

The Hague,	
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Report on conference

Yearly Animal Rights Extremist Conference

Routing Table			
	Unit or function	Approved by	Approval date
From	SC5/[DELETED]		
Via	SC Secretariat		
	SC Directorate		
To	Director		
Cc	HoU SC 7		

Event	Yearly Animal Rights Extremist Conference
Subject	Animal Rights Extremism(ARE)/Serious Crime
Role in event	Organiser/Host
Place / Date	Europol, MCR, [DELETED] /04/08, 16:00h- [DELETED]/04/08, 17:00h
Organised by	Europol
Participants	17 Member States, 3 Third-States ([DELETED]), Eurojust, Europol, partially Private Companies
Date of next conference	Spring 2009, most probably hosted by [DELETED]
Advisable to attend + why?	Europol is now integral Part of ARE Intelligence exchange
Special contacts	List of Participants
Related documentation	Presentations of Participants at [DELETED]

Background:

The series of yearly ARE Conferences was established by some affected countries 6 years ago to get the experts of the various Competent Authorities together for an exchange of expertise and knowledge. In a BN (DMS #296673), management was again informed about this upcoming conference. Due to the departure of two key figures from Europol staff back to their home authorities, the organisation of the conference became a joint-venture of [DELETED] and SC 5 on short notice. We

invited all Member States and 3rd-States; 20 countries attended; 6 of those were newcomers to the series of conferences, so was Eurojust. This year, opposite to the last conferences, we decided to have also Public Research, Private Companies as well as one of their Associations present in an Open Session on the [DELETED]/04/08.

Conference:

As in the last years, an overview of the phenomenon and updates on on-going operations/investigations were given by the delegates.

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Assessment:

Although very often ARE doesn't seem to be considered as a high priority, it became clear again that ARE is also often underestimated, especially in regard to the impact on society and economy. Public sector as well as private industry is equally targeted by arson, harassment and intimidation. It's not without reason that in various National Parliaments ARE is being discussed as a threat to the public and industry. While in those countries the competent authorities are part of the public debate, a media strategy is needed when it comes to tackle the problem both on the National as well as European Level.

ARE is not only [DELETED] problem, Activists of several countries are having key positions in the Activists scene. While [DELETED] has prepared the National Legislation to deal with this phenomenon, other countries are less prepared to cope with the issue. The same applies when it comes to product contamination threats, which need to be internationally coordinated.

ARE seems to get closer to the Anarchist environment in various countries. Given the experience of Anarchists Movements in some countries, ARE might adapt anarchist strategies and tactics in their struggle and become even more violent.

Various delegations, including the [DELETED] suggested that Europol should play an even bigger role in this field.

Consequences:

As indicated above, throughout the Conference, various issues in regard to ARE were brought up, which will need further discussions with the initiating countries, within Europol and potentially to be brought forward to the equivalent decision makers:

- [DELETED];
- Need to harmonise national legislations and legal terms;
- Harmonise national crime coding and reporting systems;
- Raise awareness to involve all stakeholders in the discussions;
- [DELETED];
- [DELETED];
- [DELETED];

- Need for a European Pharmaceutical Industry Security Forum?
 - Need for a European Public Research Security Forum?
 - **[DELETED]**;
 - Discuss ARE with European stakeholders like the EU Commission;
 - European Risk Assessment on ARE;
 - Report back to the European PCTF.
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