

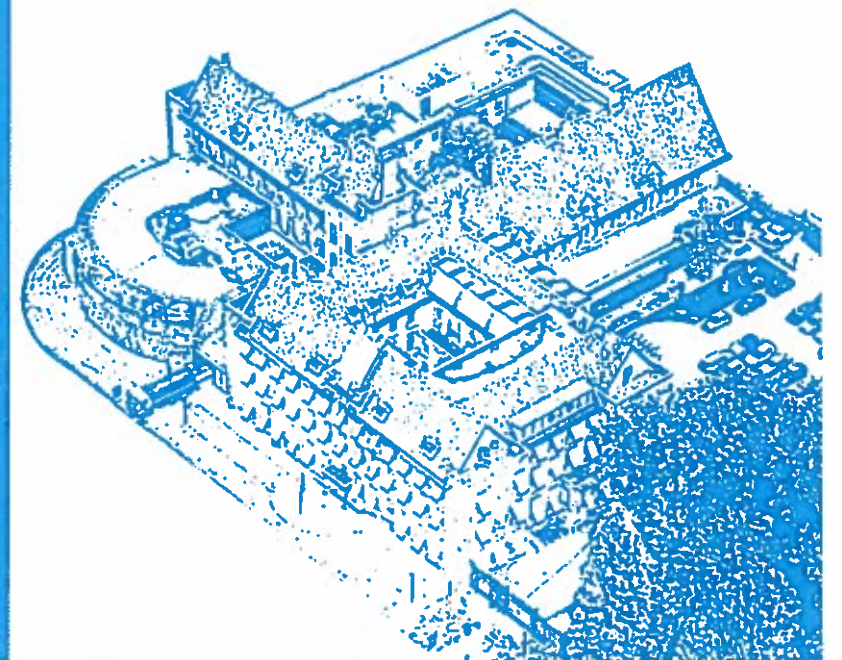
06

QL-AB-02-001-EN-C

EUROPOL

# Europol

## Annual report 2001



OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg

ISBN 92-95018-16-8



9 789295 018167 >

All rights reserved. No part of this report covered by the copyright thereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage or retrieval systems – without the permission of Europol.

Photos: Air Services Dutch Police, Europol, Christian Lohse, Ministry of Interior Belgium, Rob Ris

Europol  
Postbox 90850  
2509 LW The Hague  
Netherlands

Tel. (31-70) 302 50 00  
Fax (31-70) 345 58 96  
E-mail: [info@europol.eu.int](mailto:info@europol.eu.int)  
Internet: [www.europol.eu.int](http://www.europol.eu.int)

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.  
It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities,  
2002

ISBN 92-95018-16-8

© Europol, 2002

*Printed in Luxembourg*

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER



**Jürgen Storbeck**

Director  
Europol

## Director's foreword

It is a great pleasure to present the *Annual report 2001* of Europol's activities. The year 2001 was marked by two events: the intensive preparations of the Member States in cooperation with Europol which ensured the successful introduction of the euro, and the appalling terrorist attacks in the United States, which generated increased law enforcement cooperation at international level.

The key objectives for Europol were to increase its operational activities and to improve the flow of information to the organisation. Progress has been made in both areas and further efforts have to be made in order to ensure and optimise these developments.

During 2001, Europol's operational and analytical support has contributed to the identification and arrest of suspected offenders particularly within the priority fields of illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and counterfeiting money. In the field of drugs, Europol assisted in dismantling nine illicit drug laboratories and furthermore contributed to joint efforts dismantling a network dealing with illegal vehicles trafficking. In parallel, Member States made an increased use of the Europol liaison network and initiated in total 2 429 cases,



which resulted in 23 015 transactions (51.4 % related to drug crime, 17.4 % related to illegal immigration and 8.6 % related to stolen vehicles).

All foreseen work in relation to preventing and combating crimes associated with the introduction of the euro was successfully concluded by Europol. Before the end of 2001, no counterfeiting of the euro had been identified and neither was there any exceptional increase in the counterfeiting of the national currencies except for the German mark. It should be also noted that robberies connected to the euro were less than predicted.

Following the terrorist attacks in the US and the decisions taken by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 20 September, Europol and the EU Member States set up a Counter Terrorism Task Force at Europol headquarters and implemented a comprehensive set of measures. The Counter Terrorism Task Force became fully operational on 15 November, consisting of experts and liaison officers from Member States' police and intelligence services in an unprecedented exercise of cooperation and collaboration.

Europol also expanded its international relations by concluding cooperation agreements with seven non-EU countries as well as with Interpol, the European Central Bank and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, whilst close relationships were maintained and improved with other bodies and institutions such as the European Police College, the Police Chiefs Task Force and Eurojust.

In conclusion, Europol has responded responsibly and decisively to unforeseen challenges and at the same time improved its operational and strategic added value in international law enforcement cooperation.

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
2. General remarks .....	5
3. Prioritised crime-related activities .....	6
3.1. Counterfeit currency, in particular the euro .....	6
3.2. Drugs .....	7
3.3. Crimes against persons .....	9
3.4. Terrorism .....	11
4. Other crime-related activities .....	13
4.1. Financial crimes and other crimes against property or public goods, including fraud .....	13
4.2. OC groups and general crime-related knowledge .....	14
5. Operational support activities .....	15
6. Analytical activities .....	16
7. ICT, including information management .....	18
8. Corporate development .....	19
9. Relations with non-EU countries .....	21
10. Public relations .....	22
11. Human resources .....	22
12. Finance .....	24
13. Activities of the liaison bureaux .....	25

## **1. Introduction**

In accordance with Article 28(10) of the Convention, this annual report gives an overview of Europol's activities during 2001.

The report pays special attention to the activities in prioritised crime areas for 2001 — counterfeiting of the euro currency, drug-related activities, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings — as well as on terrorism, in particular activities ensuing from 11 September 2001.

## **2. General remarks**

Despite the re-prioritisation of the work done after the terrorist attacks of 11 September, Europol was able to follow the work programme as outlined by the Management Board and approved by the Council.

Operational results were reached in the areas of trafficking in human beings, illegal immigration, combating drug-related crimes and supporting Member States' activities in combating and preventing euro counterfeiting, but also covering trafficking of stolen vehicles.

The organisation was restructured in preparation for the extension of the mandate. The three operational departments — Investigation Support, Intelligence Analysis and Organised Crime — were combined into one single department, called Serious Crime, thus combining information exchange, analysis and expertise.

Unfortunately, 2001 was also a time of internal difficulties; a member of staff was involved in activities that eventually led Europol to request the Dutch authorities to initiate a criminal investigation. Two committees were established by the Management Board to deal with this case, following an internal enquiry carried out by Europol, and their results generated a

number of measures related to internal financial control mechanisms and procedures. Furthermore, this event caused delays in the development of the information system.

### 3. Prioritised crime-related activities

#### 3.1. Counterfeit currency, in particular the euro

All products and services planned in combating counterfeit currency, and in particular the euro, have been finalised and implemented.

Europol has, since 1 September 2001, provided a platform for the exchange of information between Member States for all euro-related incidents. During the whole introduction period of the euro, Member States were provided with a European Union overview of criminal trends in order for them to adjust national security measures when needed.

No counterfeits of the euro were identified and robberies were far less than expected.

A series of visits to Member States, as well as expert meetings at Europol, resulted in better cooperation.

The monthly 'EU counterfeit currency situation report' has been provided to the Member States at their request.

The analysis work file on currency counterfeiting identified several groups and individuals involved in counterfeiting national currencies and this work has led to arrests.



A Belgian-led operation, with Europol support, collated information from over 100 arrests for the distribution of counterfeit currency from both inside and outside the European Union.

Europol has made contributions in a number of other areas ranging from simple information exchange, instigating checks to establish whether circulating counterfeits are known or unknown, to requests for assistance from Member States.

Courses for tactical and technical training on counterfeiting, in particular related to the euro currency, were designed, organised and delivered by Europol and partially funded by OISIN (the EU programme for the exchange and training of, and cooperation between, law enforcement authorities).

#### 3.2. Drugs

Europol supported operational projects against Turkish, Latin American and indigenous criminal groups.

There has been an improvement in both quality and quantity of information supplied to Europol for the four ongoing analysis work files ('Mustard', 'Cocophone', 'Topaz' and 'Courier'). This has led to the identification of criminals, new common targets, links between investigations and an improvement of cooperation amongst Member States, based on intelligence and analyses supplied by Europol. The commitment has been encouraged by several visits by Europol staff to operational teams in the Member States.

Europol assisted law enforcement teams in three Member States in the dismantling of nine illicit laboratories and the collection of evidence, thus contributing to seizures of synthetic drugs and precursors and to the arrest of several suspects.



Currently, there are two expert systems related to drugs in place at Europol: the 'Ecstasy logo system' and the 'Cocaine logo system'. These systems improve law enforcement cooperation in Member States through the identification of links between seizures of ecstasy tablets and cocaine, primarily based on certain particularities of the seized drugs.

Europol reports in 2001 include the seventh annual *European Union situation report on drug production and drug trafficking*, seven editions of the *Drug Information Bulletin*, reports on producers and traders of tableting machines and punches and reports on the identification of equipment used in illicit laboratories and on distillation machines. Following a ban on opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the events of 11 September, Europol also drafted a report on the situation of opium production in Afghanistan, the world's largest producer of this drug.

In the framework of the joint action of new synthetic drugs, Europol, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) drafted joint progress reports on GHB, ketamine and PMMA.

As a direct result of the European Union action plan on drugs 2000–04, a collection model for drug seizure statistics was drafted by Europol in close cooperation with experts from Member States and the EMCDDA.

A model of parameters for the assessment of the European union drugs strategy, drafted by Europol in cooperation with Member States' experts and the EMCDDA, has been adopted by the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and will be implemented in 2002.

Under the Phare synthetic drugs assistance programme, Europol organised and gave training courses on the dismantling of illicit laboratories to law enforcement officers, forensic scientists and public prosecutors from several east European countries. In addition, training was provided to specialist teams in the

Netherlands. Europol also assisted the French authorities in a joint training programme on synthetic drugs and precursors for law enforcement staff from Latin American countries.

### 3.3. Crimes against persons

In the field of illegal immigration, Europol currently has three analysis work files running and the results obtained can be summarised as follows.

- The former Yugoslavia work file, for which several in-depth analytical reports have been elaborated and disseminated to the Member States.
- The Iraqi-Kurds work file, focusing on Iraq and its neighbouring countries (Kurds), has identified 8 to 10 targets. The project clarified the structure of the networks involved and identified some key members.
- The analysis work file focusing on illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings from the Ukraine and Moldova was in the collection of information phase.

The analysis work file dealing with Chinese illegal immigration was frozen, as the aim and objectives were met, the intelligence requirements identified and the targets no longer viable.



Europol supported the high-impact operation (HIOP) organised by the Belgian Presidency in close cooperation with Member States, applicant countries, Norway and Iceland. This operation in relation to illegal immigration focused on the future external borders of

*Analysts and experts of Europol in the operational centre for the HIOP.*



the European Union. In this context, Europol provided the participants with a threat assessment and established an operational centre at Europol headquarters through which all communication, including daily summaries, were channelled 24 hours a day during the operation. This project produced strategic assessments on trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration, as well as a situation report on illegal immigration.

Eight information bulletins on illegal immigration were published, based on contributions from Member States.

In the field of trafficking in human beings, Europol currently coordinates two operational projects.

- One analysis work file concerns a paedophile network affecting seven Member States. The operational results so far have been satisfactory, as several members of the paedophile network have been identified.
- Another ongoing operational project with Europol support deals with trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation by one specific criminal organisation with links in Member States, the Balkans and west African regions.

A crime and threat assessment on THB (trafficking in human beings) focusing on sexual exploitation and the use of illicit labour (so-called underground sweatshops) was developed. As an outcome of the report, a strategy paper to counter THB was elaborated for the Police Chiefs Task Force.

A second training course was held on child pornography investigations on the Internet.

The development of the Monitoring Centre and the intelligence database on child pornography continued as planned.

### 3.4. Terrorism

The aftermath of the events of 11 September had impact on the use of human and financial resources requiring the immediate re-prioritisation of work, not only in the field of terrorism but also of all operational and logistical support activities at Europol. On 20 September 2001, the Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted a set of measures to combat terrorism, proposed by Europol and the Council General-Secretariat.

The Council decided to set up a team of counter-terrorism specialists within Europol. This Counter-Terrorism Task Force was tasked to:

- collect in a timely manner all relevant information and intelligence concerning the current threat;
- analyse the collected information and undertake the necessary operational and strategic analysis;
- draft a threat assessment document based on information received. This study will, in particular, list targets, damage, potential *modi operandi* and consequences for the security of the Member States.

Efforts were undertaken to have the task force established as soon as possible. The establishment of the task force had an impact on available resources. A secured-access area was created for the task force, ICT equipment and training for its 22 members was provided, and a stand-alone application of the interim information system was implemented.

The task force, consisting of experts and liaison officers from both police and intelligence services, became operational on 15 November 2001, barely two months after the Council decisions were adopted.

The task force's first products were the European Union threat assessment document on Islamic extremist terrorism and the first

European Union overview on security measures in relation to terrorism. Furthermore the Europol bomb database, already created by Europol before 11 September, was put at the disposal of the task force. This database includes technical details of explosive devices. Other task force activities include the assessment of the financing of terrorism, with a view to undermining terrorist activity by seizing its funds or assets, and the procurement of an Arabic-to-English translation system for the evaluation of the large amount of intelligence in Arabic transmitted by Member States to Europol.

On 11 September an operational centre was created, which gives a 24-hour service in the exchange and coordination of information and intelligence and produces daily briefing papers.

Notwithstanding the disruption of priorities as a result of 11 September, Europol provided several products and services related to counter-terrorism.

The exchange of counter-terrorism information between Member States via the Europol Liaison Officer and national unit networks grew. A special conference on terrorism was held in Madrid from 29 January to 2 February 2001.

Several directories were updated, e.g.: 'Counter-terrorism responsibilities at national level within each Member State'; 'Counter-terrorism legislation in Member States'; 'Counter terrorism (CT) competencies/centres of excellence in the Member States'.

The open source digest on terrorism-related activity was disseminated to the Member States on a weekly basis. The 'Glossary of terrorist groups', containing basic details about their origins, ideology/objectives, leadership and activities was also updated.

Periodical trend and situation reports on topics related to terrorist crime, based on open source information and reporting by Member States to Europol were provided.

In 2001, two analysis work files within the area of CT competence were continued. Due to the 11 September attacks, one analysis work file increased in importance and produced output with added value to Member States.

## **4. Other crime-related activities**

### **4.1. Financial crimes and other crimes against property or public goods, including fraud**

In the field of financial crime, Europol's activities focused on providing strategic support, while preparing for more operational activities in 2002.

In the field of money laundering an analysis work file was opened to collect suspicious transactions identified by Member States' law enforcement and judicial authorities. Further strategic support included the issuing of information bulletins on specific matters related to financial investigations and giving support to one Member State's initiative to create a European manual on money laundering.

A European Union situation report was elaborated in the area of combating credit card fraud. The result of this work will be used to define a common EU strategy to fight this phenomenon.

The Financial Crime Information Centre was further developed with a view to providing Member States with access through a secure web site. This web site includes a library of information related to financial matters and on various technical subjects related to financial investigations.

Europol also participated in two customs projects. Analytical support and a situation report supported the initiatives conducted by the Member States.

In the field of stolen vehicles, Europol was involved in three operations concerning illegal vehicle trafficking in Europe. Europol



supported these operations by providing analytical support, coordinating the international cooperation and coordinating the information exchange. Clear operational results ensued from these actions. One investigation resulted in the identification of 705 stolen vehicles and 130 suspects; another operation led to 10 arrests and the issue of five international arrest warrants.



Investigations on the re-registration of second-hand cars revealed that 216 vehicles stolen in European Union Member States were re-registered in non-EU countries. Europol initiated bilateral investigations between non-EU countries and six Member States.

In cooperation with the German and Austrian authorities, Europol developed the 'International European vehicle identification database' (EuVID). This database was developed and translated by Europol and is now available in German, English and French. Europol also developed the 'Blanko documents' database containing stolen blank vehicle registration documents of various countries.

#### **4.2. OC groups and general crime-related knowledge**

One of Europol's first projects, called Monitor, focusing on criminal activities by motorcycle gangs, obtained operational results, as several arrests were made in two Member States.

Information exchanged with the investigation teams, several operational meetings, operational analysis and coordination support resulted in the furthering of national investigations. In turn, several arrests, seizures of drugs, weapons and financial assets have initiated several new investigations.

A European Union 'situation report' on east European organised crime in 1996–2000, a 'threat assessment' on east European

organised crime 2000 and a 'threat assessment' on Russian organised crime 2001 were disseminated to the Member States. The analysis work file resulted in the identification of seven targets and led to law enforcement actions in the respective Member States.

New initiatives on other organised crime groups — e.g. west African groups — were started.

Future cooperation was outlined in relation to cybercrime, covering matters such as the creation of a network of cybercrime units, the implementation of a monitoring centre at Europol, the improvement of intelligence gathering and the setting up of a working group with the private sector.

The development of a common approach for the 'Witness protection programme' progressed.

Europol organised a European training seminar on witness protection in Rome with logistical and technical support from the Italian authorities. It focused on the psychological effects on both protected witnesses and police officers dealing with them.

### **5. Operational support activities**

In the field of technical support, activities focused on raising awareness and providing expertise and advice.

Tests on specific devices were conducted throughout the year 2001, the results of which were subsequently reported to the national technical support units.

On request, four training sessions of one week each were provided to Member States concerning the use of specific technical surveillance devices.

A series of draft guidelines on how to handle informants were drawn up aimed at developing standards and enhancing cooperation and information exchange.

The 'Manual on best practices and techniques related to police investigations in the European Union' and the 'Manual on controlled deliveries' were updated with Member States' contributions, both on CD-ROM and on the Europol intranet.

## **6. Analytical activities**

Analytical support was given throughout all aforementioned crime areas. Although some activities may already have been mentioned under the previous headings, the following is an overview of analytical activities within Europol.

A total of 16 analysis work files were run and 29 operational analysis reports were produced based on the data provided by Member States and in some cases non-EU countries. Other products such as interim reports, monthly update reports and strategic assessments supplemented this, including 25 strategic reports. Emphasis has been given to the development of threat and risk assessments rather than general situation reports, in order to assist in operational decision-making.

In 2001, the approach to analysis work files projects has shifted from a very generic to a more target-oriented approach. This approach also affected the provision of data relating to ongoing investigations from the participating Member States.

More importantly the output has led to results for investigations in Member States, and a direct consequence has been the identification of targets, arrests and the development of new cases, some involving non-EU countries.

Work was devoted to the development of four new analysis work file projects, such as child pornography and suspicious transactions related to money laundering. Analytical activities on four analysis work files were ended during the year either due to the operational objectives being met or because intelligence suggested that these were no longer viable.

On request, Europol provided analytical expertise to seven Member States' operational projects with Europol support linked to ongoing investigations in the Member States. This support resulted in an additional 24 operational analysis reports, leading to target identification, understanding of criminal networks, enhanced cooperation between investigative units, improved collection of intelligence and evidence for criminal cases and finally arrests.

Europol continued the development of the 'European Union organised crime report' for the year 2000. As planned, both the closed and open versions of the 'Europol 2000 organised crime situation report' were distributed.

Analytical support was given to the production of assessments on ethnic Albanian organised crime and west African organised crime. Further activities were devoted to the development of the strategic assessment related to cybercrime.

A total of 18 internal analytical reports were produced in relation to emerging trends, events and new phenomena that either required urgent action or were related to the extension of the mandate.

Operational analysis training courses were provided on request to three Member States and one non-EU country (Slovenia). Following on from operational analysis training given in previous years, Europol continued to support the joint UNDCP-Phare programme for strengthening drug law enforcement capacities in south-east Europe for Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania.

Europol continued to promote awareness of intelligence analysis within law enforcement.

The Dutch, Italian, Spanish, French and updated English versions of the 'Analytical guidelines' were distributed to Member States. Versions in Danish, Swedish, Finnish, German and Portuguese were translated and will be distributed in 2002.

## **7. ICT, including information management**

The 'Interim information system' (IIS) has been renewed and delivered and it has been used by the Core Group to store data in expectation of the 'Europol information system' (EIS). After the events of 11 September, a counter-terrorism support system, aimed at storing data related to terrorism without dissemination throughout the Europol network, was built based on the IIS architecture. This system can currently handle very sensitive data.

The business rules, functions and roles to be applicable for the use of the IIS have been specified and validated, including a user manual.

Version 0.1 of the EIS, containing the main functionality related to combating the counterfeiting of the euro, was declared deployable on 30 December 2001. It is expected that version 0.1 will be in use at the beginning of 2002.

The business rules to be applied for the use of the EIS have been specified, validated and published on the intranet. The policy on the use of the EIS has been described and presented to the heads of Europol national units, the Project Board, and the intelligence experts.

EIS training on the business module was prepared and presented.

In addition, in order to allow the integration of the information system in the Europol environment, the Windows NT-based server infrastructure has been upgraded to Windows 2000, including the modification of hardware where necessary.

The new version of the index system, which comes closer to the expectations of the users, has been delivered and subject to the advice from the joint supervisory body will be made operational.

The modification of the 'Info-ex' (Europol's computerised tool for secure exchange of information and intelligence) application started in order to integrate the new mandates and the task force as a user

group. The objective to modify the application in function of the new mandates was not entirely achieved, as problems with backward compatibility of different versions of office software packages were detected.

In order to allow non-EU countries to have a secure technical link with Europol, a new network, physically separated from the Internet and the Europol network, has been created using ISDN links and encryption devices.

A new concept of the analysis system (Eurint) to include the pre-processing of information was developed and used as an interim solution. It will be the basis for the development of the new system, the overall analysis system for investigation support (OASIS). A requirement analysis of this new analysis system was started and largely completed in 2001.

The virtual private network (VPN) was tendered for and was implemented in all Member States, in conjunction with the encryption devices and its management hardware and software.

A new security application containing new functionalities and allowing the client to run software on a Windows 2000 workstation has been delivered.

Together with potential in-house users, Europol Research Unit tested and evaluated externally developed technology dealing with cybercrime research, multilingual terminology, forensic computing, knowledge discovery, graphical representation, natural language processing and security.

## **8. Corporate development**

Within the field of planning and evaluation the organisation is steadily building up its business excellence by improving different areas on an annual basis.



As an outcome of the Management Board's vision discussion in December 2000 the corporate strategy was determined. In accordance with this policy, Europol adapted the steering of its overall planning activities, particularly closely linking the financial planning to the planning of activities.

As a part of the development of its business excellence, Europol started in 2001 to develop its evaluation system based on the 'Balanced scorecard' (BSC). Three expert meetings were held at Europol. The first phase of this project, namely the outlining of the corporate indicators, has now been completed.

The relations between Europol and Pro-Eurojust were elaborated with a view to establishing a structured framework.

Relations with the Police Chiefs Task Force (PCTF) were developed in accordance with the Council decision of 20 September 2001. The Police Chiefs Task Force was provided with several Europol products, including a strategy paper and assessments on organised illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

Europol participated in the Governing Board of the European Police College (CEPOL). A special meeting was arranged to coordinate the elaboration of both organisations' respective work programmes and to take into account each other's planning.

Agreements were signed with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European Central Bank (ECB) and ICPO-Interpol. Negotiations on cooperation agreements progressed with three additional international organisations — the World Customs Organisation, the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the European Commission.

Europol requested access to the 'Schengen information system' (SIS). This request is now being processed in the relevant forums.

## 9. Relations with non-EU countries

During 2001, the focus was to progress cooperation agreements with the 23 countries mentioned in the Council decision of 27 March 2000. The negotiation process required data protection audits, which were executed in three countries; one data protection report was finalised. Agreements were signed with the following States: Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the United States.



*Handshake by The Ambassador of the US to the EU, Rockwell A. Schuabel (left) and Europol Director, Jürgen Storbeck. Behind Schuabel stands the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana and US Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Standing behind Storbeck is the Belgian Minister of Interior, Antoine Duquesne.*

Clearly the success of 2001 can be seen by the number of agreements realised, especially the one with the United States of America, and the contribution made to the accession countries in their procedure to meet the Europol Convention *acquis*. However, not all related aspects could be dealt with. Europol could not finalise negotiations with all accession countries because of legislative problems in those States or delays in the decision-making procedure.

Europol offered a four-day training seminar to liaison officers and staff from national contact points in non-EU countries.

## 10. Public relations

A growing interest from the media was noted, especially in relation to Europol's role in combating euro counterfeiting and terrorism. In this field, Europol managed more than 500 interview requests, as against 200 in 2000, and handled more than 600 general information requests coming from all public sectors and individuals, as opposed to 300 in 2000.

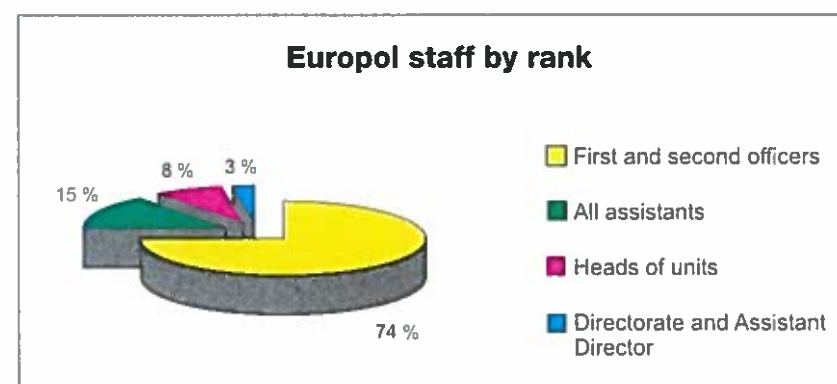
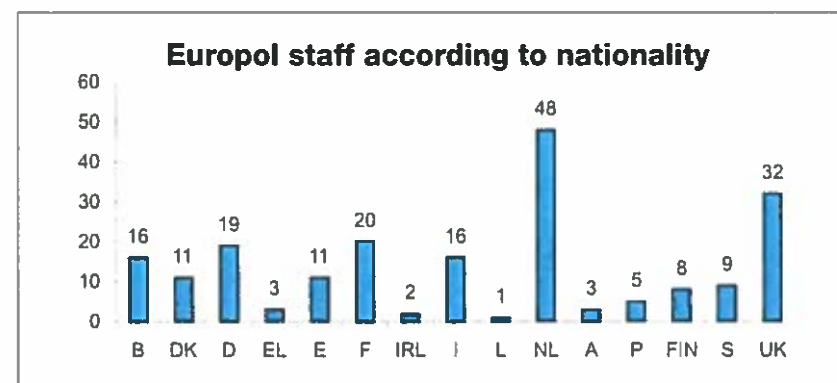
Europol monitored and prepared an increasing number of visits consisting of representatives from political and law enforcement authorities as well as from the academic community.

## 11. Human resources

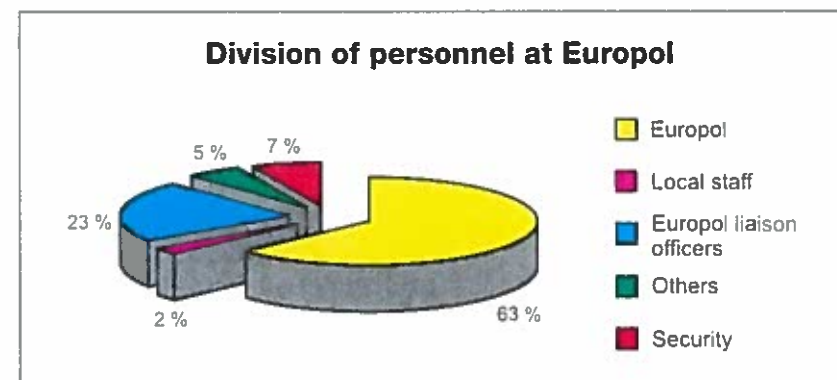
Europol recruited additional staff members as planned in the 2001 budget. The recruitment procedures planned according to the 2002 budget were started in order for the organisation to start the EIS project as from 1 January 2002. Lastly, six people were recruited for the Counter Terrorism Task Force. This makes a total of 56 new staff members recruited during 2001, including one assistant director, three heads of unit, 20 first officers, 18 second officers, nine analytical assistants and five administrative assistants.

With regard to the Europol staff regulations, the 'Personnel policy programme' was elaborated by Europol and agreed by the Management Board.

By the end of 2001 Europol staff totalled 203. The following charts show the breakdown of Europol staff according to nationality and rank. Europol staff does not include the local staff paid by Europol or the Dutch Government. The figures used represent the situation on 31 December 2001.



The following chart shows the division of personnel working at Europol — representing the situation on 31 December 2001.



## 12. Finance

A review of the financial rules was initiated in 2001 in order to simplify, where possible, the rules and procedures. For this purpose a subgroup was created under the Financial Committee with representatives from the Troika and other interested Member States.

The following table shows the approved annual accounts for 2000, the provisional figures for the budget implementation 2001 and the adopted budget for 2002 (figures in million EUR).

	2000	2001	2002
Personnel	13.8	17.9	22.2
Correction TECS personnel	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 1.5
Other expenditure	4.4	4.3	8.6 <sup>(1)</sup>
Bodies and organs	1.6	2.0	2.1
TECS	6.7	9.5	17.1
Total <sup>(2)</sup>	25.8	33.2	48.5 <sup>(3)</sup>

- (1) From 2002 the costs in relation to the VPN are included in 'Other expenditure'. In previous years these costs were contained in the Europol computer system (TECS) part of the budget. Similarly, some costs, which were previously under 'Personnel', have from 2002 been included under 'Other expenditure'.
- (2) Due to rounding off the 'Total' might differ from the sum of the individual amounts.
- (3) The additional budget for the CT Task Force for 2002 amounts to EUR 3.16 million, which makes a total of EUR 51.66 million.

## 13. Activities of the liaison bureaux

During 2001, Member States initiated a total of 2 429 cases. Of this total, 89.3 % were qualification level 1 (low complexity) and 2.3 % were qualification level 3 (high complexity). About two thirds of the cases (61 %) were bilateral.

The total of transactions sent was 23 015. This makes an average of 9.5 transactions per case.

In terms of crime areas, the cases were mainly related to drugs criminality (51.4 %), illegal immigration (17.4 %) and stolen vehicles (8.6 %).

An essential part of the Europol framework is the work undertaken by the Member State liaison bureaux at Europol. The following list provides examples of the operational activities within this area.

- In October 2000, an investigation started against an organisation that smuggled hashish across the European Union. Links to outlaw motorcycle gangs could also be drawn.

In March 2001, it was established that hashish was going to be smuggled across the European Union in a truck. Further investigation uncovered that the criminals had not yet succeeded in transporting the hashish into the country.

On 4 May 2001, the police discovered the hiding place of the hashish. 300 kilograms were seized and eight suspects of different nationalities were arrested. In connection with this action police arrested 11 suspects and carried out several searches, with the seizure of 75 kilograms of hashish, 850 grams of heroin, a 9-mm pistol and large amounts of stolen goods. The case has not been finalised in court. Four States cooperated in this case.

- In another major investigation concerning cocaine trafficking, authorities asked for assistance via the liaison network. Information from a live investigation was provided. Coordination from several operational units (police, customs, coast guard as



well as public prosecutor) was provided and this led to a raid at sea. Thirty-one kilograms of cocaine were seized and five suspects were arrested. Those arrested will be extradited for further prosecution. Two States cooperated in this case.

- Another operation concerned trafficking in human beings. Three operational meetings were held at Europol with the prosecutor appointed to the case, as well as with involved countries (including non-EU countries). The investigation began in 2000 following the murder of a young woman and the disappearance of another. The operation targeted an international organisation that trafficked in women from eastern Europe and Latin America for sexual exploitation. The police arrested more than 100 alleged members of this organisation, who have been charged with conspiracy, enslavement, kidnap and international drug trafficking. A number of States cooperated in this case.

Europol has elaborated a first interim analytical report, which was disseminated to all countries involved. The answers of the involved countries are being awaited and other meetings for the prosecution of the investigation will be arranged.

Europol

**Annual report 2001 – Europol**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2002 – 26 pp. – 16.2 x 22.9 cm

ISBN 92-95018-16-8