



## Eurojust Newsletter: Q1 2019

### Introduction

*Welcome to the first edition of the Eurojust newsletter, a new quarterly platform keeping judicial practitioners and our other partners up to date with recent developments at Eurojust and directing them to our latest publications. Each newsletter provides a snapshot of our recent work in the field as well as highlights from our schedule of events here in The Hague. You will also find links to recent reports, analysis and other interesting materials.*

*The first three months of 2019 have been busy on several levels. We have helped to coordinate critical criminal investigations across Europe and further afield, covering everything from cybercrime to sham marriages and money laundering. We also hosted a range of fascinating events. In the background, Eurojust has been advocating for a Europe-wide Digital Criminal Justice infrastructure. We see this as a crucial investment that would enable EU Agencies and Member States to safely exchange information by means of a robust, secure and encrypted digital system.*

*The new year has also brought a new look and feel: the new Eurojust visual identity and logo will be officially launched later this month, with the 2018 Annual Report offering the first glance of our new style. As part of this rebranding effort, we have also gone live with our new social media campaign across Twitter and LinkedIn, making keeping up to date on all of our activities here in The Hague easier than ever. I very much hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.*

**Ladislav HAMRAN**

**President of Eurojust**

## In the e-mail:

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## Eurojust on the ground: Q1 casework highlights



### **Massive arms trafficking ring dismantled by Italian and Austrian action, coordinated by Eurojust Italy, Austria – 26 March 2019**

Italian and Austrian authorities, with the continuous and effective support of Eurojust, dismantled an international ring trafficking firearms to supply to Camorra organised crime in Naples. A total of 22 arrests were made, and 139 firearms and 1 600 rounds of ammunition were seized. Among those arrested were two Austrian gunsmiths, who illegally sold more than 800 pistols and 50 Kalashnikovs with removed serial numbers to organised crime groups (OCGs).

Further information on the action is available [here](#).

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### **IS terrorist suspect arrested in Hungary Hungary, Belgium – 22 March 2019**

In a rapid intervention, coordinated by Eurojust, the Hungarian authorities arrested a high-profile target suspected of committing terrorist activities in Syria, linked to the so-called Islamic State. Essential to the arrest was the exchange of crucial information by the Belgian judicial authorities to their Hungarian colleagues via Eurojust.

Learn more [here](#).

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### **Coordinating the multi-national 'MF papers' investigation 23 States – 13-14 February 2019**

The German and Italian Desks at Eurojust invited representatives from 23 States to The Hague as part of a two-day coordination meeting to discuss alleged money laundering activity connected to the Panamanian law firm, 'MF'.

The outcomes of the meeting are detailed [here](#).

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### **Decisive action against online child abuse Norway, Bulgaria – 6 February 2019**

Eurojust supported a complex, multi-year investigation into a possible network for producing and sharing material showing sexual abuse of children in Norway and Bulgaria. A multi-lateral effort culminated in a successful action day in February 2019, which has prevented further dissemination of the material.

Read the following [press release](#) for more details.

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### **International drug trafficking network disrupted Germany, Netherlands – 1 February 2019**

With help from Eurojust and Europol, Dutch and German authorities dismantled an OCG involved in international drug trafficking and money laundering. The investigation led to the arrest of 12 suspects and the seizure of illegal drugs with a street value of more than EUR 400 000.

Click [here](#) to read the press release.

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### **Joint action against international money laundering ring Germany, Italy – 29 January 2019**

German and Italian authorities led a joint action against a major cross-border financial fraud and money laundering operation, which led to a series of coordinated arrests. Eurojust played a key role by funding a joint investigation team (JIT) and facilitating communication between the different authorities.

Find out more about the case [here](#).

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**Cybercrime: dismantling an illegal online marketplace  
Belgium, Ukraine, USA – 24 January 2019**

Eurojust helped Belgian, Ukrainian and US judicial, prosecutorial and police authorities to strike a devastating blow against xDedic, an online marketplace for the illegal trade of hacked computer systems. Two successful investigations resulted in the marketplace being taken offline and the confiscation of extensive criminal IT infrastructure.

Discover more [here](#).

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**Putting a stop to trafficking in human beings  
Romania, Switzerland – 16 January 2019**

Organisational and financial support provided by Eurojust enabled Romanian and Swiss investigators to successfully dismantle an OCG suspected of committing trafficking in human beings (THB) for sexual exploitation and controlling of prostitution.

Read more about the operation in the following [press release](#).

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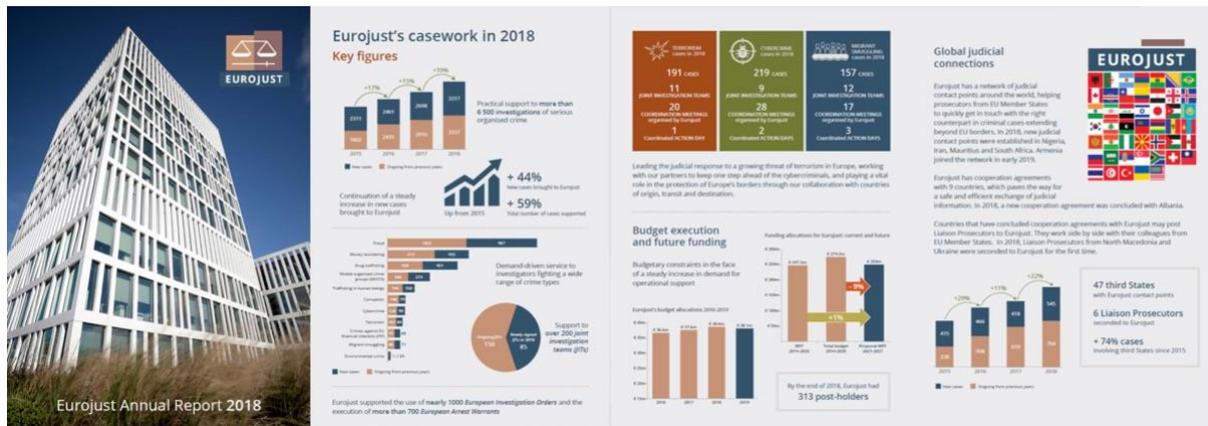
**Breaking up a major sham marriages network  
Belgium, Portugal – 15 January 2019**

Eurojust, together with Europol, assisted Belgian and Portuguese authorities in dismantling an OCG active since 2015 and involved in recruiting dozens of women into sham marriages. A successful coordinated action led to the arrest of 20 suspects.

Read the recent press release [here](#).

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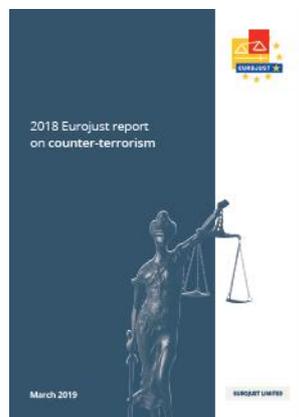
## Our latest publications



### 2018 Annual Report

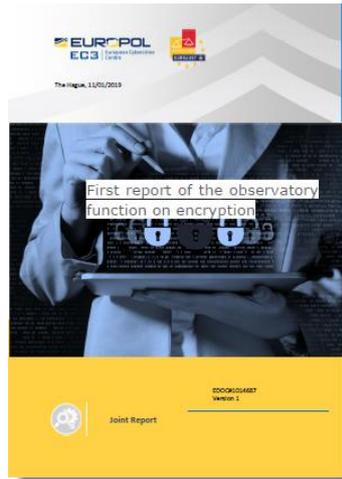
2018 marked a change in direction for Eurojust's annual reporting, with a new streamlined structure and enhanced visual elements. The report offers a snapshot of Eurojust's work on the ground over the past year, providing overviews of the 'Pollino' investigation and other successful cases.

Click on the following [link](#) to view the report.



### 2018 Eurojust report on counter-terrorism – March 2019

The report, which is classified as limited, presents an overview of Eurojust counter-terrorism casework, highlighting legal and practical challenges and best practice in investigations and prosecutions in 2018, the importance of sharing information, how Eurojust helps coordinate national authorities and facilitates judicial cooperation between them, and demonstrates the importance of involving Europol. It highlights the added value of the European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register. The report concludes with an outlook of Eurojust's main priority areas and projects in 2019.

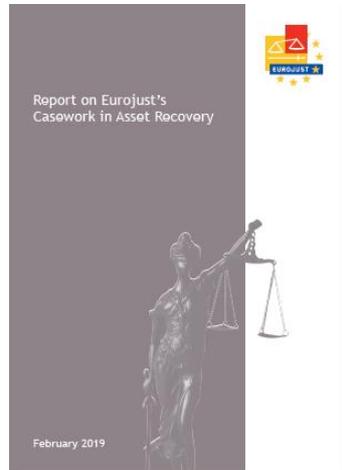


## First Eurojust/Europol report of the observatory function on encryption – January 2019

Data encryption is now a major issue for judicial authorities around the world, with criminals finding more sophisticated means of covering their tracks. Published in January by Eurojust in cooperation with Europol, the report outlines the steps being taken to tackle this growing problem.

Read the full report [here](#).

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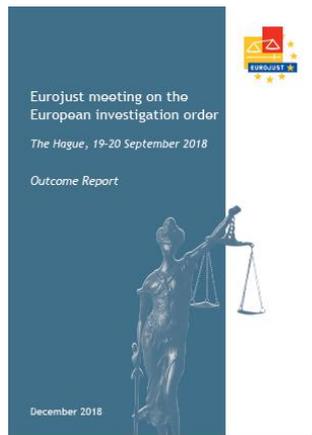


## Report on Eurojust's Casework in Asset Recovery – February 2019

Today's criminals often move and spread their assets across different countries to avoid detection, making the recovery of stolen assets a highly complex process. In February 2019, Eurojust published an extensive analysis of Eurojust's casework in asset recovery, highlighting best practice and outlining the support we offer to national authorities.

Click [here](#) to access the report.

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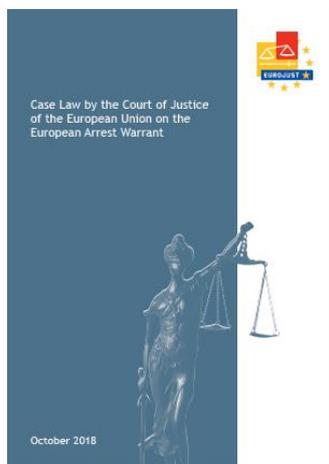


## Outcome report on the European Investigation Order

On 19-20 September 2018, Eurojust organised a meeting on the European Investigation Order (EIO), involving representatives from the Member States as well as EU institutions and academia, to discuss practical and legal challenges related to the functioning of the EIO and potential solutions.

The outcomes from the meeting are presented in the following comprehensive [report](#).

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## Case Law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Arrest Warrant

Introduced in 2004, the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) allows for faster and simpler surrender and extradition procedures for cross-border criminals. We provide a comprehensive, up-to-date overview of European Court of Justice (ECJ) judgements that involve the EAW, and highlight key issues surrounding the execution of this instrument.

Click on the following [link](#) to access the report.

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## Key events: what's been happening at Eurojust?



### **Georgia and Eurojust sign cooperation agreement – 29 March**

To step up the fight against cross-border organised crime in the European Union and South Caucasus, a cooperation agreement was signed by H.E. Ms Thea Tsulukiani, Minister of Justice of Georgia, Mr Shalva Tadumadze, Prosecutor General of Georgia, and Mr Ladislav Hamran, President of Eurojust. This first agreement between Eurojust and a State of the region will foster judicial and strategic cooperation as it will unlock the possibility to swiftly and safely exchange information and evidence.

Read more [here](#).

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### **First coordination meeting with West African countries in follow-up to four terrorist attacks – 23 March**

Eurojust held the first coordination meeting with West African countries on 21 and 22 March to discuss the judicial follow-up to four terrorist attacks. The attacks took place on 7 March and 20 November 2015 in Bamako (Mali), on 15 January 2016 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), and on 13 March 2016 in Grand Bassam (Ivory Coast), with 74 people killed and many others injured. This coordination meeting at Eurojust was the first of its kind with West African countries regarding terrorist attacks.

Discover more [here](#).

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### **New National Member for Estonia at Eurojust – 22 March**

Ms Laura Vaik took up her duties as the new National Member for Estonia at Eurojust in March 2019. Read about Ms Vaik's appointment and her professional background [here](#).

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### **Meeting of National Experts on JITs – 20 and 21 March**

National Experts on JITs from 14 Member States, along with representatives from Eurojust, Europol and the European Commission, met at Eurojust. The National Experts came together as a working group to review the state of play of the JITs Network projects and prepare for the upcoming annual meeting, which will take place on 5 and 6 June at Eurojust.

### **Call for financial assistance to JITs**

Eurojust has published two calls for proposals and awarded the total of EUR 700 000 for financial assistance to JITs, which allow national judicial and law enforcement authorities to work together on cases as one team.

### **Changes to JITs funding**

The JITs Network Secretariat recently implemented several important changes to the JITs funding procedure. The objectives of these changes are to adjust the funding procedure to the needs of national practitioners and to improve the implementation rate of the JIT grants.

The most important change is the possibility to request an extension of the action period for an additional three months, which provides more time for the JIT to perform their planned activities and make use of the awarded funds. Further information about the extension of the action period can be found in the [Informative Guide](#) on the Eurojust website.

### **Looking ahead**

**April:** Launch of Call 3 for JITs Funding: apply between 01 April and 15 April (for the action period between 16 May 2019 and 15 August 2019);

**May:** Launch of Call 4 for JITs Funding: apply between 13 May and 27 May (for the action period between 02 July 2019 and 01 October 2019); and

**June:** Launch of Call 5 for JITs Funding: apply between 24 June and 8 July (for the action period between 16 August 2019 and 15 November 2019).

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### **Interview with Raivo Sepp, former Eurojust National Member for Estonia 7 March 2019**

Raivo Sepp, former National Member for Estonia and Vice-President of Eurojust, looks back on his career and his 15 years at Eurojust.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview.

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### **First Lithuanian Minister of Interior at Eurojust – 21 February**

Mr Eimutis Misiūnas, the Lithuanian Minister of Interior, visited Eurojust to discuss the benefits and prospects for judicial cooperation at European level. Mr Misiūnas stressed the importance of smooth and effective cooperation not only among Member States' and third States' national authorities but also among all Justice and Home Affairs agencies and other key partners in the area of safety and security.

Read the press release [here](#).

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## Counter-terrorism: New Paris Public Prosecutor visits Eurojust – 15 February

Mr Rémy Heitz was appointed *Procureur de Paris* in November 2018. The parties discussed plans for a new [judicial counter-terrorism register at Eurojust](#), which was endorsed by seven EU Member States, as well as cybercrime cases and operational matters. Mr Heitz highlighted ‘the valuable support provided by Eurojust to French justice in its fight against all types of crime, particularly terrorism and cybercrime.’

Further information about the visit can be found [here](#).

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## Second meeting of the EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General – 30-31 January

Eurojust hosted the latest meeting of the EuroMed Forum, which is working to enhance international judicial cooperation between EU Member States and Southern partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia.

Click [here](#) to read about the outcomes of the meeting.

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## Second high-level meeting on a joint strategy related to intellectual property crime – 24 January

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), together with heads of various EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies and the European Commission, met at Eurojust to explore ways to strengthen interagency cooperation against intellectual property crime.

Read the following [press release](#) for the key actions that were discussed.

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## Looking ahead: what to watch out for in Q2

With 2019 in full swing, Q2 looks set to be another busy quarter for Eurojust and our partner organisations. Here are some of the key developments taking place in the weeks ahead.

### April

- Meeting of European Judicial Cybercrime Network, 4 and 5 April

### May

- Annual meeting of the EIPPN, 22-24 May
- Meeting of the European Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, 22 and 23 May and EU Impunity Day, 23 May

### June

- Counter-terrorism: annual meeting at Eurojust and report
- Eurojust casework on cybercrime
- Publication of *Cybercrime Judicial Monitor*
- Publication of the *Terrorism Convictions Monitor*
- 15th annual meeting of the National Experts on Joint Investigation Teams, 5 and 6 June

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Information on Eurojust can be shared on Eurojust's LinkedIn and Twitter accounts via the links below.

