperated with the AWF on child pornography networks on the Internet in the highly successful operation Koala. Many interesting cases evolved through cooperation with other Europol Liaison Bureaus. Controlled deliveries culminated in arrests, criminal assets of overseas crime lords were identified in Ireland, and foreign crime suspects domiciled in the country were located. The ENU presented Europol awareness sessions to investigators, leading to an increase in the use of Europol as the channel of choice for police cooperation. Training in and use of the Europol Information System expanded, and there was greater coordination with Eurojust counterparts.

ITALY

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Rome |
| Population: | 59.2 million |
| Area: | 301,338 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Republic of San Marino, State of the Vatican City |
| Coastline: | Mediterranean Sea (7,500 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Polizia di Stato Arma dei Carabinieri Guardia di Finanza Polizia Penitenziaria Corpo Forestale dello Stato |

Liaison Bureau Italy

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Direzione Centrale della Polizia Criminale – Servizio per la Cooperazione Internazionale di Polizia, Rome |
| Representation at Europol: | Polizia di Stato Arma dei Carabinieri Guardia di Finanza 3 ELOs |

Major achievements in 2007:

There was a considerable increase in the exchange of information on cases of forgery of other means of payment, mainly involving Romanian and Bulgarian nationals active in EU member states. The Carabinieri took part in several operations: identifying a criminal organisation of Estonian and Lithuanian nationals involved in robberies from jewellers in Milan and other cities in Central and Northern Italy (operation Baltico), disrupting an international trafficking operation in counterfeit notes leading to the dismantling of an illegal print shop (operation Giotto), and an investigation into the theft of credit card information (skimming) (operation Clone). As part of operations Fish&Chips and Cirano, the Guardia di Finanza assisted with the dismantling of a large-scale criminal organisation involved in a series of serious thefts and the cloning of thousands of payment card codes. The Polizia di Stato took part in operation Koala, aimed at tackling child pornography on the Internet.

LATVIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Riga |
| Population: | 2,273,100 |
| Area: | 64,589 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea (494 km) |
| Competent authorities: | State Police Financial Police Department and Customs Criminal Board of the State Revenue Service Security Police Corruption Prevention and Combat Bureau |

Liaison Bureau Latvia

Europol National Unit: Europol National Bureau, Riga

Representation at Europol: State police, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

The Latvian Competent Authorities participated in operation Matthew with Europol and member states. Other successful achievements with close involvement and information exchange with AWFs and ELOs from other member states included disclosing and detaining the members of several organised criminal groups on suspicion of bankcard forgery scam, international drugs trafficking and cigarette smuggling.

As a result of anti-money laundering policy, investigations discovered new facts, and identified criminal acts and persons involved in criminal groups aimed at large-scale tax evasion and legalising financial resources acquired by criminal means, including money laundering for international syndicates.

LITHUANIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Vilnius |
| Population: | 3.46 million |
| Area: | 65,300 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Latvia, Belarus, Poland, Russia |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea (90 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Border Guard Customs State Security Department Financial Crime Investigation Service Special Investigation Service |

Liaison Bureau Lithuania

Europol National Unit: Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau (LCPB)

Representation at Europol: Police department, 2 ELOs
Customs department, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

With support from various AWFs, the Liaison Bureau coordinated a large number of Europe-wide operations, mainly against distribution networks for counterfeit euros, drugs trafficking, and illegal immigration. These efforts resulted in seizures of illicit commodities and arrests of suspects, and enabled Lithuanian law enforcement agencies to create a better intelligence picture of the activities of organised crime groups, new modus operandi and forthcoming threats. An awareness seminar was organised for ten chiefs of regional police.

LUXEMBOURG

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Luxembourg (City) |
| Population: | 470,000 |
| Area: | 2,586 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Germany, France, Belgium |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | Police Grand-Ducale Administration des Douanes |

Liaison Bureau Luxembourg

Europol National Unit: Police Judiciaire

Representation at Europol: Police Grand-Ducale, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007 the Luxembourg Liaison Bureau achieved an increase of 50% in requests related to new cases initiated by the Luxembourg National Unit. This was mostly due to a 100% increase in the area of drug trafficking.

The Bureau's main activities took place in relation to the AWF on outlaw motorcycle gangs and participation in the COSPOL projects, with positive results obtained in operation Icarus. The Luxembourg National Unit also started to input data into the Europol Information System in 2007.

MALTA

Capital: Valletta
Population: 404,000
Area: 316 km²
Bordering countries: None
Coastline: 136 km (Malta)
43 km (Gozo)

Competent authorities: Police
Customs
Security Services
Armed Forces

Liaison Bureau Malta

Europol National Unit: Malta Police, Floriana

Representation at Europol: Malta Police, 1 ELO (also represents other Maltese agencies)

Major achievements in 2007:

The Maltese Liaison Bureau was involved in various investigations throughout 2007. These were mainly concerned with drugs trafficking, payment card fraud, cultural property crimes, alleged kidnapping, internet fraud, cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting of euros. These investigations resulted in numerous arrests, seizures, extraditions and prosecutions. The Liaison Bureau also participated in most international strategic and operational forums related to Europol. One of the Bureau's priorities was to raise awareness of Europol at relevant entities in Malta.

THE NETHERLANDS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Amsterdam |
| Population: | 16.5 million (European part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) |
| Area: | 41,526 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Germany, Belgium |
| Coastline: | North Sea (415 km) |
| Competent authorities: | 26 police forces (1 national and 25 regional) Fiscal and Economical Crime Squad Royal Marechaussee (military police) and several other law enforcement agencies falling under different ministries |

Liaison Bureau of the Netherlands

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | KLPD, Dinpol (International police cooperation unit), Zoetermeer |
|-------------------------------|--|

Representation at Europol: Police (national and regional), 5 ELOs
(including the head of the liaison bureau)
Fiscal and Economical Crime Squad,
1 ELO
Royal Marechaussee, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

The Dutch National Crime Squad and Fiscal and Economical Crime Squad successfully completed several investigations in the field of synthetic drugs and precursors with other member states and the support of Europol.

The Amsterdam police investigated a Europe-wide skimming case, conducting a very successful investigation in cooperation with Bulgaria, Slovenia, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Finland and France and with analytical support from Europol.

A large number of serious international organised crime investigations in the Netherlands, involving more than two member states, were successfully completed due to the efficient operation of the liaison network at Europol.

POLAND

Capital: Warsaw
Population: 38.5 million
Area: 312,685 km²
Bordering countries: Germany, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia (Kaliningrad Region)

Coastline: Baltic Sea (528 km)

Competent authorities: National Police
Border Guard
Internal Security Agency
Customs Service
Central Anticorruption Bureau

Liaison Bureau Poland

Europol National Unit: General Headquarters of the Polish National Police,
Warsaw

Representation at Europol: National Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007, the Polish Liaison Bureau continued to provide assistance to both national and foreign competent authorities and Europol, mainly in the fields of illegal migration, other means of payment, illicit production and trafficking in drugs, and illicit production of cigarettes. Furthermore, the Liaison Bureau was involved in the process initiated by ENU Poland of national implementation of the three protocols to the Europol Convention and extended access to Europol's Information System. The Bureau was also involved in preparing two Europol awareness sessions, which took place in Poland.

PORTUGAL

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Lisbon |
| Population: | 10.6 million |
| Area: | 92,400 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Spain |
| Coastline: | Atlantic Ocean (1,793 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Judicial Police, National Security Police National Republican Guard (Gendarmerie) Alien and Border Service Customs |

Liaison Bureau Portugal

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Judicial Police, Department of International Cooperation |
|-------------------------------|---|

Representation at Europol: Judicial Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007 there were no significant changes in crime patterns and trends regarding the exchange of information.

The Bureau and the national unit supported COSPOL in relation to operation Icarus, which targeted cocaine trafficking by air and was driven by Portugal with the participation of Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the AWF on networks involved in cocaine trafficking. This operation was concluded successfully, resulting in the arrest of several couriers and the seizure of large quantities of drugs.

The Liaison Bureau was also involved in the exchange of information regarding an operation carried out by the Portuguese Alien and Border Service aimed at dismantling an East European criminal group involved in trafficking of human beings, illegal immigration and racketeering.

In March 2007 the Portuguese desk provided Europol with information related to the dismantling by the Judicial Police of an illegal laboratory producing methamphetamines detected in the north of Portugal.

Finally, the Economic Crime Department of the Judicial Police investigated two major cases of bank card counterfeiting. In one of these cases the investigators seized 600 white plastic cards and arrested seven Bulgarian nationals and a Croatian. In the other investigation, the police dismantled a criminal group and arrested three EU citizens. In both cases the Judicial Police provided information for the AWF on payment card fraud and several cross matches were detected with investigations in other member states.

The Liaison Bureau also collaborated with Eurojust in the framework of operation Koala targeting an international network of child pornography.

ROMANIA

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Bucharest |
| Population: | 22,276,056 |
| Area: | 238,392 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Hungary, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia |
| Coastline: | Black Sea (193.5 km) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Competent authorities: | National Police |
| | Border Police |
| | Customs |
| | Gendarmerie |
| | Romanian Intelligence Service |
| | General Prosecution Office |

Liaison Bureau Romania

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, International Police Cooperation Centre, Bucharest |
|-------------------------------|---|

Representation at Europol: Romanian Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007, the Romanian Liaison Bureau focused on both strategic and operational activities. Strategically, the Liaison Bureau's activities centred on finalising the Europol Enlargement Project and supporting the Romanian authorities in completing the work related to becoming a full member of Europol. The Bureau also constantly supported the Romanian delegates to the Management Board and the activities of the Romanian representatives in different JHA Council fora. Operationally, the Romanian Liaison Bureau continued to support the Romanian law enforcement authorities and Europol.

The main crime areas supported were payment card fraud, fraud and swindling, drugs trafficking and trafficking in human beings. The Bureau was also actively involved in the AWFs, being one of the main contributors to the AWFs on payment card fraud and networks involved in heroin trafficking and making valuable contributions to other AWFs such as those on euro counterfeiting, illicit tobacco smoke and facilitated illegal immigration.

SLOVAKIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Bratislava |
| Population: | 5.38 million |
| Area: | 49,035 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and Hungary |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | National Police Customs Criminal Office Prosecutor's Office Courts |

Liaison Bureau Slovakia

Europol National Unit: Národná ústredňa Europol, Bratislava

Representation at Europol: Presidium of Police Force, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

Based on information received from Europol and several affected countries, our police instigated an investigation into a criminal group involved in the fraudulent international transport of goods. As a result of the investigation, five members of the group (consisting of nine suspects in all) have been arrested.

The Liaison Bureau assisted in restricted information exchange between JIT Premiere and Europol targeting an international drugs trafficking network.

In cooperation with Europol (AWF on facilitated illegal immigration), the Slovakian authorities conducted several successful operations against international criminal gangs active in the facilitated illegal immigration of Moldovan and Ukrainian nationals to West European countries.

SLOVENIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Ljubljana |
| Population: | 2,000,000 |
| Area: | 20,273 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Italy |
| Coastline: | Adriatic Sea (43 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Police Customs Administration Office for Money Laundering Prevention |

Liaison Bureau Slovenia

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Europol National Unit: | General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate, Ljubljana |
|-------------------------------|--|

Representation at Europol: Police

Major achievements in 2007:

The Slovenian Criminal Police instigated an investigation with the participation of EU and non-EU member states. With the help of Europol an illegal money printing house was disclosed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its complete network dismantled. With the assistance of EU member states and especially on the basis of a Europol risk evaluation Slovenia successfully introduced the euro. Assisted by ENU Slovenia, Europol organised and trained Slovenian customs officers to recognise and disclose counterfeit euros. Slovenian fraud and embezzlement investigators attended an AWF on payment card fraud training course, organised by Europol.

SPAIN

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Madrid |
| Population: | 45,116,894 |
| Area: | 504,645 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | France and Portugal |
| Coastline: | Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea (7,921 km) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Competent authorities: | Cuerpo Nacional de Policia (CNP) Guardia Civil (GC) DAVA (Customs) Regional Police |
|-------------------------------|---|

Liaison Bureau Spain

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Europol National Unit: | Cuerpo Nacional de Policia, Madrid |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Representation at Europol: Cuerpo Nacional de Policia, 4 ELOs
Guardia Civil, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

In 2007 Spain conducted major activities in the field of East European organised crime. It led the Russian Diamonds Project, which addressed organised crime in Georgia and involved 10 member states, and participated in operations Baltico, with simultaneous operations in seven member states, and Caldas, which tackled forgery of money in Colombia. Another important initiative was Project Gold, which addressed major South American organised crime groups impacting in the EU.

In the field of illegal immigration Spain requested the opening of Target Group Ebano within the AWF on facilitated illegal immigration. Spain is currently promoting operation Pipas, which involves setting up a joint international operation against a transnational organised crime group of Romanian nationals involved in credit card fraud and other illegal activities.

SWEDEN

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Stockholm |
| Population: | 9,031,088 |
| Area: | 449,964 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Finland, Norway |
| Coastline: | Baltic Sea (3,218 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Police National Economic Crimes Bureau Coastguard Customs Service |

Liaison Bureau Sweden

Europol National Unit: National Criminal Police, International Police Cooperation Division, Europol and intelligence unit

Representation at Europol: Customs Service, 1 ELO
National Criminal Police, 2 ELOS and one assistant

Major achievements in 2007:

The positive trend of increasing cases initiated by the Swedish Liaison Bureau continued in 2007 and operational cooperation with other member states improved. Collaboration with Europol is constantly improving.

The Liaison Bureau's major activities have been in the mandated areas of drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, illegal immigration and other means of payment.

There were several successful operations, which would have had much less positive outcomes if the member states involved had not used the Europol channel. The success of these investigations was also due to the cooperation with Eurojust and the use of a bilateral Nordic Liaison Officer in a third state. There were also a number of successful operations in which the Police and Customs assisted other countries with surveillance in Sweden.

The continuing cooperation with the Swedish representative at Eurojust is developing harmoniously at a very high level.

The number of awareness visits to Europol and Liaison Bureau Sweden is still high. To this end, the Bureau has got a trainee. The ongoing process of encouraging the competent authorities in Sweden to make use of Europol resources continues. The internal work at the Swedish Liaison Bureau has been amended to enhance the quality of the information flow and exchange.

UNITED KINGDOM

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | London |
| Population: | 60.78 million |
| Area: | 244,820 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Republic of Ireland |
| Coastline: | North Sea, English Channel, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean (12,500 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Police services of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (55 in total) HM Revenue & Customs Borders & Immigration Agency Serious Organised Crime Agency |

Liaison Bureau United Kingdom

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Serious Organised Crime Agency, London |
| Representation at Europol: | Serious Organised Crime Agency HM Revenue & Customs Metropolitan Police Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency 7 ELOs and 1 administrator |

Major achievements in 2007:

Operation Opaco led to the seizure of 720 kilos of cannabis in Spain and 460 kilos of amphetamine, 1 million ecstasy tablets and £100,000 cash in the UK. In operation Hansel, Europol provided specialised technical support to Cambridgeshire Constabulary which directly led to the apprehension of a 27-year-old man convicted of sending 12 explosive devices through the post. When arrested he was preparing three further devices. The UK cooperated with Estonia and Europol in operation Rudoll II, which led to the linking of 23 violent robberies at high class jeweller shops in UK committed by various members of Estonian organised crime groups. Eurojust assisted with the execution of letters of request.

5.3 Third parties' liaison bureaux activities

AUSTRALIA

| | |
|---|--|
| Capital: | Canberra |
| Population: | 21.1 million |
| Area: | 7,741,220 km ² |
| Bordering (surrounding) countries: | Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands |
| Coastline: | Indian and Pacific Oceans (34,218 km) |
| Competent authorities: | Australian Federal Police Australian Customs Service Australian Crime Commission New South Wales Police Victoria Police Queensland Police Western Australia Police Northern Territory Police South Australia Police Tasmania Police |

Liaison Bureau Australia

Europol National Unit: Australian Federal Police, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Representation at Europol: Australian Federal Police, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

On 20 February 2007 Australia and Europol signed an operational and strategic agreement which came into effect on 27 September 2007. This agreement paved the way for the strengthening of existing relations between Australia and Europol.

On 1 May 2007, the first Australian Liaison Officer commenced his work at Europol. Since then, Australia has contributed significant intelligence to many Analysis Work Files.

Australia provided the initial information to Belgian authorities that subsequently led to the commencement of operation KOALA between numerous member states, Europol and Eurojust. This culminated in the successful arrest of numerous suspects worldwide in relation to child pornography via the Internet and led to a worldwide press release by Europol and Eurojust on 5 November 2007.

The excellent cooperation achieved between Australia, Europol and EU member states is expected to increase substantially with the signing of association agreements with the Europol Analysis Work Files.

COLOMBIA

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Capital: | Bogotá |
| Population: | 42,888,592 |
| Area: | 1,141,748 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela |
| Coastline: | Pacific Ocean (1300 km), Caribbean Sea (1600 km) |
| Competent authorities: | National Police |

Liaison Bureau Colombia

Europol Contact Point: Police Intelligence Directorate

Representation at Europol: National Police, 3 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

The activities of the Liaison Bureau focused on strengthening the relationship between Colombia and Europol on the basis of common targets. Europol trainers travelled to Colombia to give analysis training to members of law enforcement agencies. Scenarios were set for exchanging expertise with Colombian experts concerning specifically illegal financial activities carried out by drug trafficking and terrorist organisations.

The Deputy Director of Europol visited Bogotá for the Second Summit of the Latin-American and Caribbean Community of Police Intelligence, which has continuously supported Europol projects by providing information via the Colombian ENU.

In addition, the Portuguese President of Europol's Management Board visited Colombia, giving the National Police the opportunity to present its capabilities and commitment in the fight against international crime.

Finally, the Director of Europol visited the National Police with a view to enhancing cooperation. The Director also participated in the launch of the AMERIPOL Project, which aims to consolidate an organisation of police services in America.

ICELAND

Capital: Reykjavik
Population: 307,672
Area: 103,000 km²
Bordering countries: None
Coastline: 4,970 km

Competent authorities: National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, 15 regional police districts

Liaison Bureau Iceland

Europol Contact Point: Europol National Unit, National Police Commissioner

Representation at Europol: National Police Commissioner, 1 ELO

Major achievements in 2007:

Iceland opened a Liaison Bureau at Europol on 2 February. The main task in the first year was to launch and establish the office, and build bases and contacts for future cooperation. The Icelandic Police conducted operation Pole Star together with Denmark, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands, through liaison and coordination of the new Icelandic Liaison Bureau at Europol. The result was the biggest seizure ever of synthetic drugs in Iceland and the arrests of all the key targets. Icelandic Police also participated in operation Koala, a very successful worldwide operation to tackle child pornography. Three awareness sessions were held in Iceland with participation of representatives from Europol. A delegation of the National Police Commissioner and several Regional Chiefs of Police visited Europol and attended a two-day awareness programme at Europol headquarters in The Hague.

NORWAY

Capital: Oslo
Population: 4,717,982
Area: 386,433 km²
Bordering countries: Sweden, Finland, Russia
Coastline: North Sea, Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea (25,148 km)

Competent authorities: National Criminal Investigation Service
National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime
Norwegian Customs
Police Security Service Headquarters

Liaison Bureau Norway

Europol National Unit: Europol National Unit, National Criminal Investigation Service, Oslo

Representation at Europol: 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

Information exchange with various countries produced positive results, including common investigations into the use of trojans for bank fraud. Exchange with Lithuania resulted in a major drugs seizure and the dismantling of a criminal network in Norway, while exchange with Latvia led to two seizures and arrests in Sweden and Latvia.

Participation in operation Lucky Day led to a major drugs seizure in Iceland. Support from Europol in operation Broken Lorry, with links to many EU countries, resulted in several arrests and the seizure of large quantities of drugs and money.

Support from specific AWFs led to the dismantling of a trafficking in human beings network. Cooperation with the Netherlands led to the seizure of 50 kg of amphetamines in Holland and the arrest of Norwegian and Dutch nationals. Cooperation in operation Koala resulted in the detection of perpetrators in Norway.

SWITZERLAND

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital: | Bern |
| Population: | 7.5 million |
| Area: | 41,285 km ² |
| Bordering countries: | Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein |
| Coastline: | None |
| Competent authorities: | Federal Office of Police Central Commando Border Guard Corps (part of the Federal Customs Administration) |

Liaison Bureau Switzerland

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Europol National Unit: | Federal Office of Police, Federal Criminal Police, International Police Cooperation Division / Bern |
|-------------------------------|---|

Representation at Europol: Federal Office of Police, 2 ELOs

Major achievements in 2007:

Cooperation between Switzerland and Europol has become established and the volume of information exchanged between the partners is constantly rising. The same trend is apparent in the field of investigation assistance, a good example being the joint operation Koala on child pornography. Switzerland's integration in two or three AWFs is currently in the preparation phase.

Europol will be actively supporting Switzerland and Austria in the planning and execution of the EURO 2008 European football championships. A Joint Declaration between Switzerland and Europol forms the basis of this particularly intensive form of cooperation.

The current Switzerland-Europol agreement at present regulates cooperation in eight fields of crime. This list will be considerably expanded in January 2008 to include cooperation between all Europol partners in 25 areas of crime.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Headquarters: Washington, D.C.

Representation at Europol: 1 LO

Major achievements in 2007:

On 14 June 2007 the US Secret Service participated in operation Euro Tree together with DAS (Colombia), BIBE (Spain) and Europol, which resulted in the dismantling of five illegal print shops and five currency depots, the arrest of nine suspects and the seizure of 400,000 counterfeit euros, 1.1 million counterfeit US dollars and a further 4.4 million counterfeit US dollars in preparation, 550 million Colombian pesos, 533 Colombian lottery tickets and 63 million genuine Venezuelan Bolivar.

On 8 July 2007 the Bulgarian Police arrested one individual in Bulgaria, after he tried to sell approximately 370,000 counterfeit euros and 115,000 counterfeit US dollars to an undercover Bulgarian police officer. This operation was supported by the US Secret Service and Europol.

On 16 July 2007, operation Esmeralda was successfully concluded with the arrest of 11 suspects and the dismantling of a major counterfeit distribution network of counterfeit currency. The operation, conducted by BIBE and the Colombian Forgery of Money Group, was supported financially by the US Secret Service and Europol.

In September 2007, the US Secret Service arrested a major vendor of credit card dumps in San Francisco, California. Shortly after the arrest the Secret Service received phenomenal support from the Dutch National High Tech Crime Unit, which was able to image three servers in Harlem and one in Amsterdam at very short notice. These will be invaluable at the prosecution phase of this investigation.

**US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

Headquarters: Arlington, Virginia

Representation at Europol: 1 LO

Major achievements in 2007:

In May, DEA representatives visited Europol and gave a presentation on operation Raw Deal. This operation targeted a large drug trafficking organisation specialised in performance enhancing drugs. Following the DEA's presentation, several EU countries became involved in the operation. In late September, the DEA arrested 124 people throughout the United States, raided 56 laboratories, and seized 242 kg of steroids and 1.4 million steroid dosage units. Around the same time, competent authorities from around the world also reported arrests and seizures in the context of operation Raw Deal. The significant role played by various EU countries in this operation can be traced back to the cooperation between competent authorities represented at Europol.

**UNITED STATES
POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE
GLOBAL SECURITY AND
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

Headquarters: Washington D.C.

Representation at Europol: 1 LO

Major achievements in 2007:

The first US Postal Inspector was assigned to Europol on January 15, 2007. Since this date, one permanent position has been established at Europol, with the authorisation of the US Embassy in the Netherlands. An official Liaison Agreement was signed between USPIS and Europol on September 21, 2007. USPIS is the federal law enforcement branch of the US Postal Service. Postal Inspectors enforce federal laws in investigations of crimes that may adversely affect or fraudulently use the US postal system or postal employees, including assaults, bombs, burglary, child exploitation, controlled substances, counterfeit stamps, money orders, destruction, obstruction and delay of mail, electronic crimes, extortion, identity fraud, lotteries, mail fraud, money laundering, obscenity and sexually oriented advertising, robbery, theft of mail. US Postal Inspectors are also represented at Interpol in Lyon, France and at the Universal Postal Union in Berne, Switzerland.

**UNITED STATES
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)**

Headquarters: Washington D.C.

Representation at Europol: 1 LO

Major achievements in 2007:

During 2007, the FBI continued its liaison relationship with Europol with the goal of increasing the cooperation with the Serious Crimes Units. In 2007, Europol completed its ratification of the Danish Protocol, which provided the framework for the FBI's direct participation in Europol AWFs. Since then, the Bureau has been actively working to negotiate workable sharing and participation agreements and establishing the protocols for participation in selected AWFs.

In addition, the FBI and Europol have continued their successful cooperative efforts on several fronts to include the exchange of experts at various conferences ranging from terrorist financing to cyber crime to child pornography and outlaw motorcycle gangs, the sharing of criminal intelligence, and participation in Europol-coordinated multilateral investigations.

The FBI's mandate to engage in increased bilateral cooperation with European police and security partners through European-based Legal Attaché Offices precludes active engagement of the Europol liaison bureau, but increased FBI cooperation with the multilateral aspects of Europol is expected to continue to increase in 2008 as the Bureau establishes its protocols for direct involvement in AWFs, including membership and active participation in selected AWFs.

ICPO-INTERPOL

General Secretariat: Lyon, France

Representation at Europol: 1 LO

Major achievements in 2007:

INTERPOL intensified its cooperation with the European police office Europol in 2007.

On 22 March 2007 INTERPOL signed two arrangements by which the organisation became an associate member to two Europol Analysis Work Files.

On 11 May 2007 the Deputy Director of Europol and the Executive Director Police Services of INTERPOL met at the INTERPOL Secretariat General in Lyon to discuss cooperation between the two organisations.

In 2007, INTERPOL and Europol started an exchange program allowing their officers to obtain a greater awareness of their counterpart organisation and to promote cooperation.

On 27 August 2007, the Director of Europol and the Secretary General of INTERPOL met in The Hague. On that occasion the SG officially opened the INTERPOL liaison office at Europol headquarters and signed, together with the Director of Europol, an amendment to the Joint Initiative 2001. Within the framework of the Joint Initiative there was close cooperation and information exchange on euro counterfeiting.

On 1 November 2007, the new permanent INTERPOL representative to Europol took up his functions at Europol Headquarters.

INTERPOL and Europol representatives participated in several operational working meetings at the premises of both organisations.

INTERPOL also participated as an observer in the Heads of Europol National Unit meetings in The Hague and contributed to the OCTA 2008.