

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT

Animal Rights Extremism








Quarterly Bulletin

April – June 2010


The Hague, [13 August 2010]

This Europol product aims at sharing knowledge, which is available at Europol

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The increase of Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) incidents in Europe for the past 5 years has forced EU MS to take this type of criminality into consideration.

During the Conference on Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) held in Stockholm, Sweden (14-16 May 2007) participating EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden agreed that there is an urgent need to monitor ARE related incidents across Europe.

It was decided that ARE incidents should be contributed to EUROPOL by all EU Member States Norway and Switzerland.

EUROPOL compiles all these incidents in a document called the ARE QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

The European Police Chiefs Task Force in their meetings (October/November 2007) expressed a positive approach to this project.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

This bulletin aims at reporting ARE incidents from the competent authorities of EU MS, Switzerland and Norway only. It will not be supplemented by Open Source material. Furthermore it does not contain personal data.

2 Incidents in Member States

2.1 Austria

2.1.1 Number of incidents: 7

25/04/2010

8790 Eisenerz, Veiglwiese 6a

In total 15 breeding rabbits and 10 quails were freed by opening the cages. The damage is valued at €2,000. Two male offenders have been investigated in connection to this case.

11/05/2010

1070 Vienna, Mariahilfer Straße 6

Unknown perpetrators damaged the shop window, the display case and the facade of a fur retailer by splashing paint bombs.

21/05/2010

1100 Vienna, Favoriten Straße 91

Six activists ran into a shop and one of them put a jumper in his shopping bag. When one of the employees asked the offender about the theft, all activists left the store immediately.

28/05/2010

2102 Bisamberg, Huntingground Bisamberg

Unknown perpetrators destroyed a wooden hunting seat. The extent of damage is unknown.

28/05/2010

2102 Bisamberg, Huntingground Kleinengersdorf

Unknown perpetrators destroyed two wooden hunting seats. The extent of damage is unknown.

05/06/2010

2460 Bruck/Leitha, Parkbadstraße 1a

A Chihuahua and eight puppies were stolen by unknown perpetrators from the breeder. The damage is valued at €5,000.

The incident was claimed on the biteback website:

News media has reported that a four-year-old Chihuahua and eight puppies were "stolen" from a breeder late on June 5 in the city of Bruck an der Leitha. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has blamed "radical animal rights activists" for the burglary. A Chihuahua and eight puppies were stolen by unknown offenders from the breeder.

13/06/2010

2301 Oberhausen

Unknown perpetrators burnt down the hunting tower of a hunting alliance. The hunting tower burned down completely. The extent of damage is unknown.



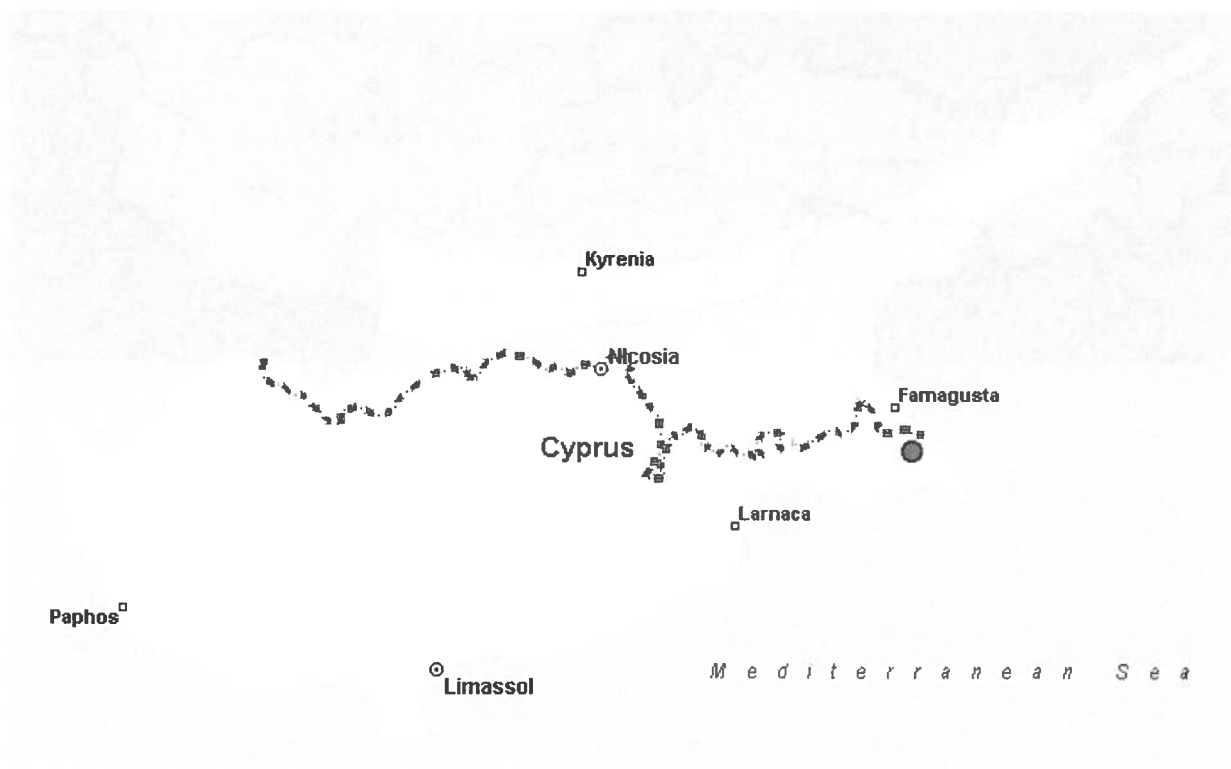
2.2 Cyprus

2.2.1 Number of incidents: 1

30/04/2010

Agios Mamas, Paralimni (Ammochostos District)

A team of 12 international bird conservationists, composed by members of the German-based Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS), arrived to Cyprus in order to check for bird-trapping nets, for the protection of wild bird migrant species. The activists, who wore berets and army fatigues, were separated into groups and illegally trespassed on private property, breaking the law. While entering the private property and starting to dismantle lime sticks and mist nets to free protected bird migrant species (cock robins), they were attacked by the owners. One Cypriot national was arrested accused of assault. [REDACTED]



2.3 France

2.3.1 Number of incidents: 1

10/04/2010

Nîmes

The building of the French federation of hunters was set on fire.



2.4 Germany

2.4.1 Number of incidents: 14

01/04/2010

D-65207 Wiesbaden

Damage to 3 hunting towers. Damage valued at €2,000.

04/04/2010

D-17252 Zirtow

The cables of vehicles in a mink farm were damaged. Damage valued at €100.

On www.youtube.com/user/tsek2010 a video was uploaded, which can be assumed as a claim of responsibility.

05/04/2010

D-57233 Kreuztal

Material damage to 4 hunting towers. The amount of the damage is unknown.

09/04/2010

D-50999 Köln

Graffiti on the walls of a meat factory. The amount of the damage is unknown.

Graffiti:

"FREE THE ANIMALS"

"ANIMAL RIGHTS"

"MEAT IS MURDER"

11/04/2010

D-87435 Kempten

A fur shop was graffitied. Damage valued at €700.

13/04/2010

D-65871 Eppstein

Material damage to a hunting tower. Damage valued at €500.

21/04/2010

D-39104 Magdeburg

A fur shop was splashed with paint. Damage valued at €1,000.

23/04/2010

D-38312 Cramme

The employees of a chicken fattening company found a letter with the following contents: a photo with a chick and 4 burned matches.

02/05/2010

D-24256 Schlesen

The fence of a mink farm was damaged. The amount of the damage is unknown. The unknown perpetrators were interrupted by the alarm. A break in on the premises could not be established.

02/05/2010

D-24941 Flensburg

The feed pipes to the cages of an empty mink farm were damaged. The amount of the damage is unknown. On www.youtube.com/user/tsek2010 a video was uploaded, which can be assumed as a claim of responsibility. Die Schadenshöhe ist nicht bekannt.

05/05/2010

D-28195 Bremen

The front of a fur shop was graffitied. Damage valued at €1,000.

14/05/2010

D-33607 Bielefeld

The shop window of a butcher's shop was graffitied. The amount of the damage is unknown.

Graffiti:

"Fleisch ist Mord" = "Meat is murder"

27/05/2010

D-29323 Wietze

Sit in at the location meant for the construction of a slaughterhouse. The sit in continues (as of: 01.07.2010)

28/05/2010

D-57413 Finnentrop

Material damage to a hunting tower. The amount of the damage is unknown.



2.5 Italy

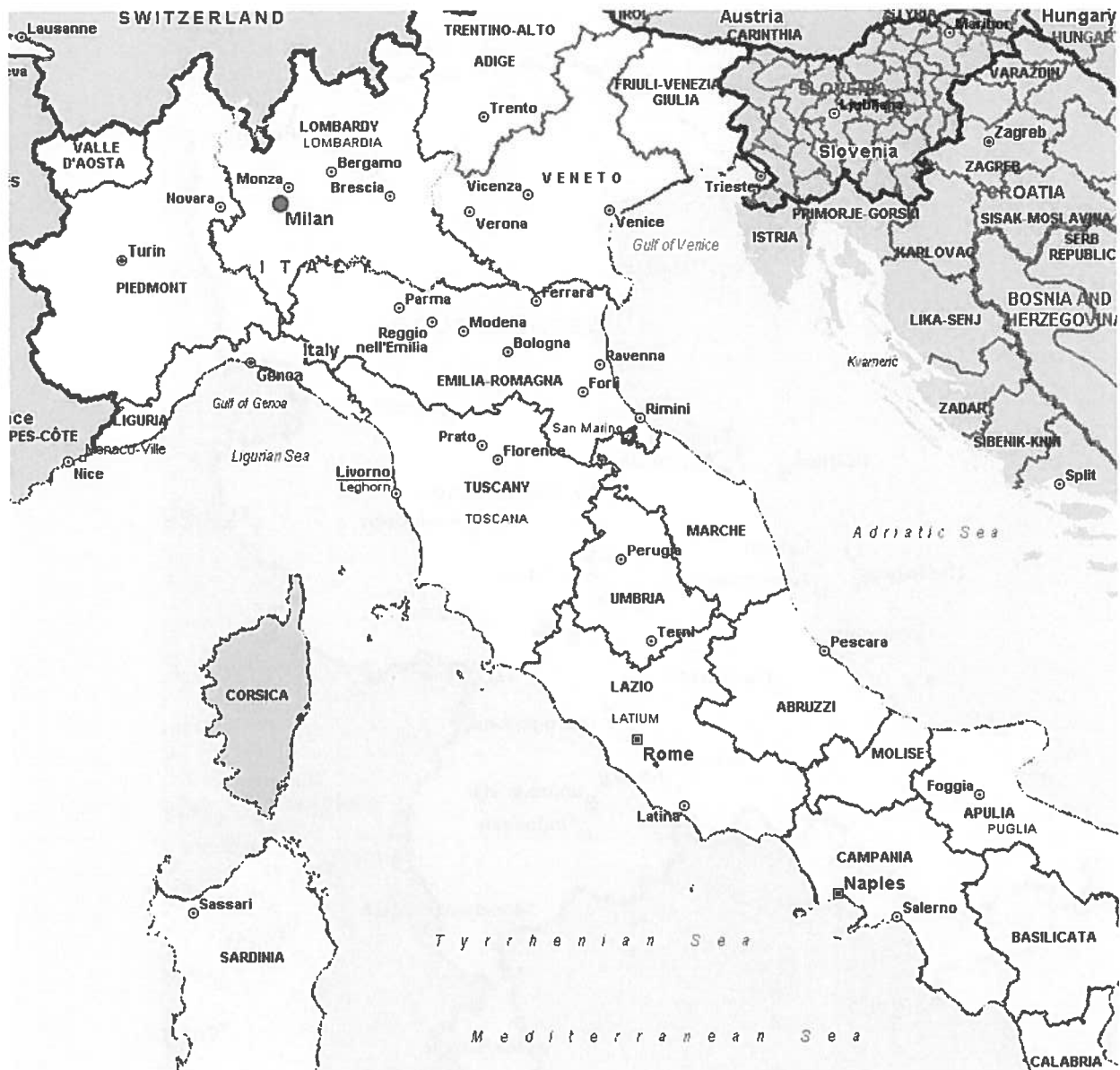
2.5.1 Number of incidents: 1

02/04/2010

Milano

In the morning, 5 disguised persons poured red liquid in the fountain of San Babila Square and put up a banner against the killing of lambs for Easter.

The action has been claimed through a leaflet signed by "F.L.A. – Animal Liberation Front".



2.6 The Netherlands

2.6.1 Number of incidents: 1

29/05/2010

Two cars were damaged on a parking place at the University of Wageningen. The tires of one car were cut with a knife. The mirror of the other car was damaged. This was the second incident within a month. Both car owners are employees at the University of Wageningen. One is a researcher [REDACTED] the second person is also a researcher [REDACTED] at the University of Wageningen.



2.7 United Kingdom

2.7.1 Number of incidents: 17

05/05/2010

Conservative Party Office, Worthing, West Sussex

Criminal damage to the notice board outside of the Conservative Party Local Office in Worthing.

Anti fox hunting activists caused non permanent criminal damage to the notice board outside of the Conservative Party Local Office.

12/05/2010

HLS, Huntingdon Research Centre, Cambridgeshire

Malicious email received at the generic mailbox at Huntingdon Life Sciences.

12/05/2010

Underpass, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Graffiti was written on the walls of an underpass in Peterborough.

Graffiti written on underpass walls in chalk, which included the phrases 'PETA', 'ALF' and 'HLS Puppy Killers'.

23/05/2010

Petlife International Ltd, Grantham, Lincolnshire

Graffiti spray painted on to an external wall of property. The words 'ALF against animal abuse' were spray painted on to an external wall of Petlife International Ltd in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

24/05/2010

HLS, Huntingdon Life Sciences, Cambridgeshire

Abusive and foul language was used over the phone towards a HLS Security Guard who answered the call. Caller sounded drunk and made references to the 'torture' of animals within the establishment.

25/05/2010

Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff, Wales

Malicious email sent to [REDACTED] Welsh Assembly Member. The email referred to the badger cull (extract - "you should be thrown in the cages with them and await your fate how scared would you feel then miss [REDACTED] mass.

31/05/2010

Thomson Ecology, Guildford, Surrey

Threatening telephone call received at the company HQ of Thomson Ecology. The company is a surveyor and is involved in the current Welsh badger cull.

07/06/2010

Thomson Ecology, Guildford, Surrey

Hundreds of text messages have now been sent to the landline number of the company stating "No badger cull".

10/06/2010

Nomura, UK Head Office, City of London

Nomura - targeted by SHAC due to believed links with Fortress Investment Group. SHAC believe Fortress finances HLS.

14/06/2010

Blue Fin Insurance, Grimsby

The letters, hand delivered in typed envelopes, stated that timers would go off which would release anthrax spores in a number of law courts until SHAC members were released from prison. These letters were claimed to be sent by SHAC.

14/06/2010

Citizens Advice Bureau, Grimsby

The letters, hand delivered in typed envelopes stated that timers would go off which would release anthrax spores in a number of law courts until SHAC members were released from prison. These letters were claimed to be sent by SHAC.

14/06/2010

Jackson Green & Preston, Grimsby

The letters, hand delivered in typed envelopes, stated that timers would go off which would release anthrax spores in a number of law courts until SHAC members were released from prison. These letters were claimed to be sent by SHAC.

22/06/2010

Cancer Research UK, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Clothing on display in the shop was damaged/cut. No specific intelligence to suggest that Animal Rights (AR) groups are responsible for damage. AR links are however considered, as Cancer Research have previously been an AR target. However, given that both Cancer Research Shops in Stamford were targeted on the same morning their involvement can not be ruled out.

22/06/2010

Cancer Research UK, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Clothing on display in the shop was damaged/cut. No specific intelligence to suggest that AR groups are responsible for damage. AR links considered as Cancer Research have previously been an AR target. However, given that both Cancer Research Shops in Stamford were targeted on the same morning their involvement can not be ruled out.

24/06/2010

University of St Andrews, The School of Psychology, Fife, Scotland

Graffiti was written on a wooden panel adjacent to a rear door of the building. The words "ALF we are watching you" were written in black marker pen on a wooden panel adjacent to the rear door of the building.

27/06/2010

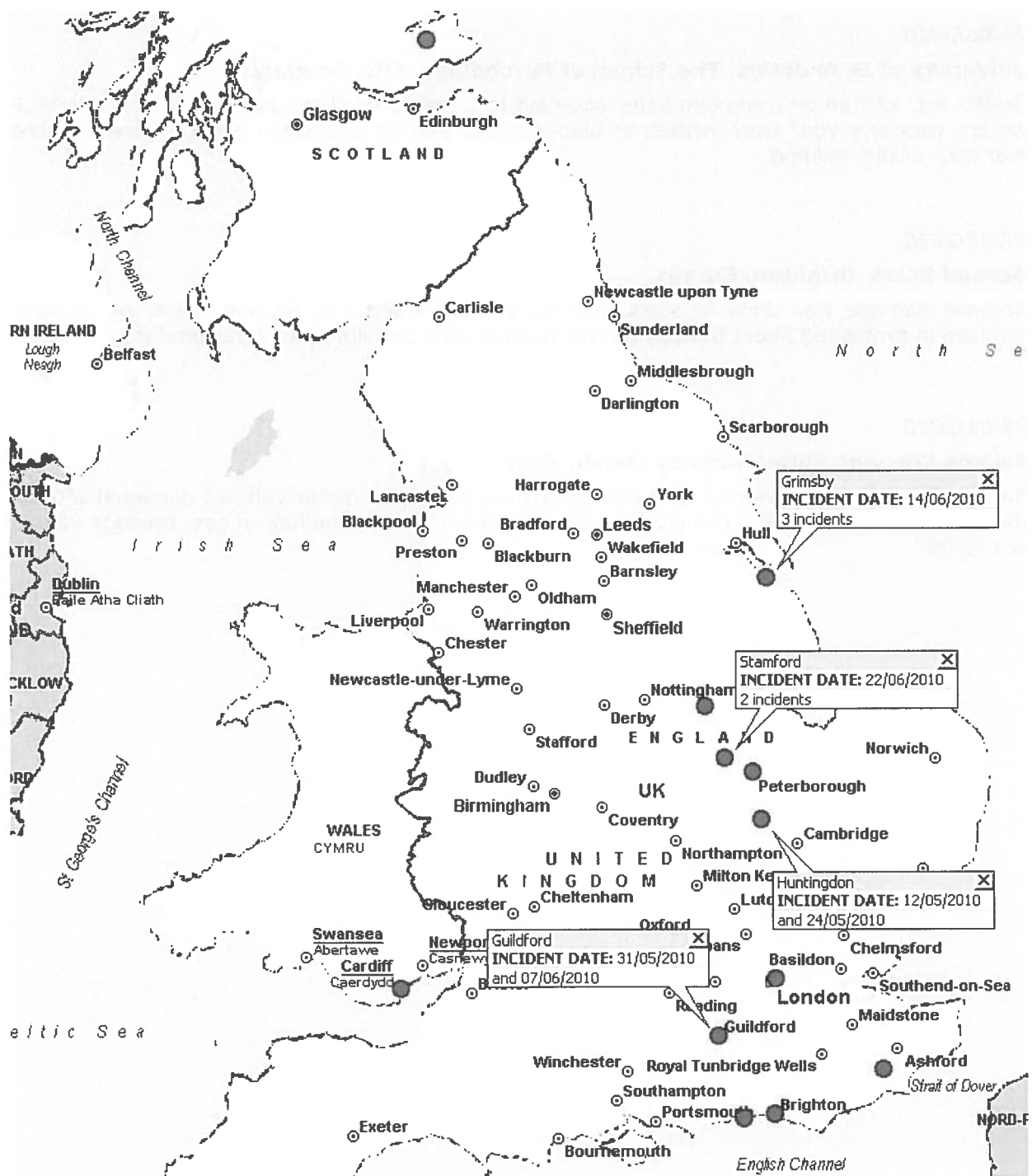
Beyond Retro, Brighton, Sussex

Criminal damage was done to stock and the dressing rooms of Beyond Retro, by persons involved in protesting about the company's merchandise containing fur & fur products.

29/06/2010

Swamp Crossing Farm, Romney Marsh, Kent

Swamp Crossing Farm (owned by a poultry farmer) had three motor vehicles damaged with all their tyres being slashed. A gas pipeline was also damaged causing loss of gas. Damage valued at £2,000.



3 CONCLUSIONS

- A total of 42 incidents were reported to the police in the 2nd quarter of 2010. This shows a slight increase compared to the 1st quarter of 2010 (37 incidents).
- Two arson attacks were reported. There was no additional information sent in regard to a potentially used IID or the modus operandi as such. *The framed texts in this document indicate the arson attacks.*
- 35% of all incidents were related to Anti Fur (16.6%) or Anti Hunting (19%) campaigns.
- 9 incidents of harassment/intimidation by either threatening letters or phone calls/text messages have been reported. 8 of them occurred in the UK out of which three happened on the same day in the same city but at different companies. All of these three were claimed by SHAC in order to force the release of imprisoned SHAC members.
- The total amount of reported damage in this quarter ran up to €12,310,-