

What do we do?

The European Union Network of Contact Points (the Network) is a body established by the Council of the European Union (Council Decisions 2002/494/JHA and 2003/335/JHA) to ensure close cooperation between the national authorities in investigating and prosecuting the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute.

All Member States of the European Union have ratified the Rome Statute but the International Criminal Court remains complementary to national systems of criminal law. National authorities have a responsibility to investigate and prosecute these crimes wherever they are committed in the world, because of their sheer gravity.

The Network presents a unique forum for practitioners to meet, discuss, exchange information, best practices and experiences, cooperate and assist each other in investigating and prosecuting persons responsible for core international crimes.

Promoting effective investigation and prosecution of core international crimes at national level

Members

The Network is composed of Contact Points designated by each Member State. They include prosecutors, investigators, representatives of the Ministries of Justice and mutual legal assistance legal officers. Together, these practitioners provide the Network with an active and flexible structure.

Strongly committed to ensuring that the European Union does not provide a safe haven to suspected war criminals who enter or reside within its borders, Contact Points meet regularly at the Network meetings.

Mandate

The Network promotes effective investigation and prosecution of core international crimes at national level by means of:

- ▶ Exchanging information on criminal investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of having committed or participated in the commission of core international crimes
- ▶ Facilitating cooperation and assistance between the Member States' law enforcement and judicial authorities
- ▶ Exchanging best practices, experiences and methods relating to the investigation and prosecution of relevant crimes
- ▶ Raising awareness of these crimes and the commitment of the European Union to putting an end to the impunity of suspected war criminals



Main activities

The Network exchanges information, best practices and experiences on:

- ▶ investigations and prosecutions of core international crimes
- ▶ identification of perpetrators, victims and witnesses in national asylum procedures
- ▶ support and protection of witnesses originating from countries outside the European Union
- ▶ obtaining evidence for criminal procedures in non European Union countries
- ▶ involvement of legitimate and illegitimate businesses in the commission of crimes
- ▶ freezing and confiscation of criminal assets abroad
- ▶ chain of command responsibility
- ▶ collaboration with local intermediaries when conducting criminal investigations
- ▶ reliable interpretation and translation services for specific languages in distant countries
- ▶ evaluation of national standards for sufficient fair trial guarantees to extradite to third States
- ▶ mutual legal assistance from states in a post-conflict situation
- ▶ working with different legal provisions on extraterritorial jurisdiction in national systems, and
- ▶ completion strategies of ad hoc international criminal tribunals (ICTY, ICTR, SCSL) and their effects on national prosecutions

The Network is implementing the principle of complementarity of the Rome Statute in practice.

Cooperation within the EU and beyond ...

The Network cooperates with the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and other EU institutions and agencies in efforts to end impunity.

The Network also enhances close cooperation with non European Union actors, including:

- ▶ National authorities of third States, in particular Canada, the USA, Norway and Switzerland
- ▶ the International Criminal Court and ad hoc international criminal tribunals (such as ICTY, ICTR, and SCSL)
- ▶ the International Committee of the Red Cross
- ▶ Interpol
- ▶ NGOs and members of civil society



The Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and its Secretariat are hosted by **Eurojust**



**European Network
for investigation and prosecution
of genocide, crimes against
humanity and war crimes**

- Combating impunity -



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