

Crackdown on the illegal streaming of football matches



9 February 2021 – In coordinated raids, supported by Eurojust and Europol, **four suspects are arrested** in Spain and Andorra. Several **properties are searched**, **equipment is seized**, and **servers and websites implicated in the scam are taken down or placed under investigation** in Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic. The illegal streaming service **Mobdro is shut down**.

The coordinated actions are successfully organised online via a video link made available to all law enforcement teams and prosecutors/investigative judges involved.

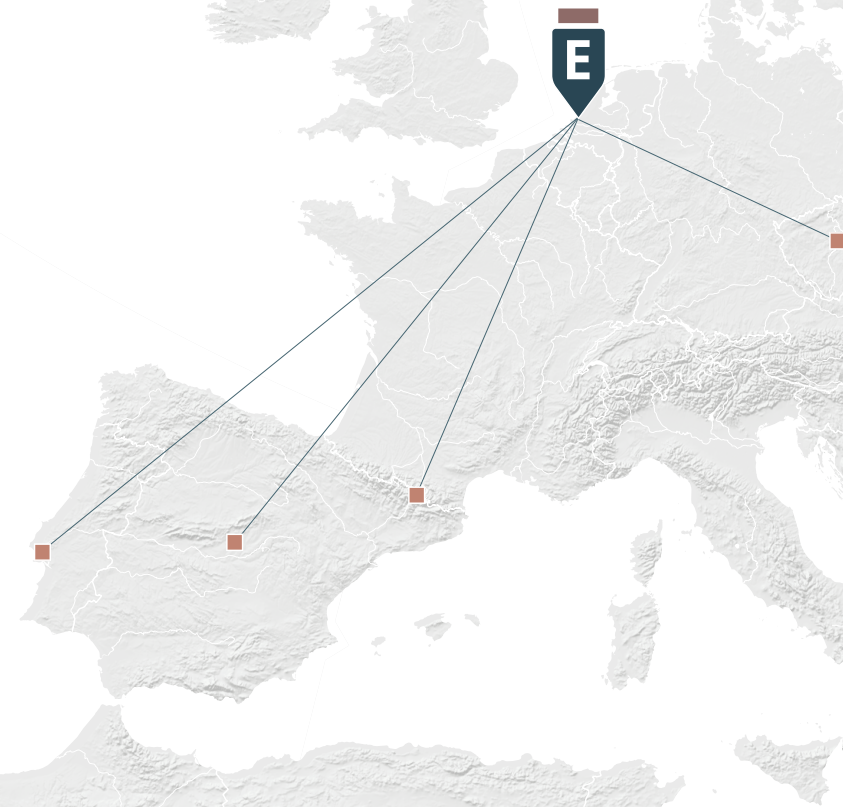


January 2021 – A **Eurojust case is opened** at the request of the Spanish authorities, to assist with the transmission of **European Investigation Orders** to **Portugal** and the **Czech Republic**, and a request for **mutual legal assistance** to the **Principality of Andorra**. Preparations are made for a coordinated operation.



2018 and 2019– Spanish authorities launch separate investigations into the illegal streaming of football matches and other copyrighted audiovisual content via the Mobdro mobile application.

The investigations follow complaints made by Spain's *La Liga*, the English Premier League and the international online antipiracy body Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE) that the Mobdro application is being used by millions of users worldwide to watch games via servers and platforms that illegally tap into legally operating audiovisual and streaming services.



Audiovisual piracy via illegal transmission of television and streaming signals has risen sharply in recent years, with Eurojust coordinating action days at the request of various national authorities since 2019.