



The Hague,	24.08.2010
EDOC #	491843
Unit	04
Author	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]

PUBLIC

Document made partially accessible
to the public (27.05.2013)

Briefing Note

Subject: Preparation of interview with ARTE

	Unit or function	Approved by (Name)	Approval date
From	O4	[REDACTED]	24.08.2010
Via	O1		
	O Directorate		
To	G4		
Cc	[REDACTED]		

1. Aim

The aim of this report is to provide G4 with background elements on "eco terrorism" and assist in preparing an answer to the request for information from [REDACTED] is working for ARTE television

2. Content and issue(s)

- Definition: Europol does not use the term eco terrorism, but rather "single-issue terrorism" which applies for example, to criminal activities by Animal Rights Extremists.

- We would rather consider eco terrorism as per the definition given in the Encyclopaedia Britannica: *destruction or threat of destruction of the environment by states, groups, or individuals in order to intimidate or to coerce governments or civilians.*

- The difference between single-issue extremism and terrorism is often difficult to evidence and depends upon the policy of the competent

agencies in each of the concerned Member States. A good example would be the destruction of genetically modified crops on 1st March, in most cases, is considered as extremism but can sometimes be prosecuted as a terrorist offence. While the EU has provided the MS with a common strategy to fight terrorism, it should be reminded that each MS remains fully responsible for the security of its own population and for labelling a criminal case as extremist or terrorism related. This, in turn, impacts on the legitimacy of Europol's potential involvement in the case. Prior to January 2010, Europol's mandate was very restrictive.

- In the EU, Animal Rights extremism mainly targets the pharmaceutical industry; however, other forms of single-issue terrorism/extremism are reported by the MS, such as attacks against the fur industry or even the meat industry.
- Europol only focuses on crimes committed in these fields, not in making lists of environmental activities. Our databases are under constant scrutiny by the JSB to ensure that we do not store unlawful data.
- The trends identified show that the ARE phenomenon which developed in the United Kingdom around the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) has moved to the continent, where the number of incidents has increased sharply. However, actually there is a decrease in the number of incidents reported to Europol.
- One worrying factor is that ARE is a motivating factor for some violence-prone groups to launch specific campaigns. A number of research centres and some individuals working for the pharmaceutical industry have been directly targeted, mainly by means of arson attacks.

3. The way forward

After approval by Europol's directorate, the specific points developed in the previous chapter could form the background of the position of Europol during the discussion with