



## Eurojust Counter-Terrorism Q & A

### Eurojust: a one-stop shop for fighting cross-border crime through judicial coordination and cooperation

#### *How many Eurojust cases involve terrorism?*

In 2017, Eurojust handled 4 125 cases, including 2 698 new cases (2 550 cases registered and dealt with at Level II meetings), an increase of more than 10 per cent compared to the previous year.

The number of terrorism cases handled by Eurojust at the request of the national authorities has continually increased. Eurojust was requested to assist in the investigations of the following high-profile cases: MH17 in July 2014; Sousse, Tunisia, in June 2015; Paris and Ansbach in November 2015; and Berlin in December 2016. Eurojust was also requested to assist in the investigations of the terrorist attacks on the Thalys train, as well as the attacks in Brussels, Nice, Stockholm, Barcelona and Turku.

Eurojust terrorism-related casework 2014 - 2017

2014	2015	2016	2017
14	41	67	87
NUMBER OF TERRORISM CASES			
2	3	4	12
NUMBER OF JITS			

#### *Relevant statistics?*

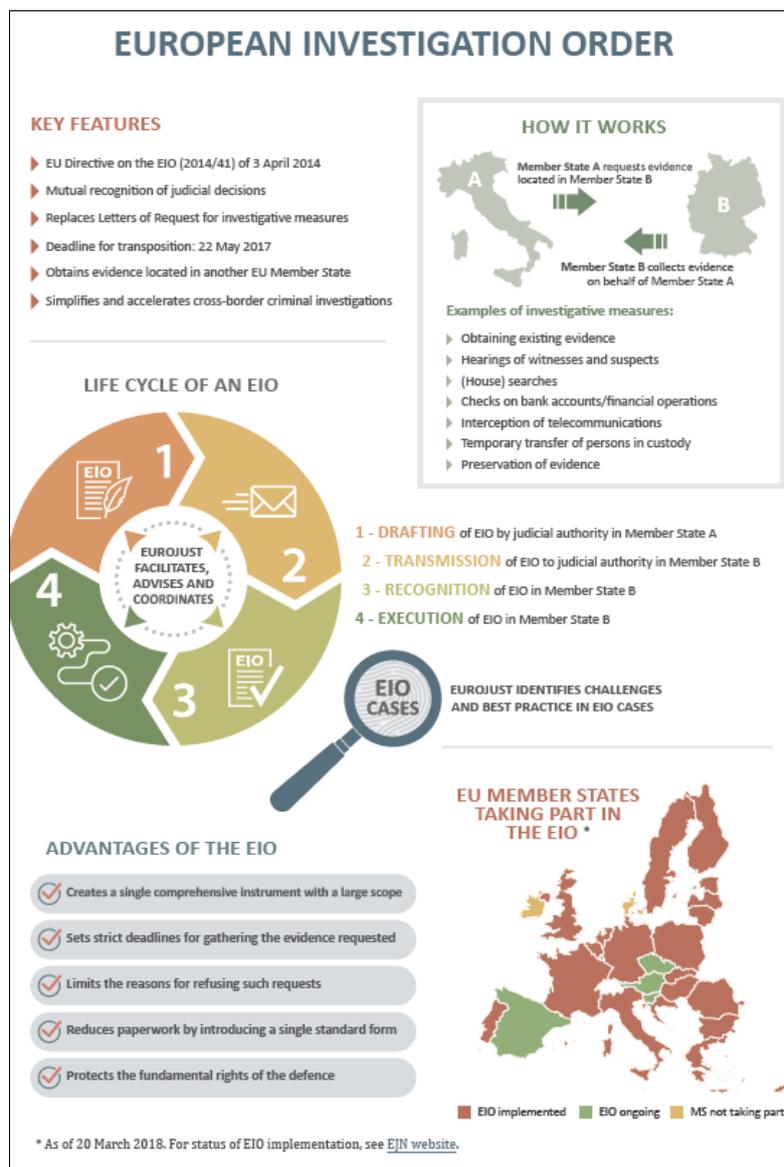
In 2017, 'only' 3.4% of Eurojust cases dealt with terrorism (as compared with swindling and fraud, with 27.5% of Eurojust casework), but the human, technical and logistical resources involved in investigating and prosecuting these high-profile cases is significant, and other forms of criminality, such as participation in an organised crime group and money laundering, can have a terrorism component.

Eurojust organised 14 **coordination meetings** on terrorism cases in 2017, and held one **coordination centre**. Eurojust participated in 12 **joint investigation teams (JITs)** related to terrorism. JITs provide an efficient platform for the direct exchange of information and evidence in bilateral (two countries) and multilateral (more than two countries) terrorism cases. Third States participated in three of the JITs (Switzerland, Ukraine, Australia and Malaysia).

The Member States most often requesting assistance from other Member States in terrorism cases in 2017 were Italy, Spain, Germany and France. The Member States most requested in 2017 were Germany, France and Belgium.

### How do terrorism cases differ from other cases?

Terrorism cases have a high degree of complexity and the need for swift and efficient multilateral action. They require a coordinated approach between judicial authorities. Member States seek the assistance of Eurojust for such actions as exchanging information and evidence, accelerating the execution of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests, European Arrest Warrants and European Investigation Orders, and setting up JITs.

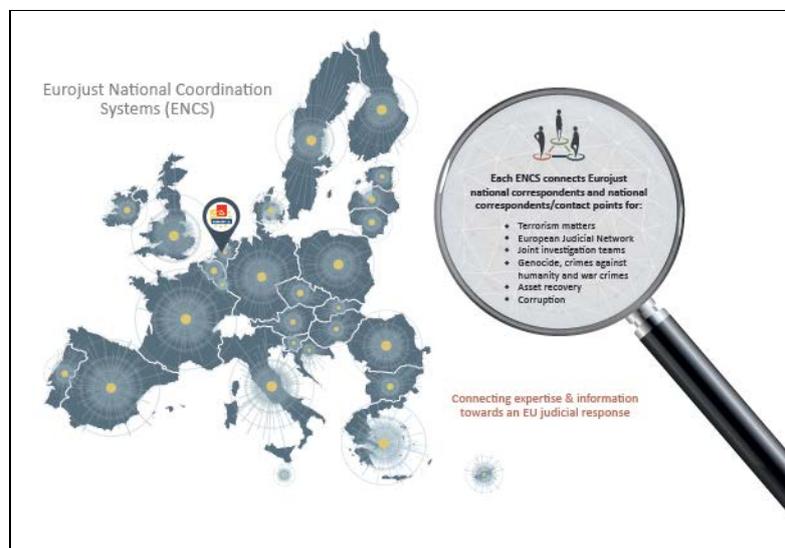


### What is Eurojust's role in recent counter-terrorism efforts?

The European Union's four pillars of counter-terrorism - **prevention, protection, pursuit and response** – have been enhanced to better combat the new wave of terrorism engulfing Europe. Eurojust's role has developed accordingly. Member States have grown to trust Eurojust as a vital facilitator of judicial cooperation and coordination of counter-terrorism activities. The

informal **network of national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters (NCT)** was significantly developed in response to the terrorist bombings in Madrid in 2004. Judicial expertise and information on terrorism is collected and shared among the network correspondents, who in turn share this expertise and information with their national authorities. The NCTs have been active since 2005, ensuring that information related to terrorism prosecutions and convictions is shared with Eurojust. They serve as a primary point of contact to facilitate judicial cooperation. The NCTs hold regular meetings at Eurojust. These meetings have focused since 2013 on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as the judicial context of de-radicalisation, best practice in dealing with terrorism victims, the links and thin line between war crimes and terrorist offences, and the gathering and admissibility of battlefield and electronic evidence.

The NCTs are part of the **Eurojust National Coordination System (ENCS)**, which seeks to coordinate the work of national authorities and Eurojust.



### *Does Eurojust cooperate with Europol on counter-terrorism?*

In accordance with the European Agenda on Security, Eurojust is working closely with Europol to increase the exchange of information and assure immediate judicial follow-up of the activities of Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC). A prosecutor specialised in the field has been seconded by Eurojust at the ECTC.

### *Does Eurojust publish any of its projects on counter-terrorism?*

Eurojust publishes reports on foreign terrorist fighters (since 2013), *Terrorism Convictions Monitors* (since 2008), *ad hoc* analyses of landmark court decisions, memoranda on terrorism financing (since 2006), a handbook on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear substances and explosives (CBRN-E), and two newsletters (2009 and 2017).

### *For further information:*

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