



EUROJUST

Crackdown on criminal network that produced and distributed methamphetamine in Europe

CRIME: An organised crime group uses a Romanian company to purchase raw materials and incorporate them into two pharmaceutical products, 50 and 120 milligram tablets of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. They use a formula that allows them to quickly extract these raw materials for the production of methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories.



Between January 2021 and February 2023, the members of the criminal group organise the transport and delivery of 168 788 870 tablets containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, from which at least 4.7 tonnes of methamphetamine is produced and distributed in Europe.

ACTION: Between 26 February and 2 March 2023, joint action days are organised to dismantle the criminal group. 16 suspects are arrested in the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and over 3.3 million tablets containing raw material for the production of the drug are seized.

In Poland, 3 184 500 pills containing ephedrine worth approximately EUR 840 000 (PLN 4 012 470) and 121 776 pills containing pseudoephedrine are seized. Additionally, PLN 366 200 and EUR 177 215 are also seized. In Romania, approximately 3 tonnes of raw materials, several batches of medicines and approximately EUR 600 000 are seized. In the Czech Republic, EUR 148 163, CZK 711 082 and PLN 22 433 are seized, while in Slovakia, EUR 1 129 220 are seized.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust supports the establishment of a joint investigation team between the countries involved in November 2022. The Agency hosts three coordination meetings to facilitate judicial cooperation and support the coordinated investigative efforts.

JUSTICE DONE: During 2023, three of the five suspects prosecuted in Slovakia are convicted. One suspect is sentenced to three years and six months imprisonment and the forfeiture of the items recovered during the search. A second and third suspect are both sentenced to three years' imprisonment with probation for three years, along with the obligation to undergo psychological or psychiatric treatment, and required to forfeit items recovered during the search.