

- As Dir Europol confirm one of most successful international police operations in recent years against probably largest on line paedophile network in the world
- Pay tribute to work of my international colleagues, many of whom rep here today and will talk after me about the key role their agencies have played in the investigation. Also pay big tribute to my own experts at Europol, who have used their unique skills and resources, to help coordinate this international op – the results are phenomenal
- These are the headline facts –
  - Online paedophile network of up to 70,000 members worldwide operated by a forum coordinator and an internet server based in the Netherlands
  - Server seized by Dutch police allowing for forensic examination of it by Europol analysts and their colleagues in UK and NL
  - In 2010, Europol experts cracked the sophisticated security features that were built into the server and then uncovered this huge network of suspected child sex offenders, working with the UK authorities in particular
  - Allowed Europol analysts to piece together the activities of the forum, identifying its members worldwide
  - Based on this work Europol issued over 4,200 intelligence reports over 30 countries in the world, mostly in Europe, allowing police authorities in those countries to track down the offenders involved and potential victims
  - In parallel similar work was carried out in the UK and other countries
  - Latest figures from the results of this intelligence work and operational coordination are that 670 suspects have been identified, 184 arrests already made and 230 children, as victims of these terrible crimes, identified and rescued from further harm
  - Investigations continue – in the EU and elsewhere - and we expect these numbers to rise further in the coming weeks but this is already the biggest case of its kind we have ever seen
- These are very serious crimes on a truly global scale. The international police community has joined forces to bring the crimes to an end, to bring the offenders to justice, and most importantly, to secure the safety of hundreds of children. Our work continues and we will not rest until all the offenders have been identified
- This is a powerful message today about the value of international police cooperation. In terms of my own agency it is also a clear sign and about the determination of Europol to make Europe a safer place
- We are also sending a clear message to serious criminals everywhere – if you commit these crimes against some of the most vulnerable

people in our society, if you misuse the Internet to support your activities, you will be caught

- Now I invite my colleagues to talk about the specific work they have done in their individual countries, starting with the UK. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre had a major role to play in this investigation throughout. It is a world class agency operating in this field of work. I am delighted that its Chief Executive, [...], has joined me here today. [...] ...

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