

is a military-supported law enforcement centre based in the port of Toulon. CeCLAD-M is open to participation from the CIMO countries ⁽²⁵⁾, Member States with coastlines on the Mediterranean, and others, such as the United Kingdom and Senegal.

Europol has taken specific measures against cocaine trafficking in Europe — Project Cola and its Analysis Work File (AWF Cola). These offer support to the competent authorities of the Member States in preventing or combating specific forms of criminality within Europol's mandate. AWF Cola seeks to collect intelligence associated with the activities of suspected criminal organisations and networks involved in the production, processing or trafficking of cocaine, including intelligence relating to precursor chemicals and cutting agents. The AWF currently has 17 participating Member States, whilst Third Party States and Organisations (Third Parties) such as the United States (DEA), Eurojust and Interpol are also associated. The Project works closely with Member States' Law Enforcement agencies providing on-the-spot support to investigations, dismantling of cocaine laboratories and operational analysis.

Project Cola includes the Europol Cocaine Logo System (ECLS), the Europol Specific Means of Concealment System (ESMC) and its Alert System. The ECLS collates information on modus operandi, photographic and basic forensic information on cocaine seizures and on logos or markings on the drugs and their packaging. This enables Project Cola to identify matches between seizures with a view to promoting international law enforcement cooperation, initiating information exchange and further investigations for the targeting of criminal groups.

In the framework of the Europol Cocaine Logo System, the ESMC focuses on the specific means of concealment or packaging of cocaine. This sub project collates and stores in its database, relevant information of specific means of concealment that have been reported by the Member States and Third Parties. In those circumstances where new information concerning such specific means of cocaine concealment is received, the information is immediately forwarded to all Member States and other partners via an Alert Message through the Europol Information Exchange. Its principal objectives are to:

- update European Union Law Enforcement Agencies on new trends and methods of cocaine smuggling;
- display drug-related activities in member countries;
- heighten awareness of global trafficking trends; and
- improve the targeting of suspect persons and goods through the efficient and timely dissemination of intelligence developed by Europol and other law enforcement agencies via the respective Alert Messages.

Related criminal data arising from the findings of the ECLS and ESMC is analysed within AWF Cola as well as contributing to the aims and objectives of the European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF) COSPOL Project 'Cocaine'.

⁽²⁵⁾ CIMO is the '5+5' Intergovernmental Conference of the Ministers of the Interior of western Mediterranean countries, comprising Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Portugal, together with Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Conclusions

There is little doubt that Europe has become an important destination for cocaine manufactured in South America. In 2007, an estimated 73 800 seizures in EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway resulted in the interception of almost 77 tonnes of cocaine. So Europe today ranks third in the world for the amount of cocaine confiscated, after South and North America. Law enforcement data also suggest that cocaine landing points may have shifted within the main gateway regions, the Iberian Peninsula and the Low Countries (Belgium and the Netherlands) and that trafficking networks are spreading eastwards. This increases the risk of a diffusion of cocaine use into eastern and central European countries, which have been comparatively little affected until now.

Cocaine is smuggled into Europe via different routes using a wide variety of concealment methods and means of transport, from cargo ships and private yachts or fishing boats, to commercial airliners and unscheduled small planes. A particularly sophisticated concealment and smuggling method analysed in this report involves incorporating cocaine into other materials and then removing it in 'secondary extraction' laboratories set up in Europe. The growing importance of the West African route, where major cocaine seizures have been carried out in recent years, illustrates the diversification of drug trafficking itineraries. And several initiatives have been launched in Europe to address cocaine trafficking, such as the EU-LAC cooperation, the setting up of the MAOC-N, or Europol's Project Cola.

Most of the cocaine available in the world is produced in Colombia in coca plantations, where coca makes a significant contribution to the local economy. Different measures to prevent coca cultivation and to offer alternative lifestyles to coca growers have been developed and supported, notably by the EU and its Member States. However, both the concentration of land ownership and the ongoing armed conflict make it difficult to implement effective and long-term action. It is important to enhance efforts to intercept cocaine products at source and on trafficking routes and consumer markets. Yet there is also a strong argument for launching complementary initiatives, to restore civil peace and promote the de-concentration of land ownership in Colombia, while fostering land use for productive, licit agricultural purposes, as they enhance the impact of other measures.

Nevertheless, understanding of cocaine production in South America — and trafficking towards and within Europe — is still limited. Additional or better-developed information systems are needed for the future. In particular, the level of precision of cocaine production estimates could be further explored, since differences between various estimates need to be better understood. In addition, there is a lack of information on how much cocaine European markets may be consuming, and on how this aggregated consumption may compare with the estimated cocaine output of South America. Developing a sound methodology to assess the size of the European consumer market for cocaine would be a significant first step towards such an analysis.

Obtaining a better understanding of the cocaine trade in Europe calls for more insight on issues such as the merging of cocaine routes, multi-drug consignments, incorporation of cocaine into other 'carrier' materials, organised crime groups and trafficking networks. It also highlights the need to carry out additional studies of the intra-European cocaine markets, focusing especially on their structure, organisation, actors and dynamics.

For a variety of reasons, it is difficult to draw a clear picture of cocaine supply and trafficking in Europe, based on traditional quantitative indicators such as seizures, prices and purity data. Indeed, these need to be developed further so that comparability and reliability issues can be addressed and more detailed data may be analysed ⁽²⁶⁾. For example, it would be useful to distinguish between cocaine HCl and cocaine base in routine data on seizures, thereby enhancing our analytical capabilities regarding the global supply of illicit coca-derived products. Furthermore, there is also a need to develop innovative alternative monitoring strategies that may be based on sources other than law enforcement, and which may rely on more qualitative data.

Better and more systematic information on illicit sources and trafficking routes of potassium permanganate, and other chemicals used to manufacture cocaine, would contribute to a clearer picture of potential processing sites in South America and elsewhere, especially in Europe. Information on precursors would also help in designing adequate responses to countering cocaine production. As we face a need to target supply reduction efforts effectively, both inside and outside Europe, it is vital to improve our understanding of the dynamics of the illicit trade in coca-derived products and essential chemicals.

⁽²⁶⁾ See the Council of the European Union document 12411/1/01 STUP 26 on a draft Council recommendation on the alignment of law enforcement drug and diverted precursor statistics.

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EMCDDA–Europol joint publication series

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the European Police Office (Europol) stepped up their cooperation on drugs and crime in the spring of 2009, by defining a series of collaborative activities for the period 2009–12. The commitment was made in the framework of a ‘Cooperation Agreement’ signed in Brussels in November 2001, under which the organisations exchange information and expertise on drug-related issues, money laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors. The two bodies also collaborate actively in detecting and monitoring new and potentially threatening psychoactive substances and in assessing the involvement of organised crime in their manufacture and trafficking. This activity is carried out under the terms of a specific legal instrument, adopted by the Council of the European Union in 2005 (www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation/new-drugs).

Among the collaborative activities planned for 2009–12 is an EMCDDA–Europol joint publication series covering key aspects of European drug markets. While the first titles in the series are dedicated to illicit substances — e.g. methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and cannabis — future editions will be developed in line with ongoing and emerging information needs.

The series is designed to inform policymakers, drug experts and the general public on important aspects of the drug situation. Bringing together EMCDDA information and data on prevalence, health consequences and drug research, with Europol data and knowledge on production, trafficking, markets and drug-related crime, the publications will offer an integrated analysis of the topics chosen and constitute a joint EMCDDA–Europol view on key drug issues. The analysis will be informed by complementary information provided by the organisations’ respective national networks — the Reitox national focal points and the Europol national units.

About the EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the hub of drug-related information in Europe. Its mission is to provide the EU and its Member States with ‘factual, objective, reliable and comparable information’ on drugs, drug addiction and their consequences. Established in 1993, it opened its doors in Lisbon in 1995 and is one of the EU’s decentralised agencies. With a 100-strong multidisciplinary team, the agency offers policymakers the evidence base they need for drawing up drug laws and strategies. It also helps professionals and researchers pinpoint best practice and new areas for analysis. As well as gathering information on the demand and reduction of the demand for drugs, the agency in recent years has extended its monitoring and reporting on drug supply, supply reduction and illicit drug markets.

www.emcdda.europa.eu

About Europol

Europol is the European Union’s law enforcement agency. Its aim is to improve the effectiveness of, and cooperation between, the competent authorities in the EU Member States in preventing and combating serious international organised crime and terrorism. Operational since 1999 and based in The Hague, the organisation employs some 600 staff to support national law-enforcement agencies in their everyday work, including efforts to tackle illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, cyber crime and terrorism. Europol comes into play when an organised criminal structure is involved and two or more EU Member States are affected. Among others, it facilitates cross-country information exchange and provides analysis of operations.

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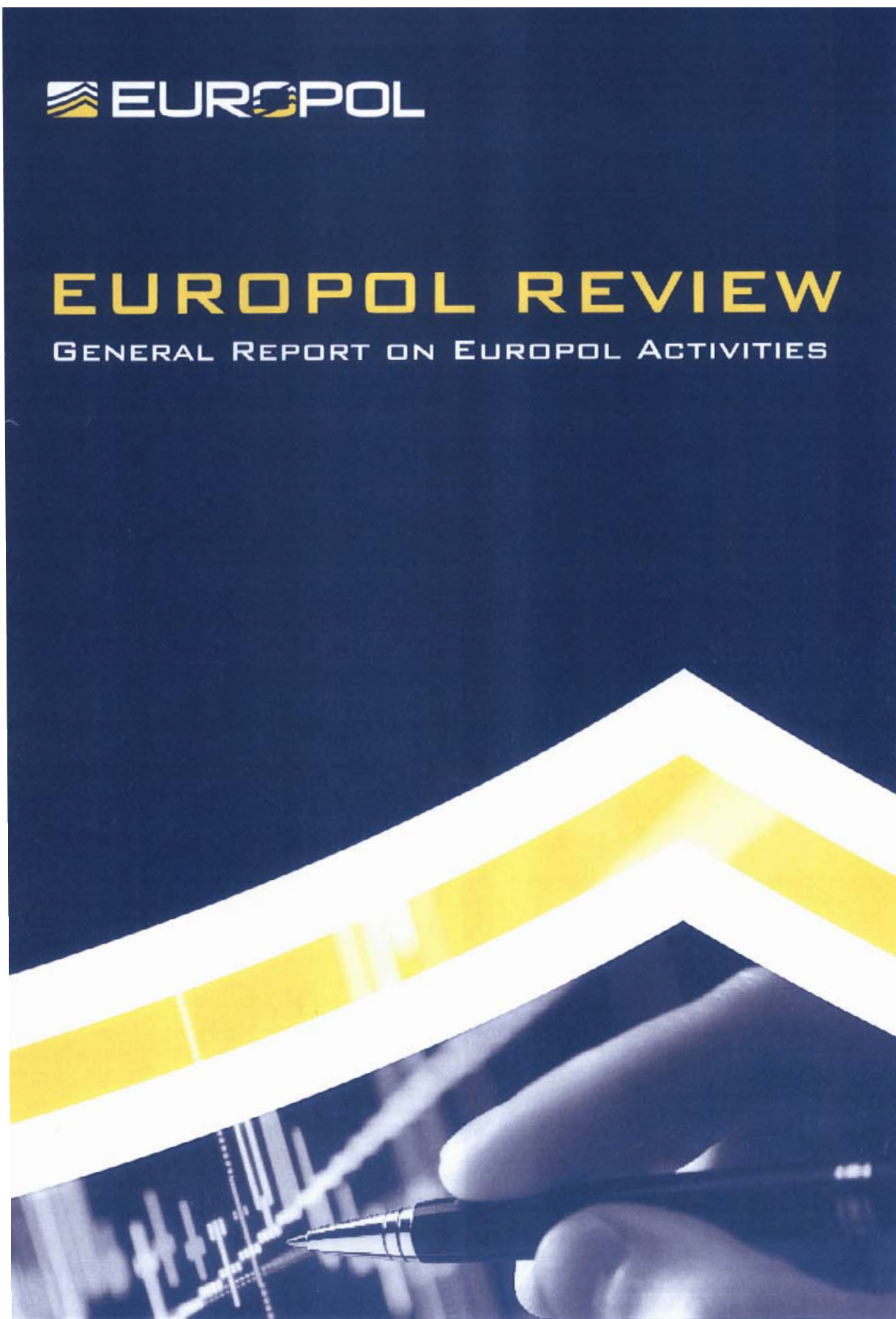
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The logo for Europol, featuring a stylized globe icon to the left of the word "EUROPOL" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

EUROPOL REVIEW

GENERAL REPORT ON EUROPOL ACTIVITIES



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FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the first edition of the *Europol Review - General Report on Europol Activities*, which presents an overview of Europol's work in 2009.

2009 was a symbolic year for Europol as the agency celebrated its tenth anniversary. It was also one of the most productive years in Europol's history. From its founding roots in the early 1990s as the Europol Drugs Unit, the organisation has grown beyond all recognition and developed into an agency of the European Union (EU).

Today Europol is a modern agency occupying a central place in the field of law enforcement cooperation in Europe. It has unique crime-fighting capabilities tailored to combat serious international crime and terrorism. European law enforcement agencies rely on Europol's 24/7 operational service centre. Europol employs some of the best criminal analysts in Europe, produces high-quality strategic and operational analysis and coordinates over 10 000 cross-border investigations each year.

As Europol moves into a new decade, the change in its legal basis will consolidate its position at the centre of the new internal security arrangements and information pathways in Europe. This will enable Europol to function even better as a pioneer of change, identifying and responding to new threats, and developing new techniques.

As a stable and prosperous community of 27 democratic states, with nearly half a billion people, Europe is an undeniably attractive target for criminals. Working together and in cooperation with law enforcement partners in Europe and beyond, Europol's main goal in the coming years will be to coordinate a carefully calculated response to these challenges. Using our unique tools and increased powers, we will continue to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence between law enforcement services to improve the internal security of the European Union and the safety of European citizens, and therefore have a major impact on reducing serious crime and terrorism.

The publication of this report fulfils Europol's obligation to present an annual general report on Europol's activities in accordance with article 37(10)c of the Europol Council Decision. *The Europol Review - General Report on Europol Activities* is submitted to the Council of the European Union for endorsement and the Council forwards it to the European Parliament for information.

Rob Wainwright
Director of Europol

1. ABOUT EUROPOL

1.1 MISSION, PRIORITIES AND VISION

As the European Union law enforcement agency, Europol's mission is to support European Union (EU) Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international crime and terrorism. Its role is to help achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens by supporting EU law enforcement authorities through the exchange and analysis of criminal intelligence.

Large-scale criminal and terrorist networks pose a significant threat to the internal security of the EU and to the safety and livelihood of its people. The biggest security threats come from terrorism, international drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting of the euro currency and payment cards, fraud, corruption and money laundering as well as other activities related to the presence of organised crime groups in the economy. New dangers are also accumulating, in the form of cybercrime, VAT fraud and other sophisticated crimes which abuse modern technology and the freedoms offered by the EU internal market. All of these have been declared priority areas by the European Union's Council of Ministers.

Strengthened by a reform to its mandate and capabilities in 2010, Europol is pioneering a new response to these dangers. Europol acquired a new dynamic on 1 January 2010 when it became a fully-fledged European Union agency, through the adoption of the Europol Council Decision. This has meant the implementation of a new strategy and new legal status with enhanced powers. As a result, Europol has become more open and accountable and its new legal framework will spell quicker and less bureaucratic cooperation between partners, which is especially important for police work.

Europol's vision is to contribute to a safer Europe by providing the best possible support to law enforcement authorities in the Member States. It will achieve this by delivering a unique set of operational services for the European Union, developing as the principal:

- Support centre for law enforcement operations
- Criminal information hub, and
- Centre for law enforcement expertise.

1.2 RESOURCES AND STRUCTURE

Europol uses its unique information processing capabilities and the expertise of 662 personnel, including 100 analysts, to identify and track the most dangerous criminal and terrorist networks in Europe. Law enforcement agencies, represented at Europol by 121 Europol liaison officers working in conjunction with Europol's 24/7 high-security operational service centre and its secure databases, have been successful in disrupting many criminal and terrorist networks, arresting thousands of dangerous criminals, recovering millions of euros and rescuing hundreds of victims of crime, including trafficked children.

In 2009, Europol was funded by contributions from Member States according to their gross national income. The Europol budget for 2009 was €68.5 million. As Europol's host state, the Netherlands covers security-related costs. As of 1 January 2010, Europol became an EU agency, financed from the EU community budget. The Europol Management Board, European Commission, Council of the European Union and European Parliament play a role in the establishment of Europol's budget. The initial adopted budget of Europol came to €80.1 million. To facilitate the transition to becoming an agency, appropriations carried from 2009 to 2010 have been integrated into the 2010 budget. The amount involved comes to almost €12.5 million, making a total amended 2010 budget of €92.6 million.