

EUROPOL & Metal Theft

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EUROPOL

Europol:

- support centre for **Law Enforcement operations** (e.g. analysis, coordination meetings, on-the-spot support)
- criminal information hub (e.g. Siena, Europol Information System, AWFs, ELOs etc)
- centre for **Law Enforcement expertise** (e.g. European Platform for Experts/EPE, training etc)

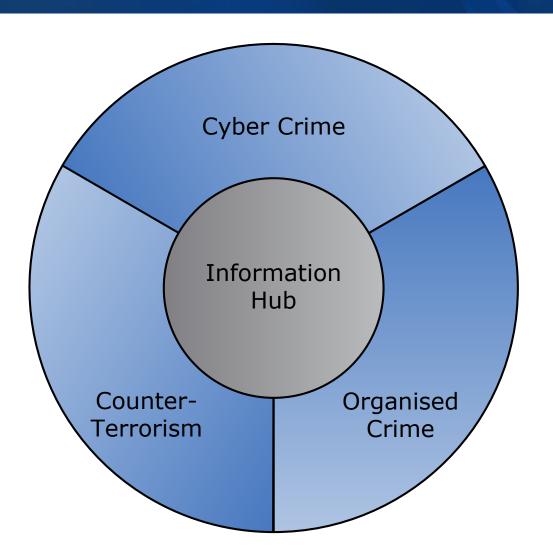








Operations Department





Operations Department: Crime Areas

Cybercrime

Terrorism → **AWF CT**

Serious Organised Crime → **AWF SOC**

- Property Crimes
- **Drugs** (Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, Synthetic Drugs)
- Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)
- Illegal Immigration
- Ethnic **Albanians** Criminal Groups
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
- Manufacturing and trafficking of cigarettes and tobacco products
- Intellectual property theft (IPT) / intellectual property rights infringement (IPRI)
- Missing Trader Intra-Community Frauds (MTIC)
- Currency counterfeiting (€)
- Money Laundering



Organised Property Crimes: (some) areas of interest

- Metal thefts
- Motor Vehicle Crimes (car/plant equipment thefts & international trafficking)
- Cargo thefts
- Armed robberies
- Cash In Transit (CIT) & ATM attacks
- Serious **burglaries**, **home jacking** and gang-type offences against private houses and commercial premises
- High value jewellery robberies
- OCG exploiting minors in committing crimes (e.g. THB + begging, pick-pocketing)
- Crime Against the Elderly (CATE)



Operational/strategic products & expertise support

- Cross-match reports
- Operational (Intelligence) Analysis Reports
- Strategic Reports (e.g. Situation Report on MOCG, Alert Report on specific modus operandi)
- Mobile Office (operational support and analysis on-thespot)
- Financial analysis & assets recovery
- Target groups & Joint Investigation Teams (**JIT**)
- Forensic analysis (e.g. DNA, fingerprints)

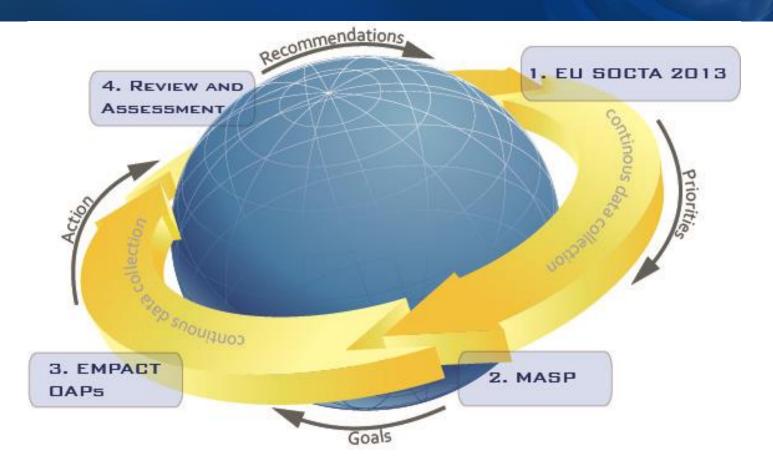


Added value Europol

- 1. Quick and safe information exchange
- 2. Centralisation of information
- 3. Add weight to petty cases
- 4. Awareness raising



The EU Policy Cycle



The policy cycle **ensures effective cooperation** between national law enforcement agencies, EU institutions, EU Agencies and other relevant partners in the fight against serious and organised crime.



Metal theft: a EU priority

The EU policy cycle has identified:

- Mobile (Itinerant) Criminal Groups: a EU priority for the years 2012-2013
- Organised Property Crimes: e EU priority for the years 2014-2017

EMPACT group (*'European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats - Mobile Organised Crime Groups'*) has been established for each EU priority (BE driver, FR co-driver).

Operational Action Plans include activities and actions in the field of:

→ metal theft.



MOCG: Mobile (Itinerant) Organised Crime Groups, mainly active in property crime or fraud with a high degree of mobility affecting two or more member states.

Features

- > Below the "radar" of Law Enforcement Agencies ('petty crimes')
- Very mobile (at, from, to the crime scene)
- Flexible regarding crime fields and modus operandi
- Acting from home countries or anchor points abroad
- High damage
- Influence the feeling of safety of the population
- > Re-investment of the illegal benefits in other crimes
- Hard to detect

LEAs constraints

- Lack of resources
- Lack of analysis
- Lack of information exchange
- Lack of coordination



FP Furtum & Metal Theft: preliminary findings

TYPE A (organised crime groups)

- International
- Specialised
- Hierarchically structured
- Limited
- High volume and/or high value and/or specific metal

TYPE B (opportunist thieves)

- International and/or national
- Non specialised
- Loose networks
- Numerous
- Limited quantities and/or limited value and/or mainly copper



EU Conference on Metal Theft

Europol, 22 & 23 April 2013



EU Conference: why?

- Bring together
 - different Units/Departments
 - LEAs and public-private sector
- Raise awareness amongst LEAs
- **Share** best (good) practices
- Build
 - EU LEAs network
 - EU picture of the phenomenon
- Understand the role of (M)OCG
- Identify a common way forward.



EU Conference: findings

- Legislative differences contribute to transnational character of the crime
- National vs international
- Repression vs prevention
- Flexibility & mobility of OCG involved
- Adaptability to changes → new modus operandi & new routes
- Major disruption of services
- Environmental impact
- Lack of trust in Police, Public Security and National authorities.



EU Conference: LEAs common needs

- Coordination (nat & intl)
- Analysis
- Harmonised legislations & activities
- Cooperation & coordination with private sector
- Escalating the chain focussing on recyclers, fencers, organisers, recruiters etc
- Establishing a network of practitioners, identify and share
 best/good practices, increase awareness



1st EU Action Day on Metal Theft & Scrap Dealers

27 & 28 May 2013



EUROPOL & Metal Theft: Action Day, 27/28 May 2013

Results

18 Member States → AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LUX, NL, PT, RO, e SE

 \rightarrow 4 378

Persons controlled → 58 289 Persons arrested → 266 Theft → 204 Vehicles controlled → 50 489 Vehicles seized → 30 Administrative checks → 7 045

Administrative fees



Ongoing activities



Strategic activities: COM

DG Home

- supports and coordinates EMPACT initiatives
- liaise with other DGs
- finances actions carried out in the framework of the policy cycle (ISEC)

DG Move

- informal visit to Europol in August 2013
- 'rail security' → sensitive topic
- willing to contribute and support
- Europol invited to attend Land Transport Security Expert Group (LANDSEC3) meeting in Brussels on 28/11/2013 next LANDSEC meeting end of April 2014
- DG Environmental, DG Enterprise, DG Industry, DG market → contacts in progress ...



Strategic activities: EMPACT and more

EMPACT

- Operational Action Plan 2014 with focus on metal theft
- 2nd EU Conference on 23 & 24 April 2014
- 2nd EU Action Day on 14 & 15 May 2014

POL-PRIMETT

Continued cooperation

COLPOFER

- Collaboration of Railway Police and Security Services
- New partner of the next EU Action Day

MEMBER STATES

Support to several national conferences and awareness seminars



2nd EU Conference

Topics:

- General picture → LEA & PP
- EC → DG Home, DG Move, DG Envi, DG Market
- Forensic aspects → LEA & PP
- Justice → Eurojust case, magistrates/prosecutors
- Environmental crime
- VAT frauds
- 2nd Action day

What's new:

- EU Institutions & political bodies
- Judicial Authorities
- The environmental aspect
- VAT frauds



