



Brussels terrorist attacks of March 2016

Coordinated terrorist attacks in Brussels 22/03/ 2016

32 people are killed and hundreds injured in coordinated suicide bombings on the metro and at Zaventem airport



Within hours of the attack, Eurojust's network of **national correspondents for terrorism matters** is activated, facilitating the provision of quick and comprehensive assistance to the Belgian investigation



Belgium's Federal Prosecutor's Office requests assistance from Eurojust



2 prime suspects are arrested on 8 April 2016



A sophisticated terrorist network is uncovered, with links to several Member States and the Paris attacks of 13/11/2015

Links to other serious crimes are uncovered, including arms trafficking and forgery of documents





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The network of national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters served as a primary point of contact for the response to the 2016 Brussels terrorist attacks. Within an hour of the attacks of 22 March, which involved coordinated suicide bombings on the metro and in Brussels Zaventem Airport, leaving 32 people dead and hundreds injured, Eurojust activated its network of national correspondents for terrorism matters to ensure that the competent judicial authorities from all Member States were available around the clock to immediately receive and process any urgent request for, or decision on, judicial cooperation. The activation of the network facilitated the provision of quick and comprehensive assistance to the Belgian investigation into this major terrorist incident by supporting and complementing the work at national level with a focus on the international dimension of the attacks and the identification of criminal networks and connected criminal activities. Eurojust was also put on stand-by to be able to promptly respond to any requests for assistance and coordination from the competent national authorities.

The investigation in Belgium, conducted by investigative judges, revealed a sophisticated terrorist network with links both to other Member States and to the Paris attacks, with suicide bombers being supported by several individuals, and with connections to other serious crimes and networks involving arms trafficking and forgery of documents. The person seen next to one of the suicide bombers on surveillance footage from the attack on the Brussels metro escaped minutes prior to the detonation and was identified as a known FTF in Syria. His DNA, found in several 'safe houses' and cars used by the terrorist network, led to the discovery of links with other Member States and his involvement with the Paris attackers.

The Federal Prosecutor's Office of Belgium requested assistance from Eurojust to facilitate mutual legal assistance requests sent to other Member States. Eurojust's prompt reaction proved instrumental in identifying, within a minimum amount of time, the correct authority with which to cooperate across borders so as to immediately execute the request and speed up the exchange of information at judicial level. Eurojust's support ensured that one of the accomplices in the Brussels attacks could be located and captured. His arrest took place on 8 April, in coordination with the arrest on the same day of the 'man with the hat' seen on CCTV camera as the airport suicide bomber who fled the scene.