

# Eurojust Fact Sheet



## Eurojust: a one-stop shop for fighting cross-border crime through judicial coordination and cooperation

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### Questions and answers

#### *What is Eurojust?*

Eurojust is the European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit, established in 2002 to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions and the cooperation between the competent authorities of the Member States in relation to serious cross-border crime, particularly when it is organised.

#### *What crime types are handled by Eurojust?*

The main crime types dealt with by Eurojust are fraud, drug trafficking and money laundering. Eurojust has also stepped up its activities in fighting terrorism (87 cases in 2017, including the attacks in Berlin, Paris and Brussels), cybercrime, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

#### *What is Eurojust's caseload?*

In 2017, Eurojust handled 4 125 cases, including 2 698 new cases, an increase of more than 10 per cent compared to the previous year.

#### *Can you report any notable successes?*

Damages caused by organised criminal groups in the European Union in 2017 are estimated to amount to more than EUR 250 million. Thanks in part to the efforts of Eurojust, more than EUR 30 million in assets was seized in over 300 searches, more than 1 000 mutual legal assistance requests were facilitated, and 345 members of criminal networks were arrested.

Eurojust has been involved in the judicial response to the terrorist attacks occurring in Europe, as well as the Panama Papers case, the FIFA and Uzbekistan corruption cases, the MH17 investigation, BlackShades, Silk Road, and many high-profile migrant smuggling cases.

#### *How does Eurojust work?*

The College of Eurojust is composed of 28 National Members, who are prosecutors or judges seconded by each Member State and based at Eurojust's headquarters in The Hague. Liaison Prosecutors from Norway, Switzerland, the USA and Montenegro are also present.

At the request of a Member State or the European Commission, Eurojust may assist in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving serious organised cross-border crime. Eurojust may also request the Member States to undertake an investigation or prosecution.

National Members and Liaison Prosecutors meet bilaterally and in coordination meetings with relevant national authorities to try to resolve ongoing judicial coordination issues. Action days are coordinated via coordination centres held at Eurojust for real-time exchange of information and creation of on-the-spot strategies in response to changes occurring on the ground with arrests, searches and seizures.

Eurojust hosts the secretariats of the European Judicial Network, the JITs Network and the Genocide Network, and provides logistical support to the European Judicial Cybercrime Network and the Consultative Forum of Prosecutors General.

***What is the difference between Eurojust and Europol?***

Eurojust deals with judicial cooperation among prosecutors and magistrates. Europol deals with police cooperation.

***Is Eurojust active beyond the EU's borders?***

Eurojust can cooperate formally with third States with which it has signed cooperation agreements (currently nine third States). Eurojust provided support in 258 cases that involved 48 third States, and has contact points in 42 third States.

***JITs***

In 2017, Eurojust provided EUR 1.31 million in funding to joint investigation teams (JITs), a very successful judicial cooperation tool that facilitates investigations and prosecutions in complex cases.

**For further information**

[www.eurojust.europa.eu](http://www.eurojust.europa.eu)

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