EUROPEAN JUDICIAL CYBERCRIME NETWORK

12TH PLENARY MEETING

HYBRID MEETING, 14 - 15 JUNE 2022

On the 14th of June 2022, the President of Eurojust Mr. Ladislav Hamran, welcomed the participants to the 11th Plenary Meeting of the EJCN, held in hybrid format.

The President of Eurojust highlighted the relevance of the work developed by the Network in relation to cybercrime concluding it deserves an equal standing among the other Networks supported by Eurojust, which should happen as soon as adequate support financial is available.

Discussions focused on various aspects of cryptocurrencies in relation to cybercrime. Representatives from the European Commission (DG Home and DG FISMA) presented the EU State of Play on Cryptocurrencies, describing the EU framework on crypto assets, current and future to be set forth in the MiCA Regulation. The EJCN French Contact Point approached the topic of how judicial authorities should qualify, seize and what actions should be taken in relation to cryptocurrencies in criminal investigations, opening the discussion for experiences to be shared by other judicial authorities.

The topic of seizure of cryptocurrencies was discussed in detail with the support of Europol EC3 and the Dutch Prosecution Service shared their experience on practical issues, namely how to execute the seizure in practice and how to approach different types of crypto assets, such as NFTs and liquidity pools tokens.

In the end of day one, Europol EC3 and EUAM Ukraine, discussed cybercrime trends in relation to the War, detailing that although EU jurisdictions were not affected by major cyber-attacks, immediately before and during the conflict, the Ukrainian jurisdiction is under constant attack in cyberspace.

Under the topic, Eurojust Head of Operations Department, presented participants the new capacity of Eurojust to store digital evidence in relation to core international crimes to support the efforts of judicial authorities in dealing with the specific challenges of such investigations, which involve elements in several jurisdictions as we are witnessing in relation to the War in Ukraine.

In the end of day one, the Cyclopes Project and its possible synergy with the EJCN was presented.

The JPEC – Japan Prosecutors Unit on Emerging Crimes was present during the first day of the Plenary and presented their work in relation to cryptocurrencies, fostering the cooperation between Japan and European jurisdictions in fighting cybercrime.

On the second day of the Plenary, the topic of crypto currencies was again discussed around the Hydra Marketplace takedown and cooperation with the private sector, with the presence of the blockchain data platform Chainalysis and the Spanish exchange Bit2Me.

The European Commission representative highlighted the relevance of the EJCN voice in relation to latest developments in cybercrime and digital evidence, which goes in line with the update provided by the Chair of the Cybercrime Team at Eurojust, who mentioned the relevance of the EJCN participation in work of Eurojust, namely on the topic of Ransomware.

The Network also received input from the Genocide Network, highlighting the synergies between the Eurojust Networks in relation to digital evidence, in particular in relation to core international crimes.

In relation to the work developed by the EJCN, the Chairs of the Subgroups presented the latest developments regarding the creation of a Ransomware reporting template, updating the EJCN Guide on Virtual Currencies, providing information on how to obtain cooperation from Exchanges, extended searches and a new set of Master Classes on direct cooperation with the main service providers.