

# #JusticeDone



## Sentences handed down in fipronil egg contamination case



**4 June 2021** – The **Belgian court of Antwerp** sentences three suspects to prison sentences ranging from one year effective to 18 months suspended for endangering public health, and orders the implicated individuals and companies to pay EUR 22.8 million to the victims.

**April 2021** – Two primary suspects are indicted by the **Dutch court of Overijssel** and sentenced to one year's imprisonment each for the illegal sale of fipronil to poultry farms. Two companies are given a conditional conviction to pay large fines, and the four guilty parties are ordered to pay back their unlawfully obtained gains to the Dutch State.



**October 2017–April 2019** – A further **six coordination meetings** are held at Eurojust to follow up on the results of the action day, continue exchanging information and evidence, coordinate the parallel investigations and media relations, and agree on a prosecution strategy.

Eurojust provides a formal legal opinion on a potential *ne bis in idem* issue in the Belgian and Italian criminal proceedings. With the support of Eurojust, cross-border cooperation takes place between all countries concerned.



**10 August 2017** – During a **joint action day** supported by a coordination centre at Eurojust, **coordinated searches** and **arrests** take place. The Dutch-Belgian JIT continues to work together during the prosecutorial phase and includes a financial investigation that leads to the **tracing and seizure of assets**.



**3 August 2017** – An **initial coordination meeting** is held at Eurojust to discuss and agree on a common investigation strategy, exchange initial information and evidence, prepare an action day and develop a common media strategy. The meeting also leads to the swift creation and funding of a **joint investigation team (JIT)** between the Belgian and Dutch authorities, with involvement of Eurojust and Europol.



The National Desks of **the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Italy** at Eurojust open linked cases to provide operational and legal assistance to the investigations.



**July 2017** – Following the discovery of large quantities of chicken eggs and egg products contaminated with the insecticide fipronil, **parallel criminal investigations** are initiated in **the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Italy**.

