



Q & A

Eurojust's cooperation with Georgia and the South Caucasus region

How we arrived at the cooperation agreement with Georgia?

Georgia's cooperation with Eurojust dates back to 2012. There are two Georgian contact points for Eurojust, appointed in 2013 and 2016, respectively. Eurojust's relations with Georgia have been steadily improving since 2013, paving the way for the signing of the cooperation agreement. Between 2017 and 2018, all legal formalities required for the conclusion of the agreement were completed. Georgia was included in the list of priority counterparts of Eurojust's External Relations Team for several years, as well as the Board on Relations with Partners for the period 2018-2019. In February 2019, the European Parliament voted in favour of the signing of a cooperation agreement in criminal matters between Eurojust and Georgia, the first agreement ever to be concluded with a State of the South Caucasus region. The agreement was approved by the Council in March 2019. After signing, the agreement will have to be ratified by the Georgian parliament and transposed into national law. If Eurojust is satisfied with the transposition, the cooperation agreement will enter into force.

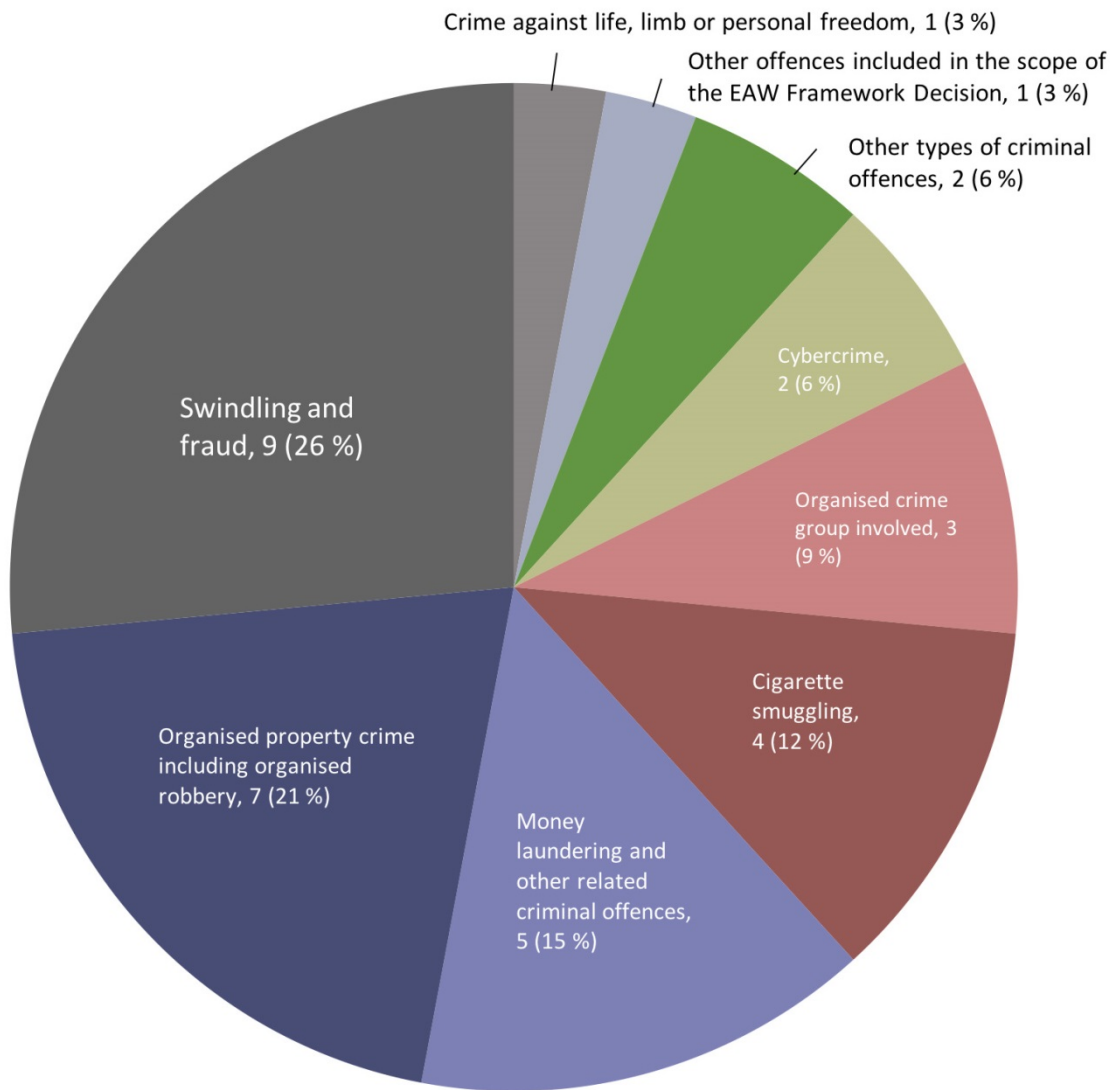
How does Eurojust cooperate with Georgia and other South Caucasus States?

Since 2006, a total of 30 cases have been registered with Eurojust involving two States of the South Caucasus region: Georgia and Azerbaijan. Armenia is the only South Caucasus State with no involvement in Eurojust cases. However, cooperation with Armenia is provided via an Armenian contact point for Eurojust, which was appointed in February 2019. Between 2012 and 2018, the most frequent crime types in Eurojust cases involving States of the South Caucasus region were swindling and fraud, organised property crime, and money laundering, followed by participation in an organised crime group, cybercrime and cigarette smuggling.

Georgia

For the period 2012-2018, Georgia has been requested for assistance in a total of 27 cases. Greece is the EU Member State with the highest number of registered cases involving Georgia between 2015 and 2018 (8 cases), followed by France (6 cases, between 2012 and 2016), Austria (4 cases, between 2014 and 2018), and Romania (4 cases, between 2017 and 2018). Georgia participated in four coordination meetings on Eurojust cases: in 2014 with the Netherlands, in 2015 with France, in 2018 with Germany, and in 2019 with Estonia. During the reporting period, the main crime types in cases involving Georgia were swindling and fraud, organised property crime, and money laundering.

Crime types in Eurojust cases involving Georgia (2012-2018)

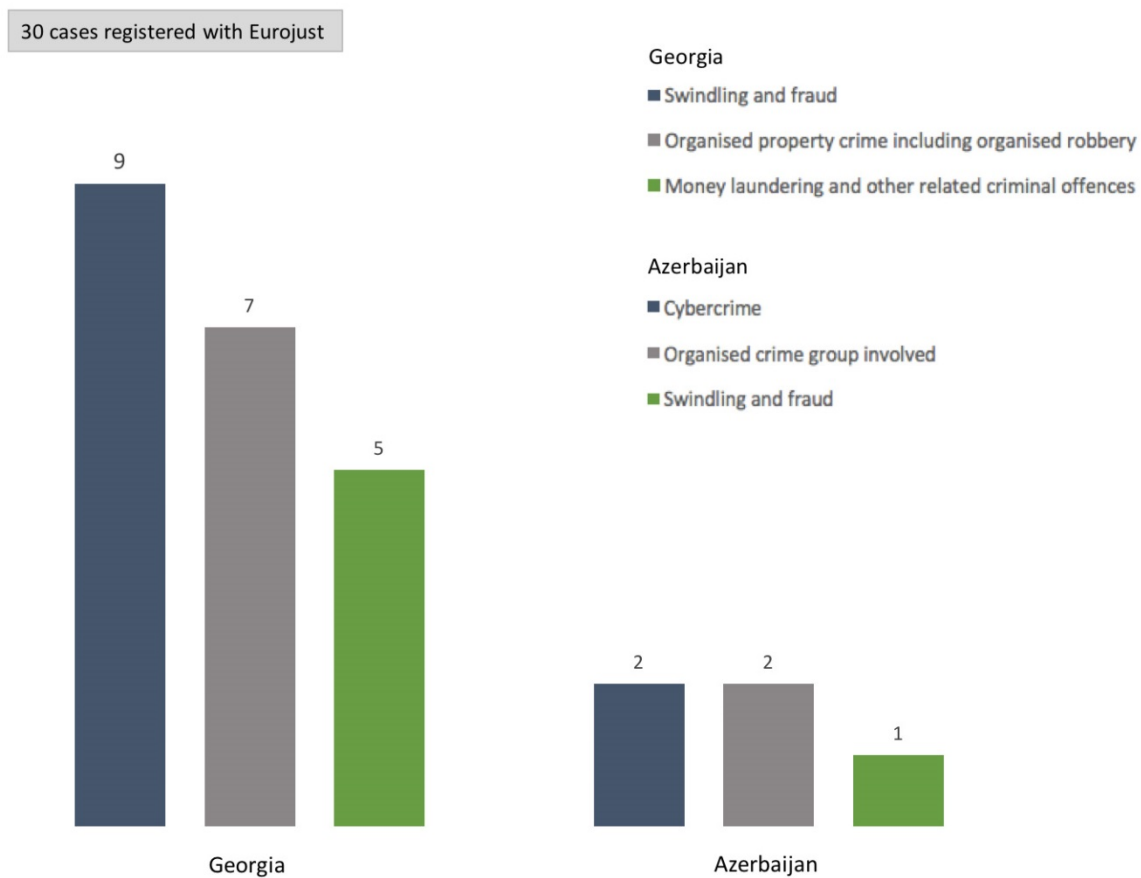


Note: one case might be related to several crimes

Azerbaijan

Between 2006 and 2017, Azerbaijan was requested for assistance in three cases, by France, Germany and Spain, respectively. There are currently no Eurojust contact points from Azerbaijan. In 2016, Azerbaijan participated in one coordination meeting on swindling and fraud and money laundering, which was organised by Germany. The main crime types related to cases involving Azerbaijan are cybercrime and participation in an organised crime group.

Cases registered and main crime types in cooperation with the South Caucasus States
(2006-2018)



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