



International cooperation disrupts illegal fireworks network

80 tons of F4 explosives seized and 4 webshops blocked



November-December 2018

Coordinated action in Poland, the Netherlands and Germany, supported by Eurojust and Europol, results in arrests, seizure of fireworks and blocking of webshops.



Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and France exchange multiple European Investigation Orders (EIOs)

Support to the investigations is provided by **Eurojust** through its coordination meetings and facilitation of execution of EIOs, and by **Europol** through its analysis of servers used by online webshops and sharing of intelligence.



Polish authorities investigate the OCG for involvement in trafficking in pyrotechnic material and explosives, tax fraud and money laundering.

German authorities investigate purchases of illegal fireworks via a webshop possessing no licence for explosives.

Dutch authorities investigate the role of middlemen and buyers in the distribution of illegal fireworks in the Netherlands.

Organised crime group (OCG), **active since 2012**, is suspected to have shipped close to 1500 kg of pyrotechnics every day to different EU Member States.



35 arrests of OCG members in Poland, of which 9 still detained



More than 150 searches of residences and businesses



80 tons of F4 fireworks seized from warehouse in Poland



4 webshops involved in sale of illegal fireworks blocked