

# **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT**

## **Animal Rights Extremism**







Quarterly Bulletin

October – December 2011

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

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	3
1.2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>INCIDENTS IN MEMBER STATES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	 AUSTRIA.....	4
2.1.1	Number of incidents: 8 .....	4
2.2	 FRANCE.....	6
2.2.1	Number of incidents: 3 .....	6
2.3	 GERMANY .....	8
2.3.1	Number of incidents: 27 .....	8
2.4	 ITALY .....	12
2.4.1	Number of incidents: 17 .....	12
2.5	 THE NETHERLANDS .....	16
2.5.1	Number of incidents: 4 .....	16
2.6	 UNITED KINGDOM .....	18
2.6.1	Number of incidents: 12 .....	18
<b>3</b>	<b>FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>20</b>

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Background**

The increase in the number of Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) incidents in Europe over the past five 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), the participating EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and 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, as well as 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 their approval of 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: 8

12/11/2011

**7344 Stoob, Oberpullendorf - Burgenland**

Raised hide set on fire by unknown perpetrators.

13/11/2011

**8225 Pöllau, Hartberg - Steiermark**

Sabotage of a municipality hunting by two identified persons in Pöllau. The perpetrators are members of the "VGT" (Vereine gegen Tierfabriken) [Association against animal factories] and of the association "Die Tier-WeGe". The damage caused is not known to this point. The damage is not known so far. The aggrieved party is the hunting association Pöllau "Jagdgesellschaft Pöllau".

26/11/2011

**8141 Unterpremstätten - Steiermark**

Hunting sabotage at a rabbit hunt by identified person. The perpetrator belongs to the association "Die Tier-WeGe" – The damage caused is still unknown. The aggrieved party is the hunting association "Jagdgesellschaft Graz Süd".

04/12/2011

**Steiermark Umgebung - Kainbach**

An animal right activist wounded a police officer.

13/12/2011

**Oberösterreich - Linz**

Occupation of the ÖVP Land office for the implementation of the ban on farrowing crates in pig breeding/farming.

15/12/2011

**Salzburg - Salzburg Stadt**

Occupation of the Austrian chamber of agriculture by ARE activists. A policeman was injured.

15/12/2011

**Steiermark - Graz**

Animal right activists chained themselves in the office and in front of the building of the chamber of industry of Steiermark.

17/12/2011

### Niederösterreich - Baden / Trattendorf

Damage and destruction were carried out to three hunting towers.



## 2.2 France

### 2.2.1 Number of incidents: 3

*08/10/2011*

#### **Rodilhan (30)**

Anti-corrida militants of the CRAC<sup>1</sup> carried out an action during a bullfight. There were violent confrontations with bullfight fans.

*03/12/2011*

#### **Chilleurs aux Bois (45)**

Hunt sabotage. In the forest of Orléans, 36 persons of the association "Droit aux animaux" (Right to animals) opposed the good process of a hunt with hounds.

*23/12/2011*

#### **Perpignan (66)**

Tags were found on the walls of a butcher's shop. ALF claimed the action of Bite Back.

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<sup>1</sup> Comité Radicalement Anti Corrida



## 2.3 Germany

### 2.3.1 Number of incidents: 27

04/10/2011

**D-04275 Leipzig**

Graffiti on a shop window of a fur shop: "fur is and remains murder"

05/10/2011

**D-57250 Netphen**

Hunting tower toppled over; the amount of damage is not known

09/10/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Hunting tower overthrown

11/10/2011

**D-67346 Speyer**

Hunting tower set on fire; Damage costs unknown

13/10/2011

**D-86153 Augsburg**

Damage caused to circus posters; the amount of damage is unknown

18/10/2011

**D-87439 Kempten**

Graffiti with threat on the façade of a butcher shop: "Go Vegan" - "PASS BLOSS AUF DU SCHEIß METZGER"

21/10/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Hunting tower toppled over; the amount of damage is unknown

21/10/2011

**D-38640 Goslar**

Graffiti on the front of a butcher shop, the amount of damage is unknown

Graffiti: "Meat is murder"

01/11/2011

**D-73630 Fellbach**

4 Hunting tower overthrown



02/11/2011

**D-73770 Urbach**

Hunting tower toppled over.

04/11/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Hunting tower toppled over.

09/11/2011

**D-31167 Bockenem**

Threat letters to the owner of a calf rearing farm.

12/11/2011

**D-23564 Lübeck**

Hunting tower toppled over

12/11/2011

**D-47138 Duisburg**

At the end of a hunting session, a hunting association was attacked with firecrackers by a disguised group of about 8 young people. A person and three hunting dogs were injured.

13/11/2011

**D-23569 Fellbach**

Hunting tower toppled over, the amount of damage is unknown.

14/11/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Hunting tower toppled over.

16/11/2011

**D-71404 Korb**

Hunting tower toppled over.

18/11/2011

**D-04275 Leipzig**

Graffiti on facade and shop window of a fur shop: "Killing is my future, Mörder", "meat sucks", "Qual, Mord, Kapital"

20/11/2011

**D-94315 Straubing**

Graffiti on a shop window of a butcher's shop, Door locks damaged with glue

Graffiti: "Meat is Murder"

03/12/2011

**D-45879 Gelsenkirchen**

Circus posters were covered with banners; the amount of the damage caused is unknown

The banner read the following message: "Kein Applaus für Tierquäler"

05/12/2011

**D-29465 Schnega**

Shell construction of a planned chicken fattening plant

Some fire accelerant was allegedly used to set fire on both external walls in a hall. The wooden structure of the roof was damaged by the heat. For the purpose of the arson, 4 plastic buckets are assumed to have been used, of which the metal handles were retrieved. Further, rests of a aerosol can were found on the site of the fire. Two suspects were identified (known animal fattening opponants), and had no previous criminal record.

This arson attack is to be seen in conjunction with the construction of a chicken slaughter factory in Wietze/NI. This factory (approx.. 135,000,000 slaughters per year) will be supplied by up to 400 fattening units in a radius of 150km from Wietze/NI, one of which is the one that was attacked.

07/12/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Hunting tower toppled over.

07/12/2011

**D-97084 Würzburg**

Graffiti on the facade of a fur shop: "Pelz ist Mord".

13/12/2011

**D-44649 Herne**

Graffiti on facade of a fur shop; the amount of damage is unknown.

Graffiti: "Pelz ist Mord" - "ALF"

16/12/2011

**D-96450 Coburg**

Graffiti on facade of a butcher's shop: "Meat is Murder".

19/12/2011

**D-18057 Rostock**

Door locks of a fur store were damaged with glue, the facade was defaced with paint.

26/12/2011

**D-58708 Menden**

12 Hunting towers were toppled over; the amount of damage is unknown.



## 2.4 Italy

### 2.4.1 Number of incidents: 17

03/10/2011

#### **Figino Serenza (CO)**

Damage caused to cages and external nets within the compounds of the farm "Il Roncone". 5000 pheasants were released. In the night, individuals penetrated inside the farm, located in Figino Serenza (CO) and cut the nets.

03/10/2011

#### **Pordenone**

The external walls of a Mc Donald's restaurant were slightly damaged by a fire set by individuals in the night. "In the night of 2 October 2011 around 02.00, we set fire to a pillar of the McDonald's in Pordenone, in Italy and we damaged the McDrive counter... we decided to hit McDonald's because this lobby is accomplice to the extermination of animals and therefore remains a target for the "ALF".

The action was claimed by a statement signed by "A.L.F. - Animal Liberation Front", and published on the internet site "www.directaction.info"

14/10/2011

#### **Montichiari (BS)**

In occasion of a protest demonstration organised by the "Coordinamento Fermare Green Hill" (coordination to stop Green Hill) against the breeding farm of beagle dogs of the same name, early in the morning five activists have introduced themselves illegally inside the farm and are climbed on the roof of a shed remaining there until the late morning of the following day. The authors of the initiative were denounced by the judicial authorities.

21/10/2011

#### **Montichiari (BS)**

Unknown individuals threw a brick through the glass window of a shed of the breeding farm for beagle dogs called "Green Hill".

25/10/2011

#### **Bugugiate (VA)**

The threatening document was signed by "Animal Liberation" and sent to the main office of the company "Tecniplast S.p.A." to the attention of [REDACTED] The company is among the producers of cages for animals supplying the dog breeding farm cani beagle "Green Hill".

02/11/2011

#### **Firenze**

The [REDACTED] of the company "Menarini Farmaceutica s.p.a" has complained to have received two threatening letters in the months of March and October. The anonymous authors probably pertaining to animal right groups accuse him of having commercial relationships with the breeding farm "Green Hill" in Montichiari (BS).

18/11/2011

**Bologna**

At the postal sorting office of Bologna an envelope addressed to the breeding farm "Green Hill" in Montichiari (BS) was found deprived of postal cancellation and sender, containing eight cartridges cal. 9x19 inside a plastic bag and a hand written threat letter destined to the employees of the company as well as to [REDACTED].

19/11/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

As part of a protest demonstration organised by "Coordinamento Fermare Green Hill" against the homonymous breeding farm of beagle dogs, some demonstrators have thrown animal dung (of the excrements of animals) outside a stable, they tagged on the Intercom and the company's plate of an accounting firm that allegedly collaborates with the company in question. They also defaced the compound walls of a horse meat butcher shop. Two activist were identified and reported by the Judicial authority in relation to these incidents.

20/11/2011

**Trento**

The shop windows of the fur shop "De Tassis" and of the delicatessen shop "Mattei" were defaced with graffiti overnight by unidentified perpetrators.

29/11/2011

**Bologna**

At the postal sorting office of Bologna, an envelope franked with the required postage and without sender addressed to [REDACTED] and was found containing three cartridges of calibre 9X19 and letter with threat to the mayor criticised for failing to close the breeding farm "Green Hill".

02/12/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

In the framework of the protest campaign against the breeding farm of the beagle dogs "Green Hill" in Montichiari (BS), [REDACTED] has received an anonymous insulting e-mail in the electronic mail box of his Facebook profile.

09/12/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

As part of the protest campaign against the breeding farm "Green Hill" in Montichieari (BS), an anonymous sending addressed to [REDACTED] has been intercepted. The sender mentioned was "ENPA Milano" and it contained a bullet cal. 380 auto 9x17 mm short as well as a letter with death threats.

12/12/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

As part of the protest campaign against the breeding farm "Green Hill" in Montichieari (BS), two anonymous sendings were seized mentioning "ENPA Milano" as sender and addressed to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the municipal police of the town of the Brescia province. Both envelopes contained a bullet cal. 9x19 and a threatening letter.

13/12/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

At the office of the Local Health Authority of Montichiari (BS), an envelop with sender "ENPA Milano" containing a projectile calibre 9x17 and a threat note for the absence of controls on the activities of the breeding farm of beagle dogs "Green Hill" in Montichiari (BS).

20/12/2011

**Lonato del Garda (BS)**

At the office of Local Health Authority, a threatening e-mail was received, addressed to the veterinary doctor responsible of the Veterinary District [REDACTED] allegedly held responsible for the lack of controls regarding the activities of the beagle dogs breeding company "Green Hill" of Montichiari.

21/12/2011

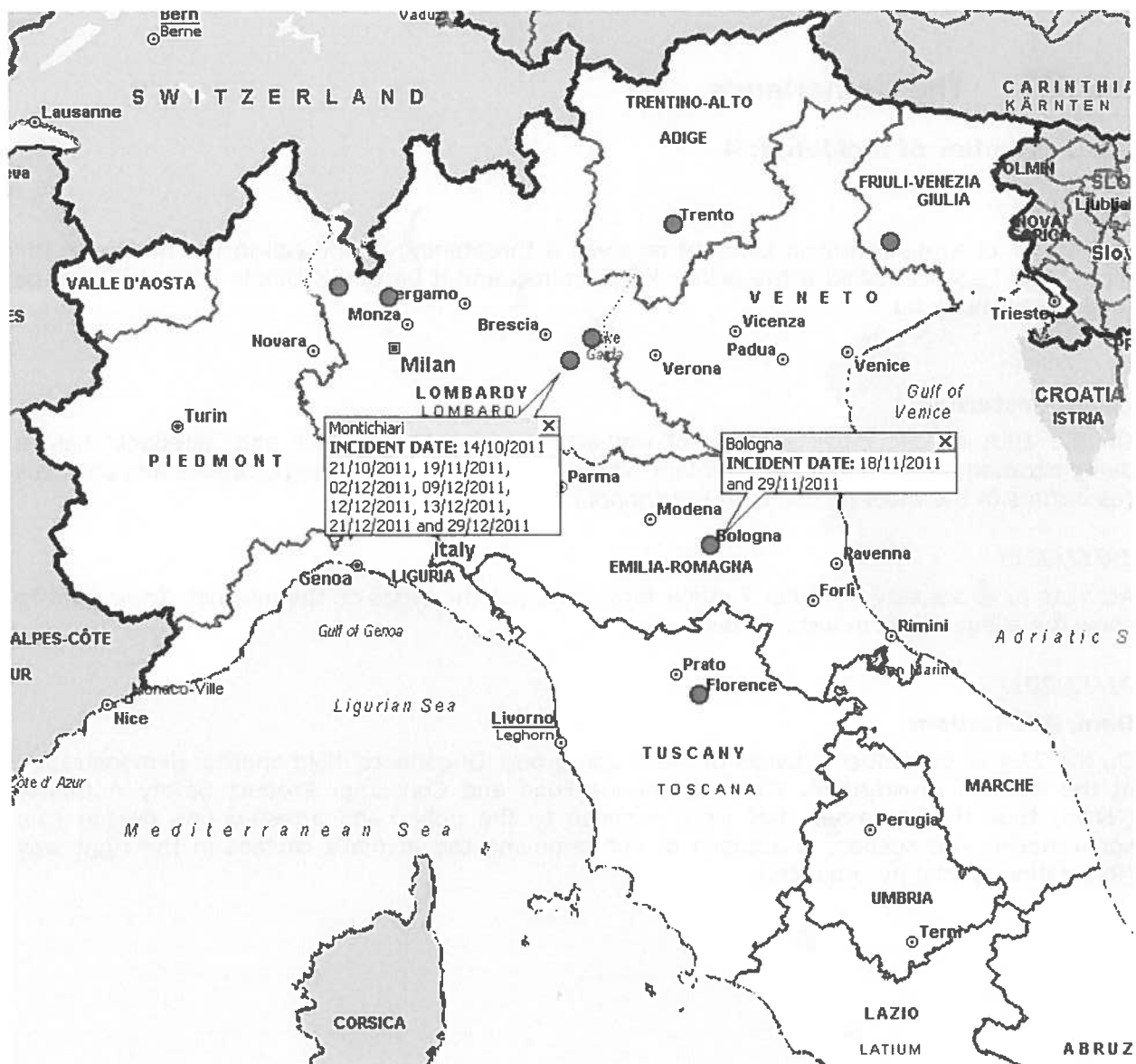
**Montichiari (BS)**

In the context of the protest campaign against the beagle dogs breeding farm "Green Hill" of Montichiari (BS), an anonymous letter was seized with a dated postal stamp showing "Torino CMP 20.12.2011" and addressed to [REDACTED] containing a handwritten text with a death threat.

29/12/2011

**Montichiari (BS)**

As part of the protest campaign against the breeding farm "Green Hill" in Montichieari (BS), two anonymous letters were seized. One was addressed to the farm in question containing a bullet calibre 9x19 brand Luger and a letter with threats addressed to the employees of the farm. The second letter was addressed to [REDACTED] and contained a threatening letter.



## **2.5 The Netherlands**

### **2.5.1 Number of incidents: 4**

*13/11/2011*

The owner of a mink farm in Limburg received a threatening phone call in the middle of the night. A girl's voice asked if the owner keeps minks and if he thinks this is normal. Then the mink owner hung up.

*10/12/2011*

#### **Dam, Amsterdam**

On the 10th of December activists of the action group 'Ongehoord' and 'BiteBack' held a demonstration at the Dam in Amsterdam. They showed carcasses of pigs, rabbits and chickens (as victims of the meat industry) to the shoppers.

*19/12/2011*

Activists have secretly filmed in 7 rabbit farms and put the tapes on the internet. They want to show the alleged misconducts in this sector.

*21/12/2011*

#### **Dam, Amsterdam**

On the 21st of December activists of the action group 'Ongehoord' held another demonstration at the Dam in Amsterdam. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (Nvwa) took the carcasses that were exposed to the public and arrested one person (the spokesman). The suspect is accused of not removing the animal's carcass in the right way (Regulation animal by-products).





## 2.6 United Kingdom

### 2.6.1 Number of incidents: 12

*12/10/2011*

**Cheale Meats, Brentwood Essex**

One arrest for public disorder

*15/10/2011*

**West Haddlesley, Birkin Hunt, Yorkshire**

One arrest for public disorder

*21/10/2011*

**Cheale Meats, Brentwood Essex**

No further information provided.

*21/10/2011*

**Sera Labs, Haywards Heath, Sussex**

SHAC target continues to have emails and letters sent to its mailboxes as part of the protests against the company and its links to HLS.

*24/10/2011*

**Sera Labs, Haywards Heath, Sussex**

Between the 24 and 30 of October SERA Labs has continued to be protested against by animal rights activists supporting (SHAC). They have received 4 threatening letters and a further 11 emails of a similar nature.

*10/11/2011*

**Medical Research Council Harwell, Oxfordshire**

A victim received approximately 4 abusive phone calls which he attributes to his connections to the medical research council, Harwel Science & Innovation Campus.

*12/11/2011*

**Berkeley, Gloucestershire**

A victim stated he was alone and filming hunt saboteurs on his mobile phone where he was seen by them. They ran towards him wearing balaclavas and he curled into a ball to protect himself, but they trampled over him and ran past and made off in two Land Rover cars.

*12/11/2011*

**Leigh Church, Leigh, Gloucestershire**

No further information provided.

*15/11/2011*

**HLS, Huntingdon Research Centre, Cambridgeshire**

No further information provided.

*26/11/2011*

**Hunts Party, York, North Yorkshire**

Aggravated Trespass

24/12/2011

**Barnhouse Lane, Great Barrow, Cheshire**

Target - Members of the public

31/12/2011

**Nottingham University, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire**

No further information provided.



### 3 Findings

- A total of 71 incidents were reported by six countries in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011. The amount of incidents increased from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2011 by 23 (48 incidents contributed by 7 countries in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter).
- Five incidents were reported as arson attacks. Two incidents happened in Austria; both out of an anti hunting motivation. The third incident happened in Italy targeting a McDonald's restaurant. One of the two incidents in Germany targeted again a poultry factory farm under construction. In regard to this incident two suspects could be arrested. The other incident targeted a hunting tower.

*The framed text in this document indicates the arson attacks.*

- In Italy 14 incidents out of the 17 reported concerned a protest campaign against a beagle dog breeding farm in the province of Brescia.
- The financial damage caused by the reported incidents was either not known or not reported. The total amount of 39.700,- € concerns only incidents in Germany.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was dominated by anti hunting campaigns which represented 26,8% of all incidents. The attacks combined predominantly the damaging of hunting towers. Anti fur campaigns amount to 8,6% of all incidents
- In 30 cases the target was a private company and in 10 cases perpetrators targeted a governmental or public facility. In 8 cases out of these 40 the attack targeted a person of this private company or governmental/public facility.