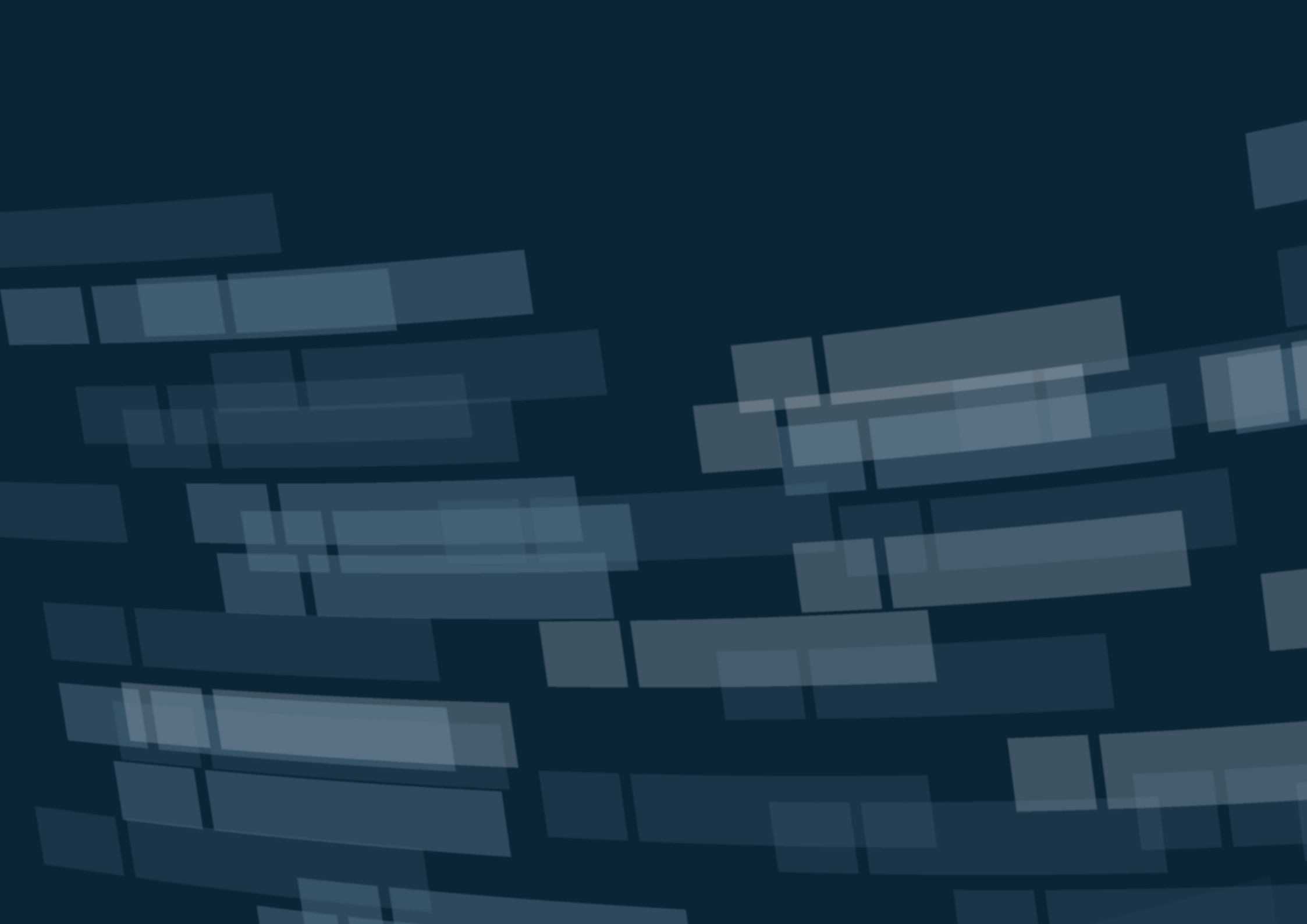




**EUROJUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**





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The statistics on Eurojust cases included in this report were produced on the basis of data contained in the Eurojust case management system (CMS). The numbers were extracted in January 2025 and reflect the data available at that moment. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.

# Foreword

In order to help shape the future, it is sometimes helpful to look at the past. The past 12 months have been a year of new initiatives and a continued high number of cases at Eurojust, and I therefore could not be more proud to introduce you to our Annual Report 2024. This marks my first as President of Eurojust since taking office in November, and I look very much forward to the journey ahead.

*'The opportunity is in the partnership'*, the saying often goes, and this surely extends to international judicial cooperation. Last year alone, Eurojust supported no less than 12 972 ongoing investigations of which 5 363 were newly registered. One of our core tasks is to be a forum where prosecutors and judges meet to coordinate investigations and prosecution strategies. I am therefore especially happy to report on the 640 Coordination Meetings Eurojust hosted, representing an 11% increase in the number of meetings we had compared to the previous year.

Together with the 361 Joint Investigation Teams we supported – 25% more compared to those supported in 2023 – Eurojust offers a solid basis to help judicial authorities in Member States and beyond get justice done. As in previous years, our accountability efforts in relation to the war in Ukraine remain unwavering. This includes, in particular, our support to the Joint Investigation Team on war crimes, the Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED) and the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine (ICPA).

Furthermore, 2024 has also been a year in which we have grown our network with partners to expand our service delivery to judicial professionals. I think, for instance, of the international agreements on cooperation with Eurojust which have been signed with Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the Working Arrangements we signed with Prosecutors General from six Latin American countries. The needs of prosecutors and judges across the European Union are what matter most to us at Eurojust, and they will continue to direct our next steps in further developing our network.



Eurojust's work is anchored in values of partnership and the rule-of-law. Our success is not just ours, but very much a collective one that we share with prosecutors and judges across the continent. I therefore want to thank all our partners for their continued support to Eurojust's mission and I look forward to much more to come in 2025!

**Michael Schmid**  
President of Eurojust



# Eurojust at a glance



EUROJUST

## What is Eurojust?



Eurojust is the **EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation**.

We are a specialised hub providing tailor-made support to **prosecutors and judges** from across the EU and beyond.

To effectively tackle cross-border crime, we also host **networks** and run several **programmes and projects**.

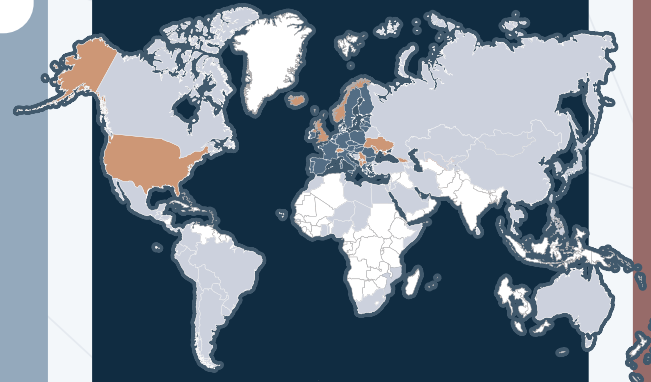
## Who do we work with?



In addition to working with national authorities across the EU, we have

**Contact Points** in over 70 countries worldwide, as well as several **Liaison Prosecutors** from third countries posted at Eurojust. This global network works alongside EU Member States to provide support to cross-border investigations.

We also have strong partnerships with other **EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies** as well as international partners.



- EU Member States
- Liaison Prosecutors posted at Eurojust
- International Judicial Contact Points

## What is our impact?

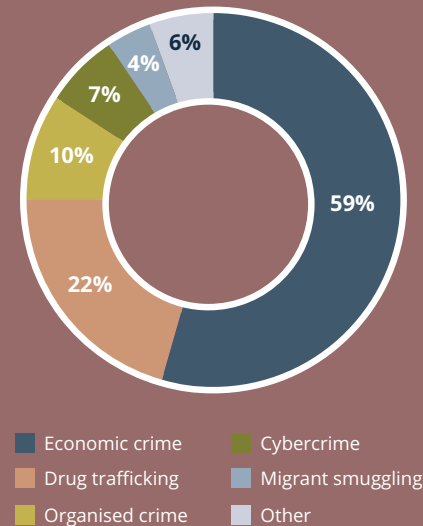


Each year, **Eurojust contributes** to the arrest or surrender of **thousands of**

**suspects** and the seizure or freezing of **billions of euros** worth of criminal assets.

Moreover, we help to deliver **justice to thousands of victims**, ensuring their identification, rescue and protection.

### Top 5 crime types addressed by Eurojust in 2024



## How do we work?



We provide **our services** to national authorities throughout all stages of the criminal justice chain, from when a case is opened by a Member State until justice gets done in court:

- In **coordination meetings**, we bring together prosecutors from all over Europe to work on cross-border crime cases.
- We support **joint investigation teams** – logistically, financially and with expertise.
- From our **coordination centre**, joint action days against criminal networks are steered in real time, with arrests and searches taking place simultaneously in multiple countries.



# 2024 Highlights





## Photos appearing in 2024 Highlights

*(Left to right starting from the top row)*

- 1: Eurojust President **Michael Schmid** presents Eurojust's activities at the fifth annual Eurojust Interparliamentary Committee Meeting at the European Parliament, 02/12/2024
- 2: Meeting of Eurojust President **Michael Schmid** meets European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law **Michael McGrath**, 03/12/2024
- 3: President of Slovenia **Nataša Pirc Musar** visits Eurojust, 16/09/2024
- 4: Co-founder of the Clooney Foundation for Justice **Amal Clooney** visits Eurojust to discuss closer cooperation in the pursuit of justice for the victims of international crimes, 05/02/2024
- 5: Eurojust signs Working Arrangements with the Prosecution Services of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru, 10/07/2024
- 6: Eurojust President **Michael Schmid** meets European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration **Magnus Brunner**, 02/12/2024
- 7: Eurojust at the European Commission's Europe Day event, 04/05/2024
- 8: Launch event of the European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJOcn), 25/09/2024

Photos © Eurojust

# 1. 2024 in figures

## 1.1 Operational outcomes

In 2024, Eurojust successfully delivered on its full mandate to fight all serious cross-border crimes, handling almost 13 000 cases.

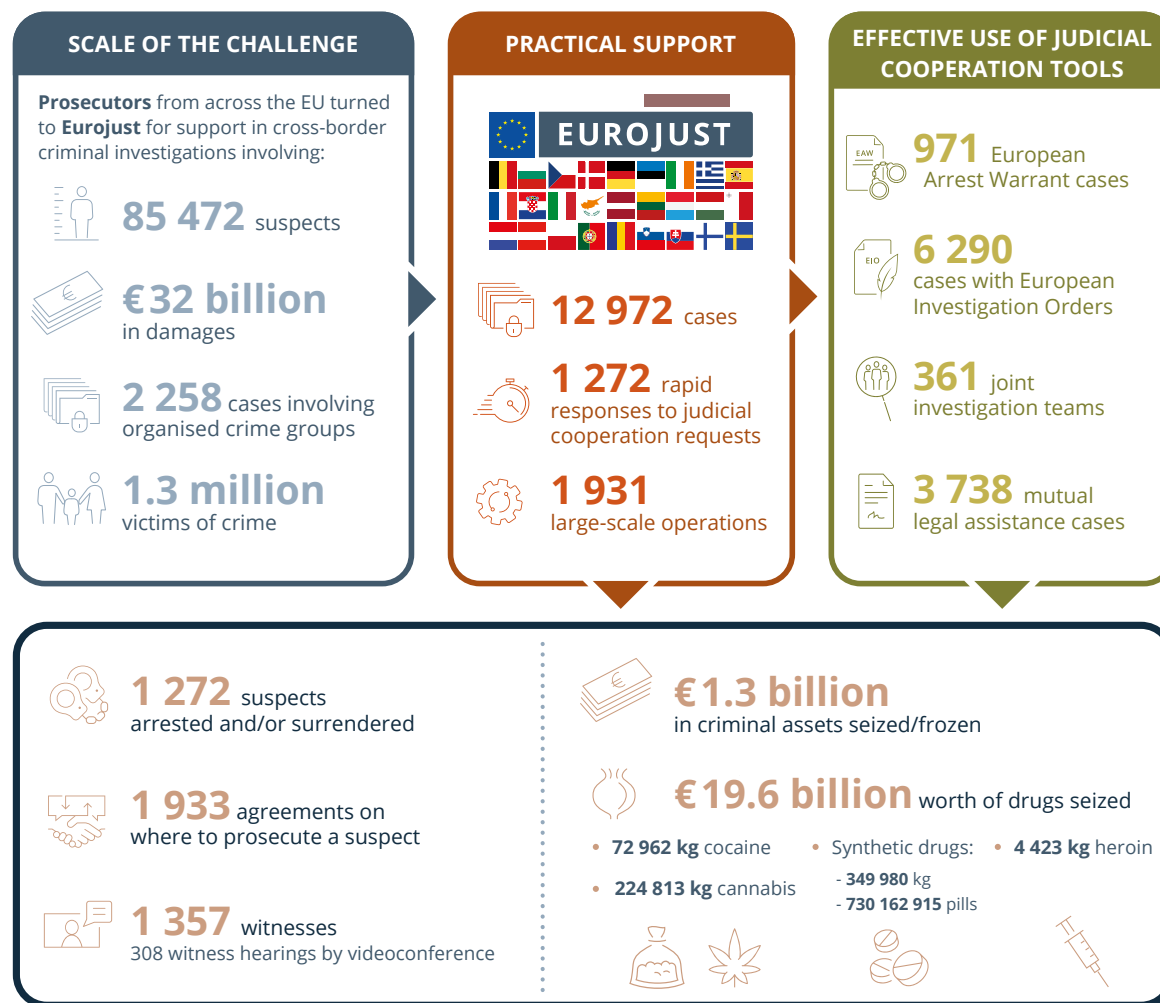
The Agency contributed to the arrest of more than 1 200 suspects and the seizure and/or freezing of criminal assets worth over EUR 1 billion. Eurojust also contributed to the seizure of drugs worth almost EUR 20 billion.

Reflecting the growing scale of the challenge, the criminal investigations handled by Eurojust in 2024 involved more than three times as many victims and almost twice the amount in damages as in the previous year.

In 2024, the Agency supported 25% more joint investigation teams (JITs) than in 2023, illustrating national authorities' trust and reliance on Eurojust's services to facilitate judicial cooperation.

These impressive operational outcomes<sup>1</sup> are the result of cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities enabled by Eurojust, in close cooperation with all actors in the criminal justice chain.

## #JusticeDone – Operational outcomes\* in 2024



\* The figures in this diagram are based on cases that were both newly registered in 2024 and ongoing from previous years.

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that these outcomes were also achieved through cases that were opened before 2024 and were included in the reporting on operational outcomes in Eurojust's 2023 Annual Report. The outcomes of these cases are included again for 2024 reporting purposes, since the cases were still ongoing.

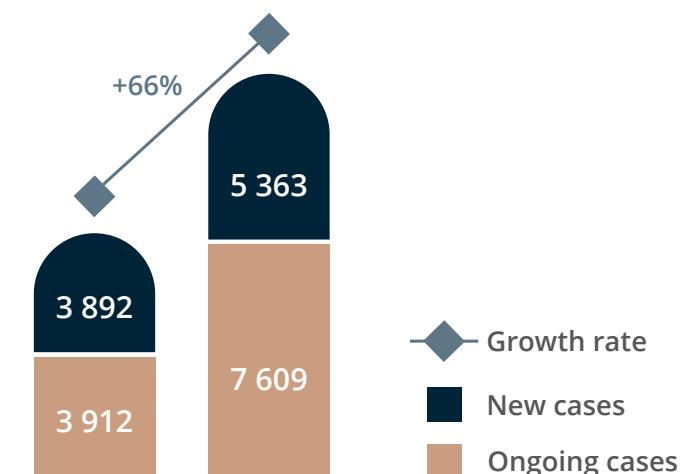


## 1.2 Case workload

Over the past five years, Eurojust's case workload has increased by more than 60%, with the Agency handling approximately 8 000 cases in 2019 compared to nearly 13 000 in 2024.

More than 5 300 new cases were opened in 2024, while more than 7 600 cases from previous years continued to receive legal, analytical, logistical and financial support from the Agency.

The high number of ongoing cases reflects the sustained assistance required over the years by many of the increasingly complex investigations Eurojust supports.



## 1.3 Overview of cases in 2024 involving Member State National Desks

MEMBER STATE National Desk	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2024	No. of countries involved		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2024	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Coordination centres
		2	3 or more						
Belgium	127	98	29	252	328	674	103	32	6
Bulgaria	184	177	7	159	211	302	18	4	2
Czech Republic	150	135	15	233	133	266	48	45	2
Germany	580	503	77	886	781	1 264	186	65	22
Estonia	35	28	7	45	70	121	22	19	3
Ireland	40	38	2	121	85	224	10	7	0
Greece	417	415	2	338	120	241	14	5	1
Spain	369	317	51	391	592	1 005	94	18	9
France	245	136	109	690	818	1 415	196	66	14

MEMBER STATE National Desk	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2024	No. of countries involved		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2024	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Coordination centres
		2	3 or more						
Croatia	50	49	1	38	109	182	11	1	0
Italy	664	528	136	706	421	701	115	62	7
Cyprus	126	124	2	232	79	155	14	1	3
Latvia	57	50	7	112	77	163	48	26	7
Lithuania	132	107	25	191	307	425	60	26	5
Luxembourg	21	21	0	42	86	191	3	1	3
Hungary	202	188	14	441	134	329	22	16	0
Malta	19	18	1	82	86	181	8	1	2
Netherlands	36	32	4	269	482	835	103	15	10
Austria	205	180	25	278	203	349	45	11	2
Poland	284	260	24	308	333	590	103	51	7
Portugal	160	139	21	128	206	280	19	8	1
Romania	196	158	38	258	250	343	90	53	4
Slovenia	264	234	30	203	64	126	10	4	0
Slovakia	84	77	7	159	109	218	24	16	0
Finland	136	117	19	83	43	88	30	25	2
Sweden	172	140	32	249	100	191	86	35	2
Denmark	29	29	0	106	58	135	23	17	2
Total	4 984	4 298	685	7 000	*	*	*	*	*

\* These columns cannot be summed up as more than one National Desk can be requested to participate in a single case, and coordination meetings, JITs and action days are often co-organised.



## 2. In focus in 2024: Eurojust's growing partnerships

Organised crime in Europe is evolving at an unprecedented pace, exploiting new technologies and geopolitical instability. Nearly 90% of the EU's most threatening criminal groups have successfully infiltrated the legal economy<sup>2</sup>, while 76% of them are active in two to seven countries<sup>3</sup>. Their profits are estimated at around EUR 139 billion annually<sup>4</sup>. Organised crime groups are becoming more violent, as cocaine traffickers, for example, compete for a market worth EUR 11 billion<sup>5</sup>, equal to the diamond trade.

These once-local groups are now transnational, spanning continents and currencies. With criminal organisations and their activities extending well beyond EU borders, international judicial cooperation is becoming increasingly important to tackle serious cross-border crime effectively. Eurojust's growing partnerships are crucial in enabling this international judicial cooperation, which is necessary to keep our communities safe and get justice done.

### 2.1 European Judicial Organised Crime Network

To bolster the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking, in June 2024, the [Justice and Home Affairs Council](#) approved the establishment of the European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJO CN). The EJO CN is a hub of specialised expertise that supports direct dialogue between judicial authorities to address legal and practical problems. It also facilitates the exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience in the investigation and prosecution of organised crime.

Eurojust has been entrusted with hosting and supporting the new judicial network, whose mandate is to address all judicial aspects of the fight against organised crime. Over the past 20 years, Eurojust has built up a solid track record in providing operational, technical, logistical and financial support to national prosecutors in the fight against organised crime. The work of the EJO CN will benefit from Eurojust's unique operational expertise in setting up JITs and using other judicial cooperation tools in cross-border criminal investigations. In September 2024, the Agency organised the [EJO CN's launch](#), bringing together prosecutors from all Member States, Europol, the European Union Drugs Agency, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Commission to discuss the scope, vision and practical functioning of the network.

The main objectives of the EJO CN are to facilitate increased information exchange and cooperation between competent judicial authorities dealing with organised crime. This includes addressing the structural, poly-criminal and leadership aspects of organised crime. The EJO CN aims to provide added value to judicial practitioners in the Member States by helping to improve strategic and operational results in this area. The network will operate on a flexible and continuous basis, with the full support of Eurojust, in order to respond quickly to the changing activities and modus operandi of organised crime groups.

From a strategic perspective, the EJO CN will facilitate networking and capacity building among practitioners across Europe, enabling them to discuss legal challenges, relevant case law, trends, best practices and effective judicial cooperation with jurisdictions outside the EU. It will also share critical information with judicial practitioners and maintain cooperation with key stakeholders to develop more effective cross-border prosecution strategies between Member States and third countries.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol-analysis-reveals-how-criminal-networks-exploit-legal-businesses-to-strengthen-their-grip-economy>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/decoding-eus-most-threatening-criminal-networks>

<sup>4</sup> [New EU Roadmap steps up the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime - European Commission](#)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2024/cocaine\\_en](https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2024/cocaine_en)

For analytical purposes, the EJO CN will prepare reports based on practitioners' experience and insights. These reports will identify legal and practical issues, including those arising from the implementation of EU legislative instruments and the implications of a diversified legal framework across and beyond Europe. They will suggest priorities for judicial follow-up and proposals on how to address various challenges. The network will also map trends and modus operandi of OCGs and prepare tools to support practitioners in their fight against organised crime.

At the operational level, the EJO CN will facilitate continuous communication and exchange of non-personal information of operational value between the network's members. These operational exchanges will be useful for the early identification of parallel investigations or for initiating such investigations in all Member States where a criminal network operates. Where appropriate, the EJO CN will assist in identifying immediate counterparts and contacts in each country to facilitate the exchange of information, support the initiation of parallel investigations and cooperation, and identify opportunities to set up JITs at Eurojust. The EJO CN will also help to ensure timely judicial follow-up of the most threatening criminal networks, including by identifying priorities for investigations and prosecutions.

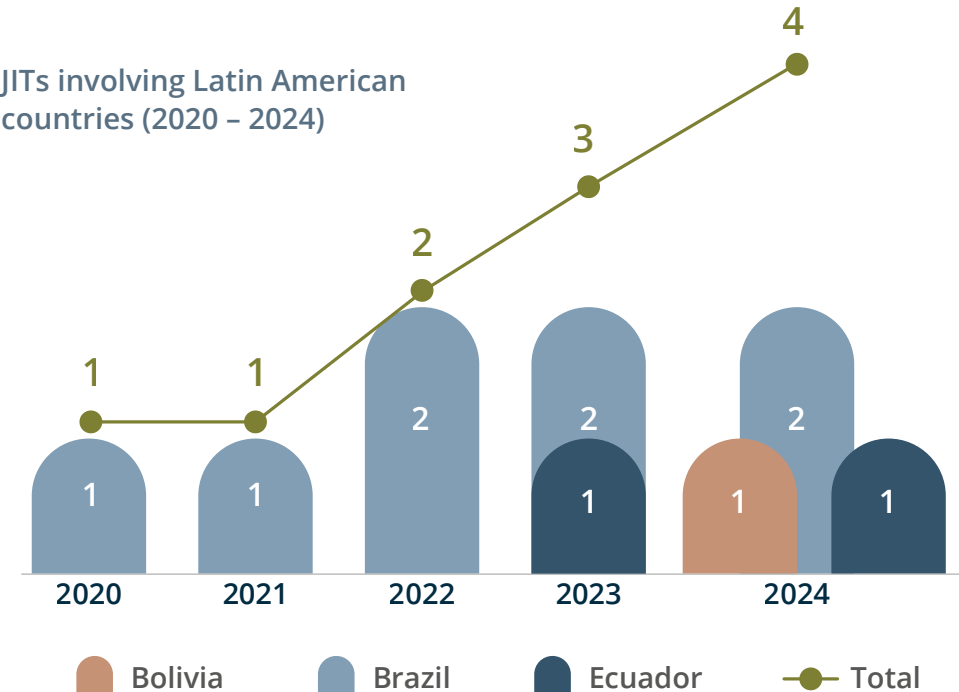
EJO CN's first priority is combating drug-related organised crime connected to European ports, as these are key transit points for cocaine and other narcotics destined for the EU (see also section 3.6). The initial focus on drug trafficking responds to the growing threats in this area, the associated poly-criminality of criminal gangs and the increased recruitment of young people in drug smuggling activities. Drug trafficking has been identified as a leading criminal activity of OCGs in Europe, with 50% of criminal networks involved in drug trafficking<sup>6</sup>. The availability of illicit drugs continues to increase, as does the violence associated with this crime, making drug trafficking one of the most dangerous and lucrative criminal activities. Successfully tackling the rise in drug trafficking requires close cooperation with judicial authorities in Latin America, from where narcotics are often smuggled into Europe (see section 2.2).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/decoding-eus-most-threatening-criminal-networks>

## 2.2 Latin American partnerships

Working together to tackle the growing problem of drug trafficking is a key focus of Eurojust's cooperation with Latin American judicial authorities. Dismantling the transport routes that allow large quantities of drugs from Latin America to enter the EU via its ports is a priority for both regions. It is essential that European and Latin American prosecutors work closely together, not only to disrupt criminal networks but also to hold them accountable in court.

Over the past five years, Eurojust cases involving Latin American countries have mainly tackled drug trafficking and organised crime, followed by money laundering. Latin American countries participated in 33 coordination meetings in 2024, more than three times as many as the previous year. Brazil participated in the highest number of coordination meetings, followed by Ecuador and Colombia. Over the past three years, the number of JITs involving Latin American countries has steadily increased, with Brazil participating in the highest number.





In 2024, Eurojust took a significant step in enhancing cooperation with Latin American partners by signing six [Working Arrangements](#) with the Prosecution Services of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, [Panama](#) and Peru. The Working Arrangements will strengthen cooperation in crime areas that affect both the EU and these Latin American countries, such as drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime. During the year, these countries and Eurojust also created a group for reinforced cooperation to strengthen the joint response to organised crime. In addition, Eurojust continued to implement its Working Arrangement with the [Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors Offices \(AIAMP\)](#).

The College of Eurojust and the Prosecutors General of the six Latin American countries issued [a joint declaration](#) committing to a coordinated legal response to fight the criminal networks operating in their regions, in support of their citizens' security, economies and well-being. With the support of the EU-funded [EL PACCTO 2.0 programme](#), they agreed to enhance cooperation, including through coordination meetings and JITs between criminal investigative and prosecutorial entities in Latin America and the EU. A commitment was also made to work towards concluding international agreements between these six Latin American countries and the EU on cooperation with Eurojust to deepen collaboration further and enable the systematic exchange of operational personal data.

In 2024, the Agency also liaised at the institutional and operational levels with Brazil, Colombia and Argentina, following the Council's decision to authorise the opening of negotiations with these Latin American countries as well. In addition, Eurojust officially requested the Commission to consider asking the Council to extend the mandate for negotiations to at least Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

Eurojust already has 15 [Contact Points](#) in Latin American and Caribbean countries, who are located in their home country and assist judicial cooperation with Eurojust by ensuring that relevant information is promptly shared with their national authorities.

## Key case



### Transatlantic cocaine trafficking route by air and sea halted: 23 arrests



**CRIME:** An international criminal network with links to the Italian mafia and Brazilian criminal organisations smuggles over 1 500 kg cocaine into Europe. The criminal groups use cargo ships and private aircraft to transport large quantities of the drug from the Port of Paranaguá to Europe. The millions of euros in profits generated by these activities are laundered through an intricate network of individuals and companies.

**ACTION:** On 10 December 2024, a large-scale operation supported by Eurojust and Europol, takes place in Italy and Brazil. Searches are carried out at several locations across Brazil.

**RESULT:** During the joint action day, 23 suspects are arrested - 18 in Brazil, and 5 in Italy. These arrests enable the Italian and Brazilian authorities to disrupt the activities of the criminal network.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust helps to set up a JIT in 2020, allowing authorities to exchange information in real time and plan the arrests and searches, which take place simultaneously in Brazil and Italy during the action day.

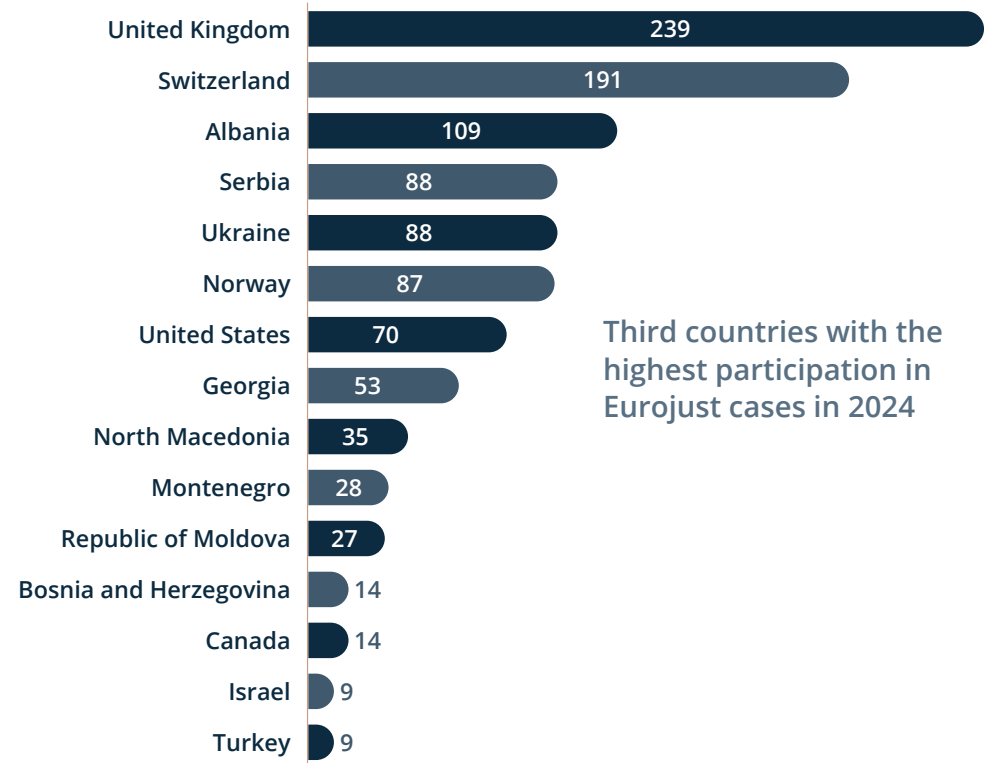
### 2.3 Cooperation with third countries

In addition to its Latin American partnerships, the Agency works with a wide range of other third countries to ensure that national borders are not an obstacle to prosecuting crime or getting justice done. In March 2024, Eurojust's College adopted the [Eurojust Strategy on Cooperation with International Partners 2024–2027](#). The strategy outlines the steps that the Agency intends to take in the coming years to strengthen its role as a gateway for cross-border cooperation between authorities investigating and prosecuting serious crime within and beyond the EU.

In 2024, 1 022 of the newly opened cases handled by the Agency involved one or more third countries. Eurojust's international cooperation continues to increase the number of registered cases at the Agency, with 378 new cases owned by third countries opened in 2024 alone. Countries with a Liaison Prosecutor located at Eurojust were asked to participate in cases 647 times in 2024. Moreover, five cases involved Liechtenstein, which has concluded a cooperation agreement with Eurojust but has not yet posted a Liaison Prosecutor at the Agency. Countries with appointed Eurojust Contact Points were asked to participate in 99 cases. The United Kingdom (UK) is the non-EU country with the most casework, with 239 cases in 2024, followed by Switzerland, which cooperated in 191 cases.

International agreements enabling the systematic exchange of personal data and the subsequent secondment of a Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust have proven invaluable for the smooth exchange of information and increased cross-border judicial cooperation.

In 2024, Eurojust welcomed the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and Armenia on cooperation with Eurojust. Consequently, Eurojust signed a Working Arrangement in September 2024 with the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.



During 2024, the European Commission, together with Eurojust's support, continued its negotiations towards concluding international agreements with Lebanon, Colombia and Algeria. A Lebanese delegation led by the Justice Minister visited the Agency in March 2024 to learn more about the protection of personal data processed by Eurojust. In December 2024, a delegation of high-level Algerian officials also visited the Agency for the same purpose.



In October 2024, Eurojust participated in the first [Summit of Heads of Prosecution Services of G20 countries](#), hosted by the Federal Prosecution Service of Brazil. On this occasion, the Agency organised bilateral meetings with counterparts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. These meetings were crucial in furthering Eurojust's judicial cooperation with these countries.

In December 2024, Eurojust attended a workshop in Baghdad on strengthening international judicial cooperation, organised with the support of the EU funded [CT JUST project](#). Eurojust presented its work and the benefits of joint investigation teams to the participating Iraqi judges and prosecutors. The Agency also held bilateral meetings with the President of the Supreme Judicial Council and the National Centre for International Judicial Cooperation.

## Overview of cases in 2024 involving Liaison Prosecutors

LIAISON PROSECUTOR	Cases initiated by the National Desk				Participation in cases initiated by other Desks		Participation in joint activities/meetings		
	New in 2024	No. of countries involved		Ongoing from previous years	New in 2024	Ongoing from previous years	Coordination meetings	JITs	Coordination centres
		2	3 or more						
Albania	68	66	2	57	41	81	19	24	3
Georgia	52	52	0	21	18	32	10	5	1
Iceland	0	0	0	0	8	9	3	0	1
Moldova	3	3	0	0	32	43	21	23	0
Montenegro	12	12	0	32	15	29	1	0	0
North Macedonia	14	12	2	18	14	46	0	1	0
Norway	54	48	6	117	33	85	20	16	1
Serbia	39	34	5	88	49	91	23	8	4
Switzerland	73	63	10	125	118	367	68	25	5
Ukraine	30	23	7	65	60	148	48	35	2
United Kingdom	26	19	7	71	213	572	89	40	4
United States	7	3	4	11	46	148	69	0	3
TOTAL	378	335	43	605	*	*	*	*	*

In the autumn of 2024, Eurojust also continued its cooperation with the networks of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including participating in the plenary meetings of the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust) and the Central Asia and Southern Caucasus Network (CASC). In September, the Agency hosted a delegation from Vietnam facilitated by the SEAJust Network. Eurojust presented its judicial cooperation tools and collaboration with third countries. In October, Eurojust co-organised a study visit with the CASC Network, hosting representatives of the General Prosecutors' Offices of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The visit provided an opportunity for exchanges on operational matters between the members of the delegations and the relevant National Desks at the Agency.

Currently, 12 third countries have Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust: Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the UK and the United States (US). Hosting Liaison Prosecutors from non-EU countries at Eurojust's premises allows Member States' authorities to cooperate closely with the judicial authorities in these countries, enabling operational cooperation between them. In March 2024, Eurojust welcomed the [first Liaison Prosecutor for Iceland at Eurojust](#), following a cooperation agreement signed by the Icelandic authorities and Eurojust in 2005.

In 2024, 378 new cases were initiated by Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust, representing almost 10% more than in 2023. Switzerland and Albania opened the highest number of cases, followed by Norway and Georgia. The UK, followed by Switzerland, was the country most frequently requested to participate in new cases opened by National Desks at the Agency in 2024. Liaison Prosecutors were also actively involved in Eurojust's meetings and instruments to tackle these cases.

The UK, US and Switzerland attended more than 60 coordination meetings, while Ukraine, the UK, Switzerland, Albania and Moldova participated in more than 20 JITs in the same year. Moreover, Switzerland participated in the highest number of coordination centres during 2024, followed by the UK and Serbia.

In 2024, Eurojust continued to support its network of Contact Points in third countries, enabling direct contact with the competent authorities when a crime extends beyond the EU's borders. To date, the network has Contact Points in over 70 countries. In 2024, the United Arab Emirates joined as a new member of Eurojust's Contact Point network, while Mongolia and Nigeria reappointed Contact Points.

# Eurojust's global network



EUROJUST

## Agreements on cooperation



With **13**  
third countries



Agreements on cooperation provide the possibility of exchanging operational information, including evidence and personal data, between Eurojust and the national authorities of the country involved in a systematic way.

Eurojust relies on agreements on cooperation concluded with the following non-EU countries: **Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.**

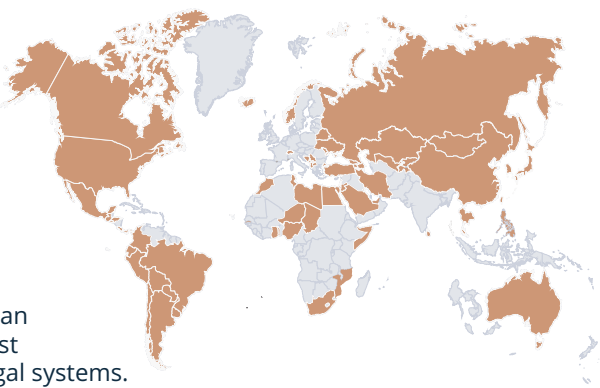
## Contact Point network



Covering **70+** jurisdictions worldwide  
+ 3 organisations\*

**Contact Points** appointed by national authorities enable prosecutors from Member States to get information on these legal systems and solve problems in judicial cooperation when a crime extends beyond the European Union's borders.

Contact Points also ensure that authorities in non-EU countries can swiftly communicate with Eurojust and obtain information on EU legal systems.



- \* AIAMP: Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors
- \* CPLP: Anti-Drug Prosecutors Network
- \* WACAP – UNODC: West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors

## Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust



From **12** countries



Liaison Prosecutors from countries outside the EU are **posted at Eurojust**. They work side by side with their colleagues from the Member States to provide support in cross-border investigations involving their country.

Currently, Liaison Prosecutors are seconded to Eurojust from: **Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.**

## Working Arrangements



With **9** countries  
+ AIAMP



Eurojust concludes Working Arrangements with third countries and judicial networks and associations established outside of the EU to enable strategic cooperation in combatting serious crime.

These arrangements enable the exchange of information and sharing of best practices, but they do not provide a basis for sharing operational personal data.

Eurojust has Working Arrangements with the **Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors Offices (AIAMP), Nigeria, Panama, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Egypt and South Korea.**



## 2.4 International cooperation projects

### EuroMed Justice project

The [EuroMed Justice project](#) aims to develop sustainable cooperation mechanisms for cross-border judicial cooperation in criminal matters between EU Member States and South Partner Countries (SPCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine<sup>7</sup> and Tunisia. The project entered its [sixth phase](#) in 2024, focusing particularly on strengthening operational cooperation between SPCs, EU Member States, and Eurojust, including the practitioners' networks that the Agency supports.

In 2024, the EuroMed Justice project hosted 18 operational meetings and organised multiple capacity-building activities. In May 2024, the [19<sup>th</sup> EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters \(CrimEx\) and 3<sup>rd</sup> EuroMed Justice Network \(EMJNet\) meetings](#) focused on identifying common challenges and responses to strengthen international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. In October 2024, the [4<sup>th</sup> EMJNet meeting](#) allowed participants to share knowledge and exchange best practices on international judicial cooperation related to the different stages of asset recovery.

In December 2024, the [20<sup>th</sup> CrimEx meeting](#), addressed the technical and strategic aspects of international judicial cooperation. The events hosted by Eurojust also provided the opportunity for eight bilateral meetings between SPCs and representatives of the Eurojust National Desks, aimed at enhancing operational cooperation.

The project also supported the organisation of two technical meetings related to the conclusion of international agreements on cooperation with Eurojust for Lebanon and Algeria, in March and December 2024, respectively. These meetings enabled both countries to understand the requirements for concluding international agreements, in particular in relation to data protection.

Participants were introduced to the work of Eurojust's Liaison Prosecutors and the National Desks, the life cycle of Eurojust cases and the operational support provided by the Agency, including that of the JIT's Network Secretariat.

Over the past five years, Eurojust cases involving SPCs have mainly concerned swindling and fraud, money laundering and organised crime. In 2024, Israel was the SPC that participated in the highest number of coordination meetings and coordination centres.

### Western Balkans Criminal Justice project

The [Western Balkans Criminal Justice project](#) aims to strengthen judicial cooperation within the Western Balkans as well as between the region and the EU in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. The participating countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>8</sup>, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

During 2024, the project received an increased number of requests for operational support from the Western Balkan judicial authorities, and supported 25 cross-border investigations related to drug trafficking, money laundering, money counterfeiting, corruption and firearms trafficking. Three new JITs between Western Balkan judicial authorities were signed and supported by the project. This support included the organisation of two action days, which led to the [arrest of a dozen suspects and the seizure of weapons and counterfeit money](#).

The project organised five [outreach events](#) at the country level, the [first meeting of the Consultative Forum of General and Special Chief prosecutors of the Western Balkans](#), and a number of thematic regional events. These included a peer-to-peer meeting on Sky ECC with the French and Belgian Desks at Eurojust, and a regional workshop on the cumulative prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters with the Genocide Network Secretariat.

<sup>7</sup> This designation is not to be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

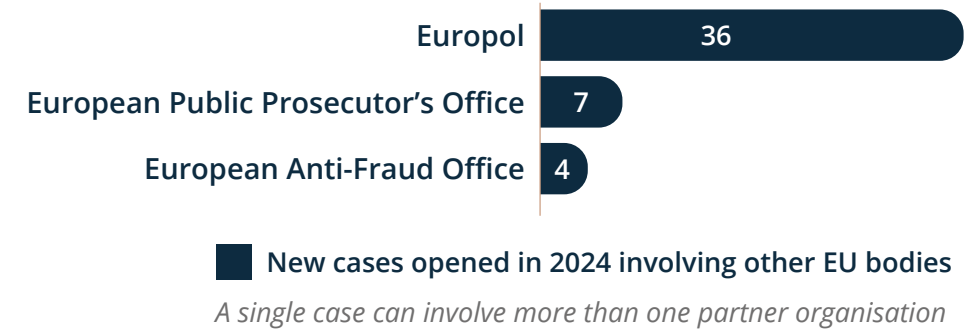
<sup>8</sup> This designation is made without prejudice to positions on status and is in accordance with UNSCR 1244/ 1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

The project also conducted, in partnership with the Academy of European Law and the JITs Network Secretariat, two new training workshops for Western Balkan practitioners in [the Netherlands](#) and [Germany](#), on JITs and judicial cooperation for young or newly appointed judges and prosecutors, attended by more than 300 participants. Throughout 2024, the project continued to support the participation of Western Balkan countries in the activities of the Networks (EJN, EJCEN) and Focus Groups (Migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings) hosted by Eurojust.

Over the past five years, Eurojust cases involving Western Balkan countries have mainly been related to drug trafficking, organised crime and money laundering. Serbia was the Western Balkan country that participated in the highest number of coordination meetings and coordination centres supported by Eurojust in 2024, while Albania participated in the highest number of JITs.

2.5 Cooperation with EU agencies

Operational cooperation with the main actors in the security chain is vital to ensuring justice gets done. Throughout 2024, Eurojust continued to cooperate closely with the European Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies, contributing judicial expertise in the joint fight against cross-border crime. In 2024, in addition to ongoing cases, the Agency handled a significant number of new cross-border cases with Europol, and a smaller number with EPPO and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).



Europol

In 2024, Eurojust continued its close operational collaboration with Europol, working on 36 new cases together. Europol participated in 121 coordination meetings, 51 JITs and 7 coordination centres, providing valuable support and expertise to joint investigations.

An informal Eurojust-Europol working group was set up in 2024 to explore the business needs and opportunities for cooperation between the two agencies. The group met regularly throughout the year, and agreed on how to share information on upcoming operational meetings, identified a way forward for a Eurojust single point of contact for Europol, and discussed opportunities for future cooperation, including on securing digital evidence.

The first Eurojust College-Europol Management Board meeting in five years took place in October 2024. The agencies reflected on their joint operational achievements, exchanged views on the first year of implementation of the hit/no hit data exchange system, and discussed ways to enhance information sharing and flexible support to assist investigations into core international crimes committed in Ukraine.

EPPO

Eurojust worked together with EPPO on 31 cases, 24 of which were ongoing from previous years, and 7 of which were newly opened in 2024. During the year, EPPO participated in two JITs and two coordination meetings. In February 2024, the first joint EPPO-Eurojust coordination centre was established concerning carousel VAT fraud, showcasing effective collaboration and operational support.

In May 2024, Eurojust and EPPO launched a pilot phase for the hit/no hit data exchange system between the two agencies. The agencies also worked on the development of a model JIT agreement for EPPO and non-participating Member States/third countries, which is expected to be ready in 2025. Moreover, the agencies also cooperated on the European Commission's 'EU anti-fraud in Ukraine' project, which is linked to the Ukraine Facility (2024–2027).

OLAF

The number of new cases in which OLAF cooperated with Eurojust in 2024 doubled compared to the previous year. Moreover, OLAF participated in five coordination meetings in 2024, compared to only one in 2023, showing an increase in the agencies’ operational cooperation.

In January 2024, Eurojust and OLAF organised a workshop aimed at raising awareness about their respective mandates, as well as the agencies’ cooperation in JITs and fighting environmental crime. The agencies’ liaison teams met regularly to discuss the implementation of the Eurojust-EPPO Working Arrangement, identifying cooperation priorities at the operational and institutional levels. Moreover, a pilot exchange programme between the two agencies took place in May 2024.

Cooperation with EU agencies on new cases in 2024

EU body	Cases	Coordination meetings	Coordination centres	JITs
Europol	36	121	7	52
EPPO*	7	2	1	2
OLAF	4	5	0	0

\*Total number of cases reported to and received from EPPO.

Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network (JHAAN)

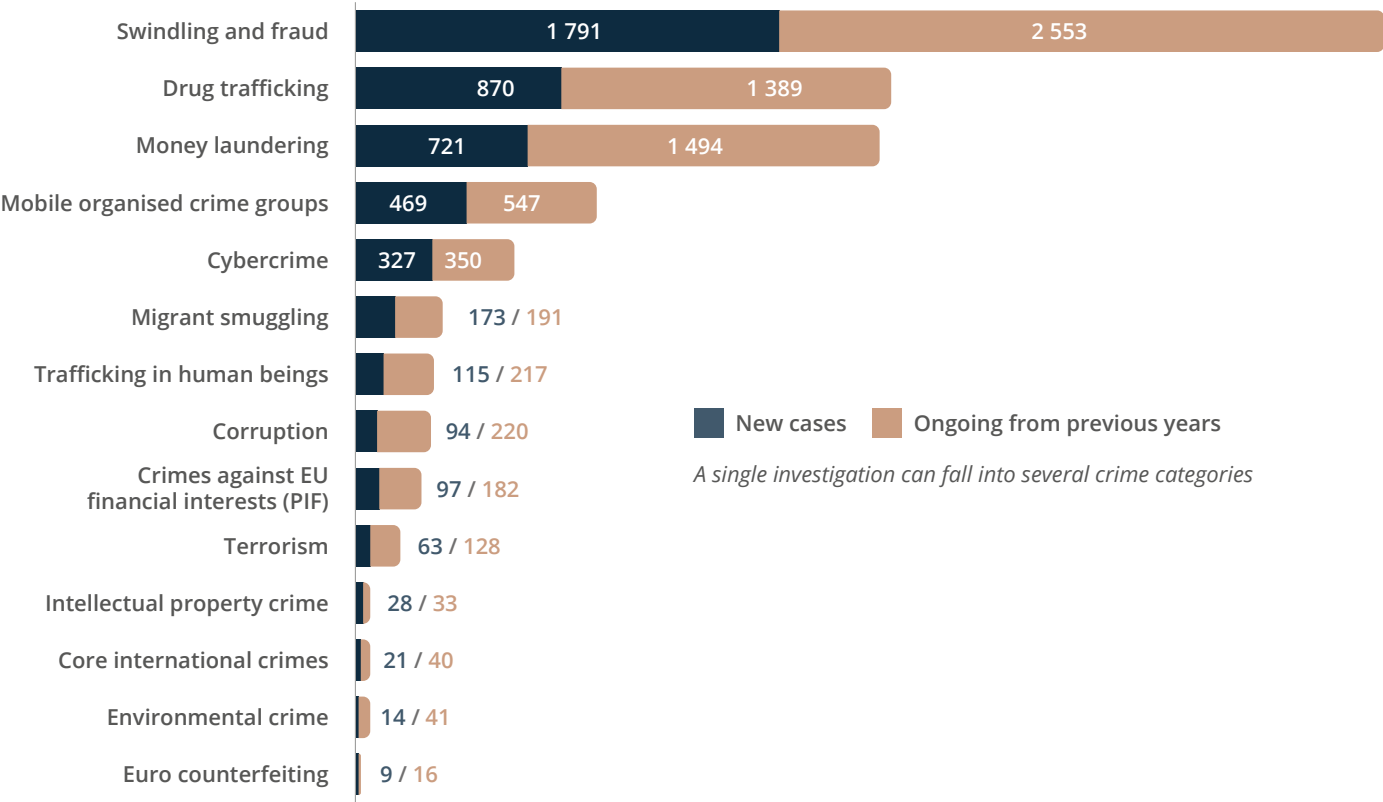
Throughout 2024, Eurojust continued to be an active member of the JHA Agencies Network (JHAAN). Eurojust contributed to the implementation of the network’s 2024 work programme, which focused on digitalisation, artificial intelligence and security, as well as inter-institutional cooperation, data protection and social responsibility.

The network also worked on documenting the JHA agencies’ actions, as part of the EU’s coordinated response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The nine EU agencies play a vital role in this response by contributing to the implementation of political decisions made at the European level, assisting Member States and other countries, and providing support to people affected by the war, in particular those displaced from Ukraine. The [latest overview](#) of the JHA agencies’ response covers the period from February 2024 to February 2025.



### 3. Key crime areas

#### 3.1 Overview of Eurojust-referred cases by crime type in 2024



In 2024, Eurojust dealt with almost 13 000 cases in 14 categories of serious cross-border crime, ranging from drug trafficking and money laundering to migrant smuggling and intellectual property crime.

The top three crime types handled by the Agency in 2024 continued to be swindling and fraud, drug trafficking and money laundering. Two thirds of all cases that Eurojust worked on in 2024 involved one of these crime types. Over 4 000 cases concerned swindling and fraud, while more than 2 000 cases dealt with drug trafficking or money laundering.

In addition to supporting a large number of ongoing cases from previous years across all crime types, the number of new cases referred to Eurojust increased in half of the crime categories in 2024 compared to 2023. In particular, the number of new core international crime cases in 2024 increased by 40% compared to the previous year, while cybercrime cases rose by one third and intellectual property crime cases by 20%.

Similarly, in 2024, national authorities requested Eurojust’s assistance in a slightly higher number of new cases related to swindling and fraud, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings compared to 2023.

## 3.2 Terrorism

*Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is a key threat to the security and safety of EU Member States, as well as to democratic values and the rule of law. The nature of terrorist threats has become increasingly diverse in recent years – based on different ideologies, motivations and triggers.*

*New technologies are often misused by terrorist groups and actors, and the online space has become a breeding ground for radicalisation, propaganda, recruitment, incitement and fundraising. The cross-border nature of terrorist networks and activities calls for enhanced information sharing and coordination to ensure a robust judicial response.*

### Eurojust's operational support to terrorism cases

Eurojust's coordination role in complex, cross-border terrorism investigations and prosecutions grew substantially in 2024. The Agency's increased role is demonstrated by the higher number of coordination meetings and JITs dedicated to terrorism cases in 2024 compared to the previous year. Moreover, the Agency set up a coordination centre on its premises to support a joint action day, which successfully disrupted terrorist communications and online propaganda (see key case).

Eurojust assisted the national authorities of EU Member States and partner third countries in almost 200 terrorism-related cases in 2024. Italy initiated the most terrorism cases at the Agency in 2024, followed by France, Spain and Germany. The Netherlands, followed by France, was the country most frequently requested to participate in cross-border terrorism cases. The United Kingdom and Norway were the third countries that owned the most terrorism cases at the Agency in 2024, while Ukraine and the United Kingdom were the third countries most frequently requested to participate in terrorism cases.

The cases supported by Eurojust were driven by different ideologies and concerned a range of criminal acts, including the preparation or commission of terrorist acts, participation in a terrorist organisation, terrorism financing, training, recruitment, radicalisation, incitement and public provocation to



terrorism. In some cases, terrorist offences were investigated together with other crimes, such as murder, kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking, and illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition and explosives.

Eurojust's expert and hands-on support to national judicial authorities included facilitating the execution of European Investigation Orders (EIOs) and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests to obtain information and evidence, hear witnesses or carry out other investigative measures. The Agency also facilitated European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) and extradition requests, coordinated parallel investigations, assisted in setting up and funding JITs and resolving *ne bis in idem* issues.

Throughout the year, Eurojust continued to collect information from national authorities on ongoing or concluded criminal investigations, prosecutions, court proceedings or decisions on terrorist offences through the [European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register \(CTR\)](#). The Register makes it possible to identify links between individuals and networks that are part of ongoing and past investigations throughout the EU.

### Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's counter-terrorism casework

In 2024, the [Council of the European Union](#) called for Eurojust and other EU JHA agencies to be more closely involved in intensifying counter-terrorism cooperation with third countries that are key to the EU's security. The Council also encouraged the adequate exchange of information on terrorism and violent extremism between EU JHA agencies and trusted partners<sup>9</sup>.

The conclusion of expert negotiations and the progress towards a pan-European definition of terrorism at the [Council of Europe](#) in 2024 is an important step that will have an impact on Mutual Legal Assistance in terrorism cases across Europe, including those supported by Eurojust.

<sup>9</sup> See [Council conclusions](#) on reinforcing external-internal connections in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

## Key case



Major takedown of critical online infrastructure to disrupt terrorist communications and propaganda



**CRIME:** Computer servers supporting multiple media outlets linked to Islamic State are used to disseminate worldwide propaganda and messages capable of inciting terrorism, in at least 30 languages.

**ACTION:** In a large-scale operation (initiated by the Spanish authorities, coordinated by Eurojust and supported by Europol), servers are taken down in Germany, the Netherlands, the United States and Iceland. Spanish authorities arrest nine radicalised individuals.

**RESULT:** Judicial and law enforcement authorities across Europe and in the United States dismantle critical online infrastructure, successfully disrupting platforms and websites for terrorist communication and propaganda.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust organises a dedicated coordination meeting and assists in the execution of EIOs and requests for MLAs. The Agency also sets up a coordination centre on its premises to support the authorities in all countries concerned to carry out searches and take down the servers.



## Key events

**Expert Meeting on Battlefield Evidence:** Tackling terrorism and core international crimes



**Eurojust Annual Meeting on Counter-Terrorism:** Dealing with the multifaceted terrorist threat



## Key publication

**The ARGO Case:** Diplomatic immunity in a cross-border terrorism case



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting terrorism



### 3.3 Core international crimes

*The crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (known collectively as core international crimes – CICs) are a threat to the peace, security and well-being of our world. Following the recent escalation of nearby conflicts in the European Union's wider neighbourhood, many countries have opened investigations into CICs.*

*In the current geopolitical climate, there is a need to secure the continued support and resources of national judicial authorities to advance accountability efforts for CICs committed in Ukraine and elsewhere, as supported by Eurojust and the Genocide Network.*



#### CORE INTERNATIONAL CRIME CASES IN 2024

**61 CASES**

(21 new cases,  
40 ongoing from previous years)

**5**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**  
(all ongoing from previous years)

**12**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

#### Eurojust's operational support to CIC cases

In 2024, Eurojust handled one third more CIC cases than in 2023. The Agency saw a 40% increase in the number of new cases it was asked to handle and a 30% increase in the number of ongoing cases.

Croatia was the EU country that initiated the most CIC cases at Eurojust in 2024, while Ukraine was the third country that owned the highest number of CIC cases. Croatia, Germany and Lithuania were the most frequently requested countries to participate in transnational CIC cases at the Agency in

2024, while Serbia, followed by the United States, was the third country most frequently requested to participate in such cases.

Eurojust assisted the national authorities of EU Member States and partner third countries mainly in cases concerning war crimes. Other cases supported by the Agency concerned crimes against humanity and genocide. Some ongoing cases addressed in 2024 concerned CICs in combination with crimes against life, limb or personal freedom, as well as organised crime.

In most CIC cases, Eurojust assisted the national authorities by facilitating the exchange of documents, as well as EIOs and MLA requests concerning, for example, extradition requests or to obtain information and evidence, hear witnesses or carry out other investigative measures. Some complex CIC cases required multifaceted support from Eurojust, including multiple coordination meetings as well as legal and analytical support.

#### Key case



Eurojust's support to accountability efforts following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine



**CRIME:** In **February 2022**, Russia commences its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

**ACTION:** In **March 2022**, Eurojust supports the establishment of a [JIT into alleged core international crimes committed in Ukraine](#), providing legal, analytical and financial assistance. The Agency organises various coordination meetings between the JIT and other national authorities, allowing countries to exchange data on their respective domestic investigations, discuss strategies and coordinate investigative measures. In **February 2024**, the JIT agreement is extended until **March 2026** and amended in **September 2024** to include investigations into crimes of torture, ill-treatment and filtration.

Since **March 2022**, Eurojust provides operational support to the [EU Freeze and Seize Task Force](#) set up by the European Commission to ensure the implementation of EU sanctions against listed Russian and Belarusian oligarchs across the EU. In **2024**, the Agency continues to cross-check the list of individuals and companies sanctioned by the EU against Eurojust's data, while also supporting cases of violation of EU sanctions and participating in [Operation Oscar](#).

In **February 2023**, Eurojust launches the [Core International Crimes Evidence Database \(CICED\)](#) to preserve, analyse and store evidence of core international crimes. In **2024**, the CICED team responds to information requests from national authorities and proactively analyses evidence to assist in their investigations.

In **March 2023**, the Ukraine Accountability Dialogue Group is launched. Eurojust, together with the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office, co-chairs the work stream dedicated to challenges in national investigations into CICs and human rights violations. **During 2024**, the work stream focuses on evidence-related challenges, including in the context of investigating crimes against or affecting children in Ukraine.

In **July 2023**, Eurojust establishes the [International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine \(ICPA\)](#), funded by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. ICPA members coordinate their investigative and prosecutorial activities, relying on Eurojust's legal, technical and logistical support. In **December 2024**, the Centre's funding period is extended for a further six months.

In **November 2024**, the [Genocide Network](#) grants Ukraine observer status, allowing it full access to the network's meetings and opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange and follow-up with its members.

**RESULTS SO FAR:** The national authorities participating in the JIT interview **4 000** witnesses, in addition to over **40 000** interviews conducted by the Ukrainian authorities on their own territory. As a result of the close cooperation between the JIT parties, the Lithuanian Prosecution Service issues notices of suspicion in absentia against six suspects. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine issues a notice of suspicion against another individual for war crimes against a civilian. The ICPA makes substantial progress in compiling a solid case-building package, intended for transmission to the future office of the prosecutor of a possible special tribunal or other jurisdictions.

The number of evidence files submitted to CICED increases significantly.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting core international crimes



## Key events

**36th Meeting of the Genocide Network:**  
Unlawful attacks under international law



**9th EU Day Against Impunity:**  
Marking thirty years of accountability



**Coordination Meetings of JIT into alleged Core International Crimes committed in Ukraine:**

- Agreement on JIT two year extension
- Enhancing investigations into crimes of torture, ill-treatment and filtration



## Key publication

**National Jurisprudence Database on Core International Crimes**



## Related network/project

**Network for Investigation and Prosecution of Genocide, Crimes against humanity and War crimes (Genocide Network)**



**National Authorities Against Impunity (IMPNA) Project**



### 3.4 Migrant Smuggling

*Migrant smuggling is a global criminal activity that often disrespects human life and impacts EU internal security in the pursuit of profit. Smuggling networks, often part of organised multi-national criminal networks, frequently take advantage of migrants' vulnerability, leading to violence, abuse, exploitation and loss of life. The use of the digital environment by OCGs to advertise, recruit, transport and collect payments is omnipresent in nearly every migrant smuggling case.*

#### Eurojust's operational support to migrant smuggling cases

For the first time in four years, the number of migrant smuggling cases, JITs and coordination meetings at Eurojust decreased in 2024. During the reporting period, the Agency handled approximately 15% fewer migrant smuggling cases, JITs and coordination meetings compared to the previous year.

National judicial authorities are encouraged to make more use of Eurojust's support to cross-border investigations, in particular through JITs, coordination meetings and coordination centres.

Greece opened the largest number of migrant smuggling cases at the Agency in 2024, followed by Italy. Germany, followed by Bulgaria and France, was the European country most frequently requested to participate in Eurojust's cross-border migrant smuggling cases in 2024.



#### MIGRANT SMUGGLING CASES IN 2024

**364 CASES**

(173 new cases,  
191 ongoing from previous years)

**16**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**

(6 new JITs, 10 ongoing)

**27**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

**3**

**COORDINATION CENTRES**

Cooperation with third countries in migrant smuggling cases is vital but can be cumbersome. The presence of Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust has greatly facilitated and intensified cooperation with these countries. Albania was the third country that initiated the highest number of migrant smuggling cases at the Agency in 2024. The United Kingdom and Serbia, both of which have Liaison Prosecutors posted at Eurojust, were the most frequently requested third countries to contribute to international migrant smuggling investigations.

Increasingly, digital evidence is playing an important role in migrant smuggling investigations, as OCGs use digital tools, online platforms, social media and encrypted telephones to offer their illicit services. This trend was very evident in Eurojust's 2024 migrant smuggling casework. In response to practitioners' requests for more support in so-called 'digital migrant smuggling' cases, the Agency developed a [list of resources](#) to assist judicial authorities in overcoming the obstacles they face in such cases (see key publication). Another trend observed in Eurojust's 2024 casework was a significant increase in the use of violence by OCGs against migrants, as well as law enforcement officers and border guards.

In 2024, the Western Balkans subgroup of the Migrant Smuggling Focus Group met to discuss key developments and concrete operational cases.



## Key case



### Action against criminal network smuggling Syrian migrants via Balkan route



**CRIME:** A smuggling network illegally transports Syrian migrants via the Balkan route to Germany and the United Kingdom. Routes are often changed to avoid detection by law enforcement. Migrants pay up to EUR 12 000 per person for the OCG's irregular transportation services.

**ACTION:** During an action day, 25 places are searched and vehicles, cash, various communication devices and data carriers are seized. More than 450 police officers are deployed in the countries involved as part of the operation.

**RESULT:** In total, 29 suspects involved in the smuggling of at least 750 migrants are arrested (20 during the joint action day, and 9 during a previous operation by the Serbian authorities). Eurojust and Europol assist the German authorities with the coordinated takedown of the smuggling network.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust supports Germany, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia in setting up and financing a JIT, in operational partnership with Austria. Eurojust organises five coordination meetings and assists with the execution of European Investigation Orders and requests for Mutual Legal Assistance to the non-EU countries involved. The Agency organises a coordination centre on its premises to support the action day and facilitate direct contact between all authorities on the ground.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting migrant smuggling



## Key event

**Eurojust Annual Meeting on Migrant Smuggling:** Unaccompanied minors and challenges in the digital domain



## Key publications

**Legal Definition of Migrant Smuggling and/or Facilitation of Irregular Migration:** An overview of EU legislation



**Eurojust's Resources to Fight Migrant Smuggling in the Digital Domain**



## Related network

**Eurojust Focus Group on Migrant Smuggling**



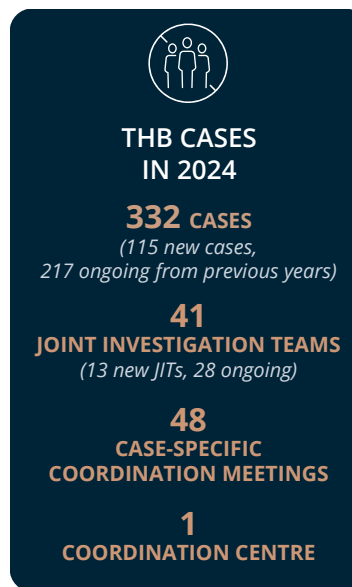
### 3.5 Trafficking in human beings

*Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a serious crime and a grave violation of fundamental rights. The war in Ukraine has further increased opportunities for traffickers to exploit vulnerable people fleeing the aggression. Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains the most prevalent form of exploitation in the EU, while labour exploitation has increased in recent years but remains underreported.*

#### Eurojust's operational support to human trafficking cases

Eurojust continued to assist national judicial authorities with more than 300 cases in 2024. Roughly one third of the total number of cases handled were new cases referred to the Agency in 2024. Eurojust also supported a significant number of JITs in this area, 13 of which were newly opened in 2024. For the first time in three years, the number of THB cases and JITs supported by the Agency increased slightly compared to the previous year.

Romania opened the highest number of human trafficking cases in 2024, followed by Hungary and Belgium. Romania and Germany are the countries that were most frequently requested to participate in Eurojust's cross-border THB cases in 2024. Switzerland was the third country that initiated the most human trafficking cases at the Agency in 2024, while the United Kingdom was the most frequently requested third country to contribute to international investigations in this area.



#### Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's human trafficking casework

In 2024, the [Eurojust THB Focus Group](#) (established under the [EU strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings \(2021-2025\)](#) and co-implemented by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator) continued to improve the criminal justice response to cross-border human trafficking cases. Members exchanged best practices on a range of topics, including monitoring online channels for suspected human trafficking, conducting investigations on social media platforms, technical and judicial aspects of using web crawlers, financial investigations in THB cases, human trafficking for forced criminality, THB for labour exploitation, and pimping and THB for sexual exploitation.

Illegal surrogacy as a form of exploitation was another key topic tackled by the Focus Group in 2024. Based on the Agency's experience in working on cross-border illegal surrogacy cases, Eurojust has raised awareness of the relationship between international surrogacy arrangements and potential human trafficking (see [key publication](#)).

In the revised [EU Anti-Trafficking Directive](#), updated in 2024, the definition of human trafficking offences has been extended to include the exploitation of surrogacy, as well as forced marriage and illegal adoption. Those who knowingly use services provided by victims of trafficking will be considered to have committed a criminal offence. The revised Directive introduces stricter criminalisation and provides stronger tools for public authorities to investigate and prosecute new forms of exploitation, including those taking place online, ensuring better support to victims.

## Key case



Eight arrested in international operation against human trafficking supported by Eurojust



**CRIME:** An OCG is involved in the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

**ACTION:** During a joint international operation, searches take place in Belgium and Hungary.

**RESULT:** Six suspects are arrested in Belgium and two in Hungary. Several victims are identified and brought to safety. The police seize 15 luxury vehicles, around EUR 34 000 in cash and EUR 9 500 in gold and silver during the searches in Belgium. In Hungary, a luxury vehicle, EUR 6 000 in cash and four wristwatches are seized.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust assists the Belgian and Hungarian authorities in setting up and funding a JIT into the case, and organises a coordination meeting to facilitate judicial cooperation.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting trafficking in human beings



## Key event

**Annual Meeting of Focus Group on Trafficking in Human Beings:**  
Close cooperation across borders with Eurojust support



## Key publication

**Surrogacy and Human Trafficking**



## Related network

**Eurojust Focus Group on Trafficking in Human Beings**





## 3.6 Drug trafficking

*Drug trafficking is one of the most serious security threats facing Europe today. The situation is escalating, with an unprecedented increase in the availability of illicit drugs in Europe, in particular cocaine from South America. Moreover, the level of violence associated with the drug trade appears to be increasing in Europe. The drug trade continues to be one of the main profit-generating activities of organised crime, estimated to represent around one fifth of global crime proceeds<sup>10</sup>.*

### Eurojust's operational support to drug trafficking cases

Drug trafficking was the second most frequently addressed crime area at Eurojust in 2024. The Agency dealt with over 2 000 cases, more than 800 of which were newly opened in 2024. The number of JITs related to drug trafficking cases increased by 42% compared to the previous year. A significant number of coordination meetings and action days were organised by Eurojust, enabling judicial cooperation that dismantled drug trafficking networks and brought criminals to justice.

In 2024, Germany initiated the largest number of cross-border drug trafficking cases at Eurojust, followed by Italy. In 2024, France was the country most frequently requested to participate in transnational drug trafficking cases handled by Eurojust, followed by Spain and the Netherlands.

Albania was the third country that initiated the most international drug trafficking cases at the Agency in 2024, while the United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland and Norway, was the third country most frequently requested to participate in such cases in 2024.

During the year, Eurojust witnessed a rise in the number of requests for cooperation with third countries on drug trafficking cases. This led the



Agency to analyse best practices in this area, based on the practical experience of Liaison Prosecutors posted at Eurojust from several non-EU countries (see key publication). In 2024, several complex drug trafficking cases involving Latin American and Western Balkan countries were successfully supported by the Agency (see chapter 2).

A notable proportion of Eurojust's drug trafficking cases in 2024 were investigations linked to data coming from encrypted communication networks used by OCGs, such as [EncroChat](#) and [Sky ECC](#).

Other trends observed in Eurojust's 2024 drug trafficking casework include a significant increase in drug seizures at small ports around Europe (compared to larger ports in 2023), and the increasing sophistication with which OCGs camouflage drugs for transport.

### Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's drug trafficking casework

In September 2024, the [European Judicial Organised Crime Network \(EJOcN\)](#) – a priority measure in the [EU Roadmap to fight drug-trafficking and organised crime](#) – was launched at Eurojust (see chapter 2 and section 3.11).

The EJOcN's initial priority is to combat drug-related organised crime connected to European ports and other logistical hubs. As key gateways to Europe, ports are not only important hubs for trade but also for crime. 70% of drug seizures by customs take place in ports, while 50% of criminal networks operating in the EU are involved in drug trafficking. Criminals involved in drug trafficking often commit extreme violence, money laundering, as well as other offences.

<sup>10</sup> [Understanding Europe's drug situation in 2024 – key developments \(European Drug Report 2024\)](#) | [www.euda.europa.eu](http://www.euda.europa.eu)

## Key case



Over 6 million illegally exported pills seized in international operation against drug trafficking network



**CRIME:** A criminal group sets up an international smuggling route for prescription pills used to treat anxiety, seizures and insomnia. The pills are bought from criminal groups in Serbia, where they are hidden in car tyres and clothing, and transported to Romania and Estonia, and on to the Nordic countries, where they are sold on the streets for large sums of money.

**ACTION:** During a large-scale operation coordinated from Eurojust's headquarters, Romanian, Finnish and Serbian authorities arrest 47 people and seize over 6 million pills worth approximately EUR 12.5 million. Additionally, cash, mobile phones, firearms, luxury cars and two houses are seized in Romania.

**RESULT:** The drug trafficking network is successfully dismantled, following the Eurojust-supported operation.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** A JIT is set up at Eurojust between Romanian, Estonian, Finnish and Serbian authorities to collect and exchange information and evidence directly, and carry out joint operations. Eurojust facilitates the coordination and execution in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia of European Investigation Orders issued by Romania. These enable the national authorities to use special investigative techniques that are key to the effectiveness of the operation.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting drug trafficking



## Key events

**Meeting to Sign Working Arrangement with Panama:** Deepening cooperation on drug trafficking and organised crime



**Meeting to Sign Working Arrangements between Eurojust and five Latin American countries:** Stepping up cooperation on drug trafficking and organised crime



## Key publication

**International Cooperation in Drug Trafficking Cases with Third Countries:** Practical experiences of Liaison Prosecutors at Eurojust



## 3.7 Cybercrime

*Cybercrime continues to grow, attracting criminals who exploit new opportunities offered by modern technology. The main threats are ransomware, malware, social engineering, threats against data, denial-of-service attacks, internet threats, information manipulation and interference, and supply chain attacks.*

*Cyber-enabled crime, such as online investment fraud, online sexual exploitation of children, and the criminal use of encrypted communication platforms, also continues to pose a significant threat to society.*



### CYBERCRIME CASES IN 2024

**677 CASES**

(327 new cases,  
350 ongoing from previous years)

**23**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**  
(10 new JITs, 13 ongoing)

**123**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

**4**

**COORDINATION CENTRES**

### Eurojust's operational support to cybercrime cases

In 2024, cybercrime remained one of the top five crime areas handled by the Agency. Eurojust dealt with 25% more cybercrime cases in 2024 compared to the previous year, almost half of which were newly opened. Moreover, the Agency supported 50% more JITs in 2024 (including double the number of newly formed JITs compared to 2023), as well as 55% more coordination meetings related to cybercrime cases.

Spain, followed by the Netherlands, Germany and France, was the country most involved in cross-border cybercrime cases at the Agency in 2024. The United Kingdom, followed by the

United States and Switzerland, was the third country most frequently involved in such cases.

Eurojust's cybercrime casework enabled the disruption and/or takedown of malware, ransomware and encrypted communication platforms, and also included cases of online fraud, including investment fraud.

The Agency continued to provide Member States with crucial assistance in cases involving encrypted communication platforms used by criminals to facilitate all types of crime. This resulted in the decryption of messages on the platforms related to criminal activities such as drug trafficking, firearms trafficking and murder.

A recent example involved the [takedown of a sophisticated encrypted messaging service, MATRIX](#), made by criminals for criminals. During the investigation, the Dutch and French authorities, working together as part of a Eurojust-supported JIT, were able to intercept the messaging service and decipher more than 2.3 million messages in 33 languages.

### Key case



Malware targeting millions of people taken down by international coalition



**EUROJUST**

**CRIME:** RedLine and Meta (large malware platforms called 'infostealers') target millions of victims worldwide by stealing personal data from infected devices. Over 1 200 servers in dozens of countries run the malware. The infostealers then sell the information to other criminals, who use it to steal money and cryptocurrency and carry out follow-on hacking activities.

**ACTION:** On 28 October 2024, a global operation to take down the infostealers takes place, supported by Eurojust.

**RESULT:** The international coalition of authorities shuts down three servers in the Netherlands, seizes two domains, unseals charges in the United States and takes two people into custody in Belgium.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust coordinates cooperation between authorities from the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Australia. Through Eurojust, authorities are able to quickly exchange information and coordinate actions to take down the infostealers.



## Key events

### **Eurojust and Council of Europe Workshop:**

Spontaneous information sharing



### **16th EJC� Plenary Meeting:**

Data Retention, Digital Services Act, Blockchain Analytics



### **17th EJC� Plenary Meeting:**

Ransomware, Child Sexual Abuse Online, Cybercrime Facilitators



**SIRIUS Conference 2024:** Supporting Cross-Border Access to Electronic Evidence



## Related network/project

**European Judicial Cybercrime Network (EJC�)**



**SIRIUS Project**



## Key publications

**Cybercrime Judicial Monitor – Issue 9**



**The Effect of Court of Justice of the European Union Case-Law on National Data Retention Regimes and Judicial Cooperation in the EU**



**First Report on Encryption by the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security**



**Common Challenges in Cybercrime**



**SIRIUS Electronic Evidence Situation Report 2024**



**Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting cybercrime**



### 3.8 Economic crime

*Economic crime poses a growing threat to the economy and the integrity of financial systems. These crimes include money laundering, fraud, corruption, violations of sanctions, counterfeiting, and related financial investigations and asset recovery. Economic crime targets individuals, businesses and public institutions.*



#### SWINDLING & FRAUD CASES IN 2024

**4 344 CASES**

(1 791 new cases,  
2 553 ongoing from previous years)

**93**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**  
(33 new JITs, 60 ongoing)

**152**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

**11**

**COORDINATION CENTRES**

#### Swindling and fraud

Swindling and fraud remained the top crime type addressed by Eurojust in 2024. The Agency handled 5% more swindling and fraud cases in 2024 compared to the previous year. Moreover, Eurojust supported 40% more action days, 35% more JITs and 20% more coordination meetings in this area compared to 2023.

Greece, followed by Italy, was the country that initiated the most swindling and fraud cases at the Agency in 2024. Switzerland, followed by Ukraine, was the third country that opened the highest number of such cases. Germany, followed by Spain, was the country most frequently requested to participate in

cross-border swindling and fraud cases in 2024, while the United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, was the third country most frequently requested to participate in such cases.

Throughout the EU, thousands of victims continued to be targeted by fraud schemes put in place by criminal organised groups (e.g. investment fraud and food fraud). These complex multilateral investment fraud cases required judicial cooperation, facilitated by Eurojust, particularly in relation to

centralising proceedings at the national and international levels, avoiding conflicts of jurisdiction, prioritising common suspects for prosecution and compensating victims.

Throughout 2024, Eurojust continued to protect the EU's financial interests within its mandate, in cooperation with EPPO and other partners, by supporting ongoing investigations and participating in EMPACT. The Agency also continued to support numerous excise fraud investigations, and fostered cooperation and exchanges among practitioners in relation to Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud.



#### MONEY LAUNDERING CASES IN 2024

**2 215 CASES**

(721 new cases,  
1 494 ongoing from previous years)

**87**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**  
(27 new JITs, 60 ongoing)

**142**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

**8**

**COORDINATION CENTRES**

#### Money laundering

As in previous years, money laundering featured among the top three crime types addressed by the Agency in 2024. More than 2 000 money laundering cases were handled, including over 700 newly opened in 2024. The number of JITs in this area grew by 25% in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Some recurring issues addressed in Eurojust's casework in 2024 concerned the following: dual criminality and predicate offences, the sale of cryptocurrencies during the asset recovery process, hawala<sup>11</sup> and underground banking, the mixing of legitimate and illegitimate profits, and money laundering services through financial institutions.

The Agency also supported national authorities in coordinating the exchange of information at the national and international levels between prosecutors, judges, asset recovery and asset management offices, financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies, crypto experts and financial investigators.

<sup>11</sup> An alternative banking system based on trust and no official documentation.

In November 2024, Eurojust set up a new Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery. The Focus Group is composed of national prosecutors and judges involved in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and the recovery of criminal assets. The Focus Group will provide judicial authorities with guidance on post-conviction financial investigations, exceptional costs concerning the execution of freezing and confiscation orders, and restitution to or compensation of victims. Eurojust is uniquely placed to coordinate this international platform and will ensure the group's collaboration with the European Commission, EU agencies/bodies, international partners, and the EU Freeze and Seize Task Force in the field of EU sanctions.

In May 2024, the European Commission's package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's rules on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism was adopted. The scope of the Transfer of Funds Regulation now also extends to the transfer of crypto-assets. Moreover, in June 2024, the Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) was established. It is responsible for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism measures at the EU level, and also supports Financial Intelligence Units. Under the terms of the Regulation, the AMLA will share the results of financial intelligence analyses with Eurojust to enable the Agency to exercise its competence.



## Corruption

Corruption is a key enabler of most criminal operations, with 60% of the criminal networks operating in the EU using corrupt methods to achieve their illicit objectives.

In 2024, Eurojust supported more than 300 corruption cases, around one third of which were newly referred to the Agency during the year. Eurojust supported almost twice as many corruption-related JITs in 2024 compared to 2023, more than half of which were newly established in 2024.

Greece, followed by Romania and Italy, was the country that initiated the most corruption cases at Eurojust in 2024. Albania, followed by Ukraine, was the third country that opened the highest number of such cases. France, followed by Germany, was the country most frequently requested to participate in cross-border corruption cases at the Agency in 2024, while the United Kingdom was the third country most frequently requested to participate in such cases.

During the year, Eurojust continued to participate in the European Commission's EU network against corruption, which brings together law enforcement agencies, public authorities, practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure prevention and develop best practices and guidelines to fight corruption effectively.



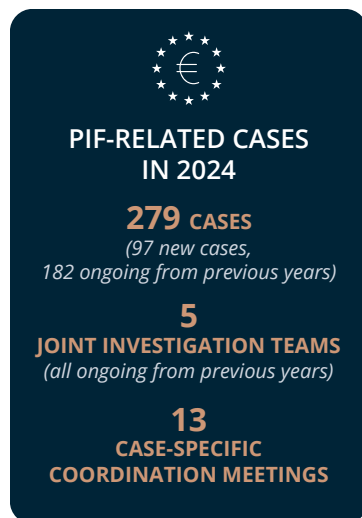
## Euro counterfeiting

Eurojust handled 25 euro counterfeiting cases in 2024, a third of which were newly opened during the year. The Agency also supported a new JIT, as well as four coordination meetings to assist investigations in this area.

A current challenge is the increasing circulation of a highly deceptive type of counterfeit money – so-called 'movie money', prop copy products and other banknotes with altered designs. At present, there is no common judicial approach in the EU Member States to prosecute criminals involved in the production and distribution of these counterfeits.

Another challenge relates to the establishment of effective cross-border judicial cooperation with non-cooperative third countries that are major exporters of counterfeit euro banknotes, coins and raw materials for the production of counterfeits.

In 2024, Eurojust continued to participate in the work of the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group – a coordination platform led by the European Commission for anti-counterfeiting measures, bringing together experts from Member States, the European Central Bank, Eurojust, Europol and Interpol. Moreover, the Agency participated in the third EU-China platform meeting on the protection of currencies against counterfeiting, and together with Europol, hosted a study visit of the Chinese delegation.



### PIF crime

Eurojust supported slightly fewer PIF-related cases (crimes against the financial interests of the EU), JITs and coordination meetings in 2024 compared to the previous year. Approximately one third of the 279 cases handled by the Agency were newly opened in 2024.

Italy, followed by Bulgaria and Belgium, was the country that initiated the most PIF-related cases at the Agency in 2024. Germany, followed by Spain and Lithuania, was the country most frequently requested to participate in cross-border PIF-related cases at Eurojust in 2024.

In 2024, Albania, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States were the third countries involved in PIF-related cases at the Agency.

### Financial investigations and asset recovery

Depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime by freezing and confiscating criminal assets is highly effective in fighting organised crime and also a powerful deterrent. Eurojust has built up substantial institutional knowledge of solutions and best practices that can significantly improve the effectiveness of investigations, prosecutions and ultimately the recovery of criminal proceeds.

In 2024, the Agency continued to support national authorities in the practical application of the Regulation on mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders. Some issues addressed in Eurojust's casework in 2024 concern the direct applicability and scope of the [Regulation, time limits, restitution to victims, exceptional costs, freezing of cryptocurrencies](#), affected persons and concurrent certificates.

The [Directive on asset recovery and confiscation](#), adopted in April 2024, will significantly impact Eurojust's asset recovery casework. The Directive introduces EU-wide minimum rules on tracing, freezing, confiscating, disposing of and managing criminal property in connection with a wide range of crimes.

### Violation of EU sanctions

Eurojust continued to support an increased number of cases related to the violation of EU sanctions and related crimes. In 2024, a number of challenges were identified by national authorities concerning the violations of sanctions, and in particular, the illicit flow of sensitive technology. The use of shell companies, including those in third countries, to circumvent sanctions makes the investigations highly complex and challenging. The adoption in May 2024 of the [Directive on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures](#) has had an impact on the rise of cases in this sensitive area.

### EU Freeze and Seize Task Force and sanction evasions

In 2024, Eurojust continued to exercise its coordinating role in the [EU Freeze and Seize Task Force](#), established by the European Commission to ensure the efficient implementation of EU sanctions against listed Russian and Belarusian oligarchs across the European Union in connection with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Eurojust continued to cross-check the list of individuals and companies sanctioned by the EU against Eurojust's data, identifying and confirming several new links. The Agency also supported cases of violations of EU sanctions. It continued to collect relevant information at the national level

on past and ongoing investigations related to persons on the sanctions list to facilitate criminal proceedings and identify legal and practical obstacles that may hinder the confiscation of assets owned or controlled by the listed individuals and companies.

Throughout 2024, the Agency continued to participate in [Operation Oscar](#), led by Europol, to support the freezing of criminal assets of persons and entities sanctioned by the EU and to provide judicial cooperation support to national authorities.



### Key events

**Expert Meeting on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery:**  
Stepping up the judicial response



**Eurojust and U.S. Department of Justice Meeting:**  
Combating the unlawful transfer of sensitive technology to foreign adversaries



**4th EuroMed Justice Network Meeting:**  
Asset recovery best practices from South Partner Countries and EU Member States



### Key case



#### Full-scale action against EUR 2 billion money laundering network



**CRIME:** An estimated EUR 2 billion is laundered by two main suspects, residing in Lithuania and Latvia, via a worldwide web of shell companies. The suspects offer money laundering online as a service to thousands of criminals across the EU. The third main suspect defrauds the Italian authorities of EUR 15 million in public funds, laundered via the same network of enterprises, centred around a financial institution in Lithuania.

**ACTION:** A joint action day takes place, supported by Eurojust and Europol, involving 250 judicial representatives and law enforcement officers on the ground. Fifty-five coordinated searches are conducted in Italy, Latvia and Lithuania.

**RESULT:** During the international operation, over EUR 11.5 million in assets and bank accounts are frozen, and 18 persons are arrested, including the three main suspects.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust supports the establishment and funding of a JIT, eight coordination meetings and a coordination centre to facilitate the simultaneous actions in the three countries concerned. The Agency also facilitates the restitution to Italy of over EUR 3 million of the illegally obtained public funds, which are frozen by the Lithuanian authorities.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting economic crime



### 3.9 Environmental crime

*Environmental crime endangers entire ecosystems while posing a serious threat to human health. It is one of the most profitable forms of illegal activity in the world. Since 2016, environmental crime has been the fourth-largest criminal activity globally<sup>12</sup>. Environmental crimes are often organised crimes with a cross-border dimension. The number of environmental crime investigations and prosecutions at the national and European levels remains low compared to other crime areas.*

#### Eurojust's operational support to environmental crime cases

In 2024, Eurojust handled 57 environmental crime cases, which is almost 20% less than in 2023. Environmental crime was the second least frequent type of crime addressed by Eurojust in 2024.

Waste crime and wildlife crime remained the most prominent types of environmental crime dealt with by the Agency in 2024.

Slovenia, followed by Italy, was the country that initiated the most environmental crime cases at Eurojust in 2024. Italy was also the country that was most frequently requested to participate in cross-border environmental cases handled by the Agency.

The number of environmental cases referred to Eurojust has been consistently low over the past five years. There are a number of reasons for this. One of the main challenges is the complexity of investigating environmental crime, which requires specialised legal, technical and scientific knowledge, and a multitude of actors responsible for monitoring compliance, conducting controls, detecting offences and gathering evidence. While the exchange of information and coordination at the national level is already difficult, it becomes even more challenging at the international level. The lack of specialised prosecutors in many EU Member States complicates the situation.



#### ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME CASES IN 2024

**57 CASES**

(14 new cases,  
43 ongoing from previous years)

**5**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

Another challenge is the variation in investigative approaches to environmental offences across jurisdictions, depending on whether administrative or criminal law is applied. Moreover, a lack of recognition of environmental crime as organised crime hampers the initiation of cross-border investigations. There are also differences in legislative approaches, which may create difficulties in cross-border judicial cooperation, such as issues of dual criminality. At the same time, criminal activities that damage the environment are often prosecuted as

other crimes, such as fraud, tax evasion, money laundering or corruption. All these challenges result in a low number of environmental crime cases being investigated and subsequently referred to Eurojust.

#### Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's environmental crime casework

The EU's new [Environmental Crime Directive](#) entered into force in May 2024. The Directive contains important provisions to improve cross-border cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of environmental crime. EU Member States must transpose the Directive into national law by May 2026. It is expected that this legislative development will mitigate the judicial challenges faced in addressing environmental crime and lead to more environmental cases being referred to Eurojust.

Furthermore, the [Council conclusions on combating cross-border environmental crime](#), published in October 2024, recognise that Eurojust has a crucial role to play in combating environmental crime. Member States are encouraged to make full use of the Agency's specialised judicial tools, including JITs, coordination meetings and coordination centres, to successfully tackle environmental crime cases.

<sup>12</sup> [The Rise of Environmental Crime \(2016\)](#), Interpol and United Nations Environment Programme.

## Key case



### Illegal trade in fake and prohibited pesticides and fertilizers halted in Romania and Italy



**EUROJUST**

**CRIME:** A Romanian-Italian OCG illegally imports products that are banned for trade in the EU from China, and fraudulently sells them as organic fertilizers and pesticides, using fake labels. The illegal trading scheme is potentially dangerous to consumers' health.

**ACTION:** During a series of actions in both Romania and Italy, 10 locations are searched and evidence of large-scale fraud, forgery and tax evasion is gathered. The Romanian judicial authority arrests one of the suspects, and another suspect is subsequently surrendered by Italy in execution of a Romanian EAW.

**RESULT:** The illegal trading scheme in counterfeit and banned agricultural products is halted, and the suspects are tried in Romania and Italy.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Eurojust plays a significant role in streamlining prosecutions in the two countries, facilitating information exchange, providing guidance on different procedural steps, including on transfer of criminal proceedings, and managing different national and EU legal frameworks. Eurojust assists also with the setting up and financing of a JIT. During a dedicated coordination meeting, the Agency advises on determining the most suitable jurisdiction, minimizing the risk of double jeopardy, securing the evidentiary standards and protection of individuals' rights.



**Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting environmental crime**



## Key events

**46th Meeting of the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group:** Increasing coordination in the fight against wildlife trafficking



**Italian Parliamentary Enquiry Committee on Environmental Crimes and Illicit Trafficking of Waste**



## Related network

**European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)**



### 3.10 Intellectual property crime

*Intellectual property (IP) crime is commonplace – from the fake goods sold online or in physical stores to the music, films, series and football matches made illegally available over the internet. Though often regarded as harmless, this form of criminality has serious and pervasive negative effects on the economy, public health and consumer safety.*

*While IP crime poses significant concerns to law enforcement and judicial authorities, due to its links to organised crime and other forms of serious criminality, criminals take advantage of the low-risk and high-profit nature of this crime area. The emergence and rapid spread of new technologies make IP crime increasingly difficult to investigate, as perpetrators use them to avoid detection.*



#### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME CASES IN 2024

**61 CASES**

(28 new cases,  
33 ongoing from previous years)

**2**

**JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS**

(all ongoing from previous years)

**10**

**CASE-SPECIFIC  
COORDINATION MEETINGS**

**1**

**COORDINATION CENTRE**

Germany and Poland were the EU countries most frequently requested to participate in cross-border IP crime cases, while the United Kingdom was the most frequently requested third country to participate in such cases.

The Agency's IP crime casework in 2024 showed that counterfeiting and product piracy cases are becoming increasingly multilateral and complex in nature, owing to the use of emerging technologies by criminals. As a result, national authorities are increasingly turning to Eurojust for support in such cases, and the Agency's role is likely to grow further still in the coming years.

#### Eurojust's operational support to intellectual property crime cases

The number of IP crime cases handled by Eurojust in 2024 continued to grow steadily and increased by more than 10% compared to the previous year. Approximately half of the IP crime cases supported by the Agency were newly opened in 2024. Moreover, the number of IP crime-related coordination meetings organised by Eurojust more than doubled compared to 2023.

Italy, followed by France, was the country that initiated the highest number of counterfeiting and product piracy cases at the Agency in 2024.

## Key case



International operation leads to seizure of 2 000 fake works of art, preventing losses of EUR 200 million



EUROJUST

**CRIME:** A criminal network operating in Spain, France and Belgium forges over 2 000 works of contemporary art by famous artists, including Banksy, Warhol, Picasso, Klimt, Monet, Van Gogh and Dalí. The European forgery network works with several complicit auction houses in Italy to sell the pieces.

**ACTION:** National authorities conduct searches in Spain, France and Belgium. The searches lead to the discovery of forgery workshops and the seizure of many fake works of art and more than 500 forged certificates of authenticity. Thirty-eight suspects are investigated for conspiracy to forge and deal in contemporary art.

**RESULT:** Following a year-and-a-half-long investigation by Italian authorities, in cooperation with Belgian, French and Spanish counterparts, the network is successfully dismantled. By preventing these works from reaching the market, the authorities avert economic damage of around EUR 200 million.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Once the cross-border dimension of the criminal network is discovered, judicial cooperation is initiated at Eurojust. The Agency ensures that three European Investigation Orders are issued against six suspects in Spain, France and Belgium.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting intellectual property crime



## Key event

**18th Annual Forum of European Prosecutors General:**  
Addressing the Increase in Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights



## Key publications

**Intellectual Property Crime Case-Law of National Courts**



**Calculation of Damages in Criminal IP Cases**



**The Threat of Falsified Medicines**



## Related project

**Intellectual Property Crime Project**





## 3.11 Organised crime

*The scale, sophistication and violent consequences of organised crime have become a serious threat to the EU's security. Organised crime groups (OCGs) continue to endanger the values and functioning of our society, the safety, well-being and fundamental rights of our citizens, and the preservation of our economies and the rule of law.*

### Eurojust's operational support to organised crime cases

In 2024, Eurojust handled more than 1 000 organised crime cases, approximately half of which were newly opened in 2024. There was a slight increase in the number of joint investigation teams and coordination meetings the Agency organised to facilitate judicial cooperation in this area.

In 2024, Eurojust continued to contribute to the EMPACT Operational Action Plan on High Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN), which aims to identify and investigate high-value targets.

In 2024, Eurojust co-led four operational actions under this EMPACT priority, supporting judicial and law enforcement authorities' activities against organised criminal networks. Due to the poly-criminality associated with high-risk criminal networks, the operational actions tackled a wide range of crime areas.



During the year, Eurojust collaborated with Europol under the HRCN EMPACT priority by contributing to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Selection of High Value Targets, the Establishment of Operational Task Forces, and intelligence efforts regarding the most threatening networks operating in the EU and beyond.

### Strategic developments impacting Eurojust's organised crime casework

The complex and fast-evolving nature of serious crime in Europe makes strengthening international judicial coordination an absolute necessity. To this end, in June 2024, [EU Justice and Home Affairs](#) ministers approved the establishment of a network of specialised prosecutors in the area of organised crime. This priority action was swiftly implemented by Eurojust, which launched the new European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJO CN) at its premises in September 2024.

The EJO CN has been set up to go beyond only investigation-based collaboration to ensure that organised crime is fought strategically. The network's first priority is to combat drug-related organised crime (see section 3.6), but it will also address the many other areas of organised crime, such as money laundering, migrant smuggling, cybercrime and more (see chapter 2).

## Key case



Large-scale anti-mafia operations in Italy, Brazil, Switzerland and China



**EUROJUST**

**CRIME:** A notorious mafia organisation undertakes an elaborate scheme to launder money from Italy to Brazil. The main suspect sets up several companies in Brazil using straw men and shell companies. The companies are used to hide the criminal gains of Italian mafia organisations.

**ACTION:** A first large-scale anti-mafia operation takes place in August 2024 in Italy, Switzerland and Brazil, followed by a second one in Italy, Hong Kong and Brazil in October 2024.

**RESULT:** The first operation leads to the arrest of a member of a mafia family and the freezing of assets worth EUR 50 million. The second operation leads to the arrest of four suspects, the seizure of EUR 350 000 and nine companies in Italy, Hong Kong and Brazil.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** Since 2022, the Italian and Brazilian authorities have been investigating the activities of the mafia organisation through a Eurojust-supported JIT. The Agency provides the necessary legal and logistical support to the national authorities within the JIT to ensure the success of the operations.



Access more Eurojust cases and the latest developments in fighting organised crime



## Key event

**European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJOCN) Launch Event:** European prosecutors join forces to systemically fight organised crime



## Related network

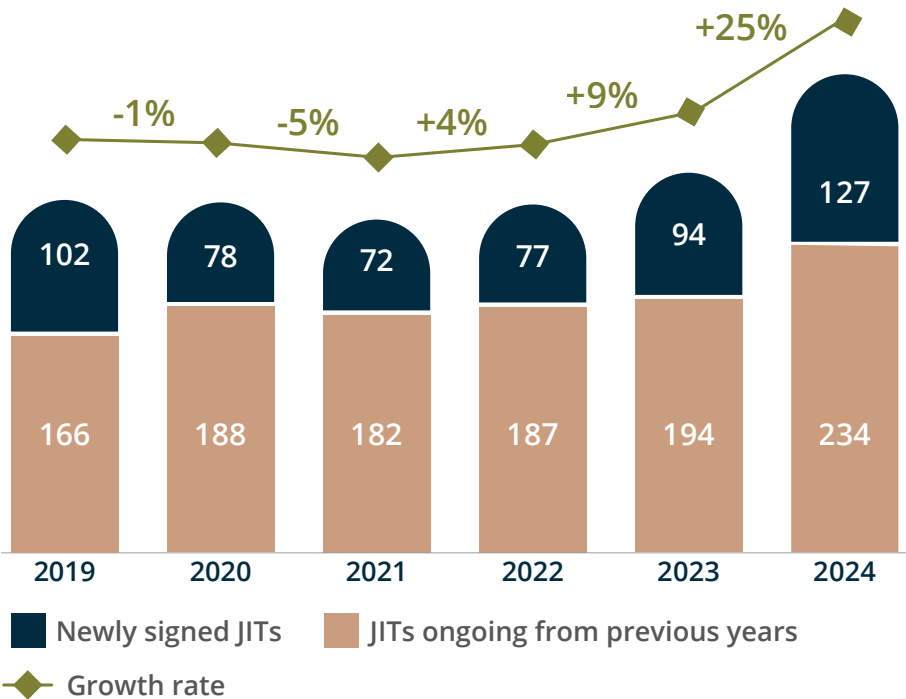
**European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJOCN)**



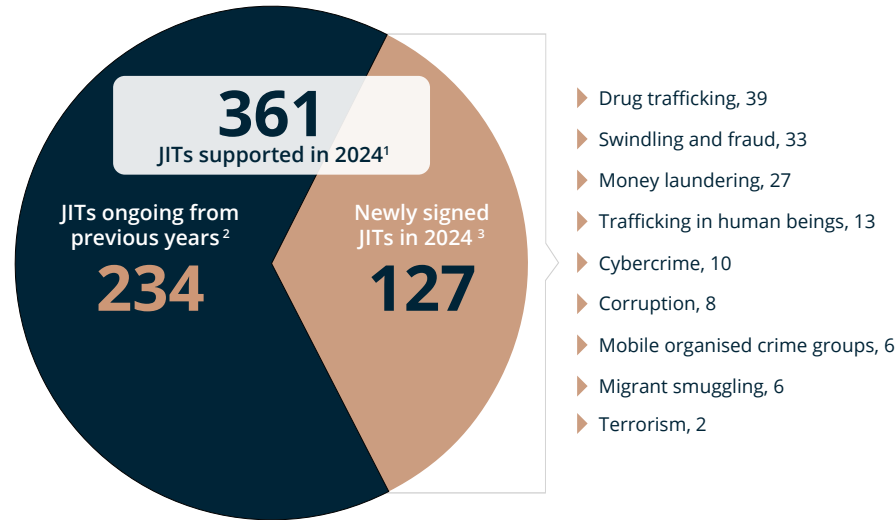
# 4. Judicial cooperation instruments

## 4.1 Protecting victims' rights in cross-border cases

Joint investigation teams (JITs) are an advanced tool for international cooperation supported by Eurojust. In 2024, the Agency supported 25% more JITs than in 2023, reflecting a sharp rise compared to previous years. Eurojust facilitated more than 300 JITs throughout the year, approximately one third of which were newly signed in 2024.



JITs were used throughout the year in several major cross-border cases involving both EU Member States and third countries. The newly signed JITs in 2024 covered 9 out of 14 crime types addressed by the Agency, ranging from money laundering to migrant smuggling. In 2024, the largest number of JITs were established to tackle drug trafficking (39) and swindling and fraud (33).



<sup>1</sup> Eurojust support to JITs includes financial and operational support.  
<sup>2</sup> As of January 2025. Due to the ongoing nature of the cases, these figures may change after the reporting period.  
<sup>3</sup> A single JIT can deal with more than one crime type.

### JITs collaboration platform

Throughout 2024, the JITs Network Secretariat, together with the European Commission, the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA), and the dedicated advisory group, continued to work on the development of the JITs collaboration platform. The online platform will enable secure communication and collaboration between judicial and police authorities working under the aegis of joint investigation teams.

Under the JI<sup>2</sup>s collaboration platform Regulation, Eurojust has two primary responsibilities: to make the technical arrangements to allow Eurojust access to the platform (as a possible JI<sup>2</sup> participant), and to make the necessary technical adaptations to its systems to enable the display of JI<sup>2</sup> funding information in the relevant JI<sup>2</sup> space on the platform.

The work on the development of the JI<sup>2</sup>s collaboration platform will continue in 2025, with the start of operations planned before the end of the year. Once the platform is launched, the JI<sup>2</sup>s Network Secretariat will be responsible for providing business support, including day-to-day guidance, training, functional support and assistance to practitioners in the use of the platform and its functionalities.

### **Eurojust JI<sup>2</sup>s Funding Programme**

Eurojust funded more than half of the 361 JI<sup>2</sup>s supported by the Agency in 2024. During the year, the JI<sup>2</sup>s Network Secretariat received 351 funding applications and awarded 314 grants under the standard funding scheme and 33 grants under the urgent funding scheme. Through these grants, Eurojust provided financial support 187 JI<sup>2</sup>s. Of these, 94 JI<sup>2</sup>s were established in 2024. The JI<sup>2</sup>s Funding Programme budget for 2024 was EUR 1.942 million.

The programme continued to evolve to adapt to the needs of joint investigation teams. New cost categories were introduced, including indirect costs, domestic travel, car rental and the hire of IT/electronic equipment (including hardware, software and licences).

The Claims Module, an online tool launched in 2023 for submitting JI<sup>2</sup>s funding reimbursement claims, was successfully used for the first time in 2024. By the end of the year, around one third of all JI<sup>2</sup>s funding claims were submitted through the Claims Module.



### **Key event**

**20th Annual JI<sup>2</sup>s Network Meeting:**  
Evolving challenges of admissibility of e-evidence



### **Key publication**

**Tools and Resources for JI<sup>2</sup> Practitioners**





## 4.2 Coordination meetings and centres

Eurojust offers national authorities [coordination meetings](#) and [coordination centres](#) as crucial tools to achieving successful prosecutions and ensuring justice is done.

In cross-border crime cases, Eurojust facilitates coordination meetings to bring together the judicial and law enforcement authorities of the involved countries to agree on their cooperation and the coordination of investigations and prosecutions at the national level. Information is shared and agreements are made on how to resolve legal and practical issues, what actions to take and which measures to apply. Coordination meetings are held at Eurojust’s premises or via secure videoconferencing, and are fully supported by Eurojust’s expertise and infrastructure.

The number of coordination meetings facilitated by Eurojust each year has increased steadily over the past 5 years, with a total of 640 coordination meetings organised in 2024. Swindling and fraud accounted for the highest number of coordination meetings (152), followed by money laundering (138), cybercrime (121) and drug trafficking (110). The number of coordination meetings organised in relation to intellectual property crime cases more than doubled in 2024 compared to the previous year. There was also a significant increase in the number of coordination meetings organised in the areas of terrorism (45%), cybercrime and organised crime (30%), and swindling and fraud (20%).

Coordination centres enable real-time monitoring of joint action days targeting criminal organisations, during which arrests, searches, interviews of suspects and witnesses, seizures of evidence and freezing of assets are executed in several countries simultaneously. The centres are set up in dedicated rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology and/or virtually via videoconferencing facilities to ensure swift judicial coordination and the exchange of information and evidence between all involved national authorities in a secure environment.

A total of 32 coordination centres were set up at Eurojust in 2024, representing the highest number ever since the tool’s creation in 2011. In 2024, more than half of the coordination centres facilitated by Eurojust tackled economic crime. Drug trafficking was the next most common crime type for which coordination centres were organised, followed by cybercrime, organised crime and migrant smuggling.

### Coordination meetings and centres by crime type in 2024

Crime types	Coordination Meetings	Coordination Centres
ECONOMIC CRIME	256	17
DRUG TRAFFICKING	110	7
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	48	1
CYBERCRIME	121	4
MIGRANT SMUGGLING	27	3
MOBILE ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS	46	4
TERRORISM	32	1
CORE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES	12	0
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME	5	0
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME	9	1

*The data contained in this table were extracted from Eurojust's case management system on 17 January 2025. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.*

*It should be noted that a coordination meeting/centre may deal with more than one crime type.*

### 4.3 Resolving conflicts of jurisdiction

Eurojust has considerable experience in preventing and resolving conflicts of jurisdiction and facilitating transfers of criminal proceedings from one country to another. The Agency is uniquely placed to detect linked and parallel proceedings and advise the judicial authorities of the Member States involved on how to reach a shared decision on which State is best placed to prosecute, based on [Eurojust's Guidelines on jurisdiction](#).

In 2024, the Agency continued to advise national authorities on which State is best placed to prosecute a case, how to overcome issues related to transfers of proceedings and how to prevent ne bis in idem issues.

A new [Regulation on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters](#) was published in November 2024. It incorporates many of the recommendations from the [Eurojust Report on the transfer of proceedings in the European Union](#). The Regulation introduces uniform procedures for the transfer of proceedings between Member States, starting from 1 February 2027 and will be instrumental in Eurojust's future casework. The Regulation states that national authorities may, at any stage of the procedure, request the assistance of Eurojust or the European Judicial Network. Moreover, the Agency, in particular, may facilitate consultations between the relevant countries.



#### Key publication

**Case-Law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the Principle of ne bis in idem in Criminal Matters**



### Key case

#### Resolving jurisdiction, priority to prosecute and transfer of proceedings in a murder case



**CRIME:** In August 2024, a suspected murder takes place in international waters within the Swedish economic zone. The suspect and the victim are German nationals travelling on a German-flagged sailing yacht. They quarrel and end up fighting in the water, where the suspect eventually deliberately drowns the victim. Witnesses from Germany, on another sailing yacht, call the Swedish Coast Guard. The victim is declared dead at Gothenburg Hospital. The suspect is arrested and placed in custody in Sweden.

**JUDICIAL ISSUE:** The Swedish prosecutor submits a request for the transfer of proceedings to Germany. The request mentions that the alleged offence took place in international waters, but within the Swedish economic zone, and that both the suspect and the victim are German citizens on a boat flying a German flag. It is therefore assumed that Germany has jurisdiction and is interested in prosecuting. It is explained that Sweden would also have jurisdiction only if it is established that the death occurred on Swedish territory, when the victim was declared dead in Gothenburg Hospital. If, on the other hand, the court in charge of reviewing the suspect's pre-trial detention finds that the victim died well before reaching land, the suspect could be released based on lack of jurisdiction.

Germany agrees to take over the proceedings as it has jurisdiction, given that the case concerns German nationals. Sweden, therefore, provides the available evidence to enable the German prosecutor to request the issuing of an EAW against the suspect.

**EUROJUST'S ROLE:** The Swedish judicial authority contacts Eurojust to ask for assistance in relation to a transfer of proceedings to Germany. The Swedish and German National Desks at the Agency work closely together to support the case. The Agency advises Germany to issue an EAW for the requested suspect so that he can be kept in custody in Sweden, based on the EAW and not only on the basis of Swedish jurisdiction. The German authorities issue an EAW in early October, and the suspect agrees to the request to be surrendered and is transferred to Germany in November.

### 4.4 European Arrest Warrant

In 2024, 971 Eurojust cases (including 452 new and 529 ongoing ones from previous years) involved European Arrest Warrants (EAWs). The overall number of cases involving EAWs handled by the Agency in 2024 was approximately 20% lower than in the previous year.

Year	New cases involving EAWs	Ongoing from previous years	TOTAL
2023	449	813	1 262
2024	452	529	981

In 2024, Eurojust continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EAW. Practitioners mostly approached the Agency when requests for additional information were urgent in view of upcoming court hearings. In 2024, Eurojust’s support was sought for additional information, particularly in relation to prison conditions, in absentia judgements, and the surrender of nationals or residents. The Agency also provided support to national authorities on issues related to return guarantees, prescription of an offence, available medical treatment and competing EAWs.

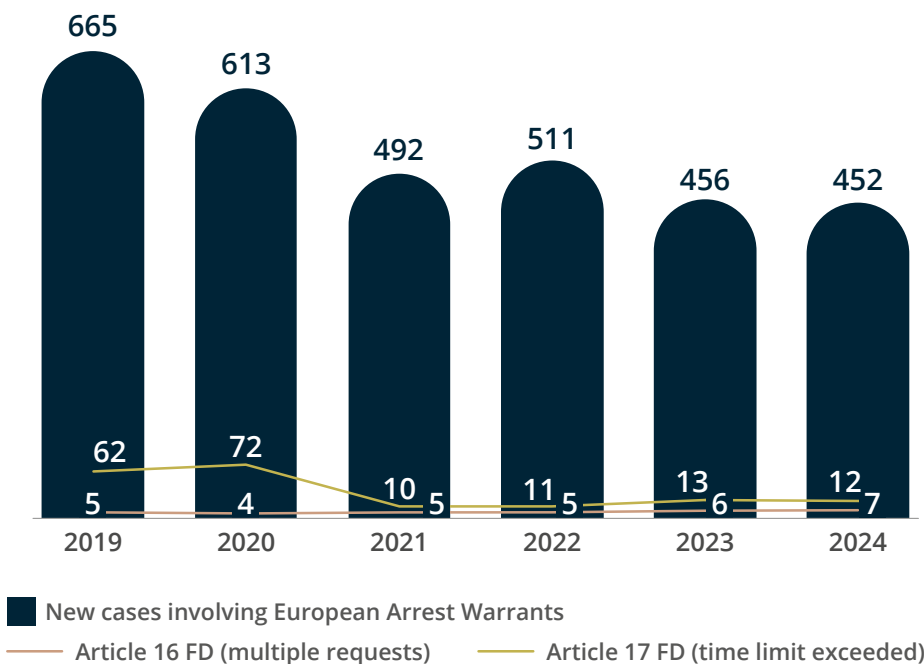
Concerning prison conditions, questions arose regarding various aspects, including the available space, sanitary facilities, the heating system, access to food, water and health care. Despite the extensive case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on this matter, there were often different views on what type of information the executing authority could request and what the issuing authority should provide. On other occasions, issuing and executing authorities disagreed on the formulation of assurances and debated whether they were sufficiently clear and up to date.

In relation to in absentia judgements, practitioners continued to face challenges with questions concerning a trial that resulted in the decision or a person waiving his or her right to attend trial. Additional challenges arose with questions concerning the unconditional nature of retrials, cumulative sentences, the examination (or lack thereof) of the merits of the case or the justification for substituting a probation measure with a custodial sentence. In many cases, the executing authority considered the information included in the EAW form to be insufficient.

In cases where an EAW was refused because the requested person was a national or resident, questions arose regarding the application of the Framework Decision on the transfer of sentenced persons. In some of these cases, the executing authority agreed to enforce the sentence. However, issues arose when the sentence was executed without a certificate related to the transfer of the sentence or when the executing authority modified the nature of the sentence without consulting the issuing authority.

In the post-surrender phase, Eurojust identified problems with the application of the speciality rule. National authorities approached Eurojust when they encountered problems in obtaining consent to prosecute the surrendered person for other offences or for a subsequent surrender following a case of competing EAWs. Sometimes, the authorities did not receive a reply to their requests for consent. In other cases, questions were raised about the format to be used, the information to be provided (e.g. underlying national arrest warrant) or the existence of a prior (implicit) consent.

As in previous years, the chart below confirms that a very small number of Member States notify Eurojust of cases where they cannot observe the time limits and the reasons for this non-observance (Article 17 EAW Framework Decision). The chart also shows that the number of cases concerning competing EAWs for which Eurojust's support is requested (Article 16(2) EAW Framework Decision) remains limited.



## Key event

**Eurojust Meetings on Surrender and Extradition Procedures with UK and US Partners**



## Key publications

**Case-Law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Arrest Warrant**



**Compilation on the Requirements for Issuing and Executing Judicial Authorities in EAW Proceedings**





### 4.5 European Investigation Order

Eurojust assisted national judicial authorities in over 6 000 cases involving a European Investigation Order (EIO) in 2024. Compared to 2023, the number of new cases involving an EIO handled by the Agency decreased by 10%, while the number of ongoing cases increased by roughly the same percentage. Overall, the number of cases the Agency dealt with involving an EIO decreased slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Year	New cases involving EIOs	Ongoing from previous years	TOTAL
2023	2 982	3 332	6 314
2024	2 668	3 622	6 290

During 2024, the Agency continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EIO, from the drafting to the execution phase. For instance, Eurojust assisted in obtaining clarifications or additional information prior to the execution of an EIO. The Agency also facilitated the execution of urgent EIOs and, in multilateral cases, often ensured coordination between the execution of different EIOs in several Member States. In addition, Eurojust supported several cases where legal or practical issues arose, such as the hearing of defendants by videoconference and the participation of accused persons at trial.

Throughout 2024, Eurojust continued to work on several EIO topics, including the relationship of the EIO to the spontaneous exchange of information between judicial authorities, the interception of telecommunications and national case-law regarding the EIO. The Agency also analysed the practical implications of the CJEU’s judgment in the [EncroChat case](#), in view of its potential impact on Eurojust’s casework. Moreover, the Agency continued to monitor the relevant case-law of the CJEU more generally as well.

The EIO is the instrument evaluated in the 10th round of mutual evaluations. In 2024, Eurojust participated as an observer in all five on-site evaluation visits in the Member States applying the EIO Directive. The [final report](#) of the Council was adopted in November 2024 (see key publication). It concludes that the EIO generally works well in practice, but also recommends that the European Commission consider legislative changes concerning several critical issues also identified in Eurojust’s casework.

Such changes cover various aspects, including the need to clarify whether GPS tracking and car bugging fall within the scope of interception of telecommunications; whether hearing defendants by videoconference, the participation of accused persons at trial and the speciality rule apply in the context of the EIO Directive; and determining the scope of the EIO vis-à-vis other judicial cooperation instruments, such as the EAW and Freezing Certificates.

The final report recognises the added value of Eurojust in facilitating communication and coordination in complex and multilateral cases, improving compliance with time limits and preparing strategic documents, also jointly with the [European Judicial Network](#).



#### Key publication

**Final Report of the Council on the Tenth Round of Mutual Evaluations on the implementation of the European Investigation Order**





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Access more information on Eurojust's activities in 2024  
in the Consolidated Annual Activity Report

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