



Dear Reader,

*This issue of the Eurojust News looks at aspects of Eurojust's contribution to the European Union's fight against child abuse, especially in the form of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse through the internet. Children are self-evidently vulnerable, and need special protection from those who prey on them. The Treaty of Lisbon requires the European Union to promote the protection of the rights of the child and Eurojust is wholly committed to helping combat the exploitation of children.*

*If you have any comments regarding this newsletter, please contact our Press & PR Service at [info@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:info@eurojust.europa.eu).*

*Aled Williams, President of Eurojust*

## Child Abuse

The European Commission estimates that between 10 and 20 per cent of children in Europe fall victim to some form of sexual abuse.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines child abuse as "all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power."

Child abuse is a growing phenomenon, aggravated by the development of the internet and the facilitation of international travel. According to the European Financial Coalition combating the commercial distribution of child abuse images on the Internet (EFC), of which Eurojust is a member, approximately 3000 commercial child exploitation or abuse websites were in existence in 2009, with between 250 and 300 websites operating at any given time.

In 2010, the number of websites identified fell to 61, but experts consider that this reduction reflects the successful efforts of paedophile networks to conceal their IP addresses by using sophisticated encryption devices. Sadly, the threat to children represented by these networks remains very real.

The European Union and Eurojust are aware of this threat and are committed to

doing their utmost to protect vulnerable victims and hold offenders responsible.

### What is Europe doing?

The European Union is committed to protecting children and fighting against sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The Polish EU Presidency has put Protection of Minors on their agenda and is preparing Council Conclusions. Since 1999, the European Commission has launched many campaigns to raise awareness of this issue. A 2011 initiative, launched by EU Commissioner Viviane Reding, is called "Think Before You Post", and emphasizes safety on the internet.

In 2007, the Commission adopted a Decision requiring Member States to reserve



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the 116 000 number for child hot-lines across the European Union, and Commissioner Reding called on Member States "to make every effort to implement the hotline swiftly to put children's safety and security first".

On 24 May 2011, the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee) held a meeting on travelling child sex offenders.

### Directive PE-CONS 51/11

The LIBE Committee held an open hearing on 21 and 22 September 2010 on "Combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography", in connection with a new legislative proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and the Council to harmonise approximately twenty criminal offences and set higher penalties for paedophiles. To prevent repeated crimes, the Directive requires Member States to adopt safer recruitment policies, ensuring that convicted offenders are temporarily or permanently prevented from getting jobs involving regular contact with children.

Mr Ola Laurell, Eurojust's Contact Point for Child Protection, spoke as an expert in coordinating judicial actions on a global scale. He said that "pictures of child abuse are descriptions and images of crime scenes", and emphasized that the Directive would provide "more tools for investigations

Child abuse is a growing phenomenon, aggravated by the development of the internet and the facilitation of international travel.

and clearer definitions of these types of crimes". He stressed the need for a coordinated approach toward these criminals, with cooperation from all the law enforcement authorities.

The number of child abuse websites is growing, with an estimated 200 new images circulated every day. The Directive obliges Member States to promptly remove such websites hosted in their territories and to take the necessary steps to obtain their removal if hosted outside their territories. In addition, Member States may block access to such web pages under certain circumstances, such as if cooperation fails, provided they adopt transparent procedures and provide safeguards if they do bar access. Web pages containing child abuse images are to be removed at source. For pages hosted outside the European Union, cooperation between Member States and third States is essential.

Minimum penalties have been fixed for producing, possessing and viewing child abuse images on the internet, and for sex tourism and "grooming" (making the acquaintance of children via the internet for the purpose of future sexual abuse). Member States may impose higher penalties. Examples of penalties under the directive range from one year for viewing child abuse images on the internet, three years for producing child abuse images, and ten years for coercive behaviour leading to sexual contact or prostitution.

Upon release from incarceration, sex offenders may be permanently barred from professional activities that involve contact with children. In addition, potential employers could obtain access to information about convictions, and sex offender registers may be used by Member States. The Directive, which will replace EU legislation from 2004 (Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA), was formally adopted by the Council of Ministers on 15 November 2011. Transposition into national law must be completed by the Member States within two years.

### MEPs Alliance for Children

The Members of the European Parliament (MEP)'s Alliance for Children was created in March 2011. A supervisory role is played by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG). This initiative has boosted the commitment of MEPs to champion children's rights and has led to the creation of a forum on children's rights within the European Parliament, as well as among the Parliament, the Commission and NGOs.

### Safer Internet Programme

On 20 October 2011, Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, gave a speech entitled "Making internet a better place for children – a shared responsibility". She spoke about one of her priorities as Commissioner: to make children safe online, empower them and protect them. She cited the Safer Internet Programme of 1999, and how much technology and the way it is used has changed since then.

Commissioner Kroes spoke directly to children about the need for protecting their privacy and learning to judge what sorts of photographs and personal information should be put online. Commissioner Kroes provided some interesting statistics. The average age for children in Europe to start going online is seven; 38 per cent of 9- to 12-year-olds have a social networking profile, despite age restrictions, and over 30 per cent of children who go online do so from a mobile device.

She stressed the need for raising awareness, innovation, exchange of ideas and sharing of resources to respond to digital challenges. "We need to carry on building a cross-European infrastructure to empower and protect children, through an extended and better-resourced Safer Internet Programme. Most of all, we need specific technical measures to protect children online. The challenge is to have measures which latch onto both

**HEARING**  
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

**COMBATING SEXUAL ABUSE,  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
OF CHILDREN  
AND  
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Rapporteur: Roberta Angelilli (PPE)

Tuesday 28 September 2010, 15.00 - 18.30  
Wednesday 29 September 2010, 9.00 - 12.30  
Room: PHS 1 A 002, Brussels

platforms and audiovisual content; measures which are flexible and responsive; and measures which allow room for both freedom of speech and viable business models.” Commissioner Kroes asked for concrete suggestions from Member States, law enforcement bodies, NGOs and internet providers within the next 18 months. She highlighted the need to “step up the fight against child sex abuse material. I find it appalling that it takes so much time to take down child sexual abuse content...”. She will launch a communication to set up a European strategy to make the internet a better place for children, including measures to empower and protect.

### Council of Europe

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse entered into force on 1 July 2010. The Convention is the first international treaty to address all forms of sexual violence against children, including child prostitution, paedo-pornography, grooming and corruption of children through exposure to sexual content and activities. The Convention covers preventive and protective measures; assistance to child victims and their families; intervention programmes and measures for child sex offenders; criminal offences, including several entirely new offences; child-friendly procedures for investigation and prosecution; recording and storing data on convicted sex offenders; international cooperation; and a monitoring mechanism.

### What is Eurojust doing?

Since its establishment, Eurojust has played an active role in fighting crimes against children. Eurojust applies the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 when dealing with cases concerning chil-

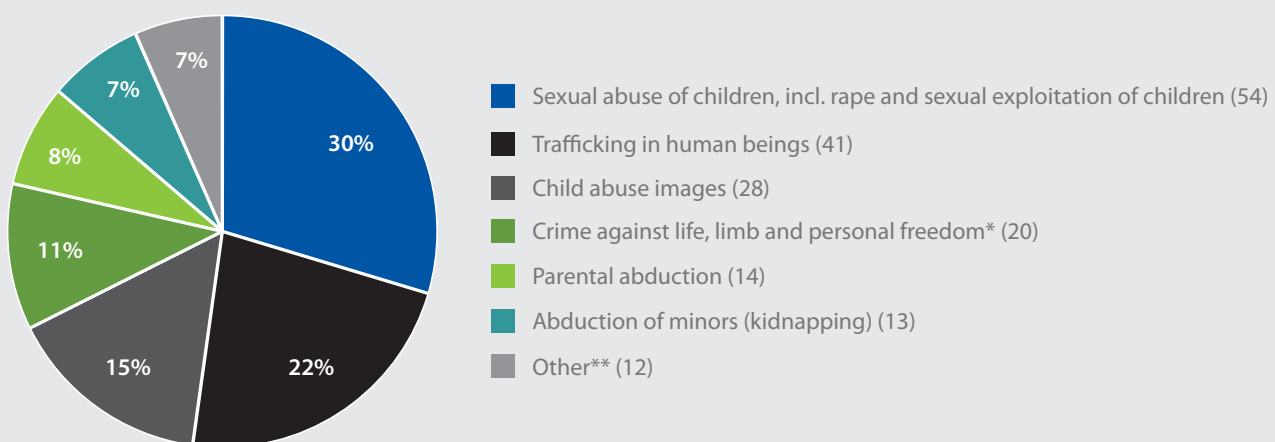


“Pictures of child abuse are descriptions and images of crime scenes”.

dren. The revised Eurojust Decision includes an obligation for the Member States to inform Eurojust about complex cross-border cases involving, *inter alia*, the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, thus allowing Eurojust and the Contact Point for Child Protection to be even more efficient. In 2010, Eurojust dealt with 37 cases concerning children. By the end of September 2011, Eurojust has dealt with 27 cases. Witnesses and victims are indispensable components of the justice system. Both groups can provide the foundation for criminal prosecutions. But witnesses and victims must be pro-

## Cases at Eurojust concerning children

Crime Types: 2004 - 30 September 2011



\* Crime against life, limb and personal freedom includes murder (10 cases), grievous bodily harm (8 cases), manslaughter (1 case) and slander (1 case).

\*\* Other includes child alimony (3 cases), incest (1 case), theft (4 cases), robbery (1 case) and other criminal activities (3 cases).



tected, to the full extent of relevant European and international legal instruments, from threats of violence or intimidation.

### Contact Point at Eurojust for Child Protection

In October 2007, at an informal Justice and Home Affairs meeting under the Portuguese Presidency, the Belgian Minister of Justice, Ms Laurette Onkelinx, proposed the creation of the Contact Point for Child Protection from among the Eurojust National Members. Mr Ola Laurell, the Eurojust National Member for Sweden, was appointed by the College of Eurojust in November 2007. The College set the parameters of the role, in consultation with Mr Laurell, in February 2008.

When a serious crime against a child or children has been committed, Eurojust is often involved. Accordingly, when the role of the Contact Point was established, the College of Eurojust decided that the work of the Contact Point should be focused on serious criminal offences. Therefore, the Contact Point for Child Protection cannot act in all matters concerning children, such as social child protection issues and parental child abduction cases. He takes the lead in coordinating information, collecting best practices, experience and operational activity in transnational investigations concerning children in the areas of sexual abuse, trafficking and child abuse on the internet.

The Contact Point also acts as a centre of expertise in judicial coopera-

tion in cases concerning children. He supports and advises the Eurojust National Members when dealing with these types of crimes and also raises awareness on child protection-related matters, disseminates relevant information and advises on possible actions to be taken.

Mr Laurell is currently supported by a team of dedicated professionals: the Liaison Prosecutor for Norway, a member of the Legal Service, and several members of the Case Analysis Unit.

*For further information, inquiries or any other concerns, please send an e-mail to [childprotection@eurojust.europa.eu](mailto:childprotection@eurojust.europa.eu). The Eurojust webpage for the Contact Point for Child Protection is <http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/childprotect.htm>. ■*

## Interview with Neelie Kroes European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda

### *Eurojust: How important to you is protection of children on the internet?*

Neelie Kroes: "Extremely important! It's not just about protection through the actions of others, by the way; it's also about empowering kids to protect themselves. Kids are fascinated by the internet; it's a world of opportunity for creativity and growth. The last thing we want is to keep them away from it or leave them in an unsafe space. I am convinced we can create a better internet, one where we don't have to choose between being educational, safe or fun. We can have all three of these aspects if we accept the idea that protecting children is a shared responsibility. Children, parents, teachers, technology companies, child welfare organisations – they all have a role. I see my role as bringing people together to enhance the quality of our actions."

### *How can adults and schools get involved?*

"In many ways. For example, one of our specific Digital Agenda Actions asks each national government in the European Union to develop a strategy on how best to teach online safety in schools. The governments have agreed, as a group, to do this. Now we need teachers and parents

to get involved and make sure they deliver their promise. Adults and school staff can also make use of the people and the information available

through the INSAFE network of Safer Internet Centres. This will help us teach children about what risks they may come across online, and what



Ms Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda (© European Commission)

to do if they think they face a problem. The latest action that will affect parents is a coalition I have formed with 28 well-known companies in the technology and media fields. The companies have agreed upon action in five areas, including:

- ▶ Provide simpler ways for children and parents to report harmful content and contacts;
- ▶ Ensure age-appropriate privacy settings on social networking sites;
- ▶ Ensure wider use of content classification such as age-ratings; and
- ▶ Provide and promote parental control tools, so that parents are more able to set limits on what their children can see and do online."

*The Commission's "Safer Internet Programme 1999" was followed by the "Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 on Establishing a Multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies". What has happened since then?*

"We've taken positive steps forward in what is obviously an environment that is constantly changing. We set up the INSAFE network of Safer Internet Centres that deals with raising awareness among children, parents and teachers about the safe use of new technologies. And I especially like the Safer Internet Day that is held every year in February (the 2012 event takes place on 7 February with the slogan 'Discover the digital world together...safely!'). Now we also have a wider range of telephone help lines where children, parents and teachers can ask for advice.

We have also set up the INHOPE network of hotlines where the general public can report on child sex abuse images they may come across online. Behind the scenes, we have funded research, such as EUKidsOnline, so we can know from children themselves and their parents how technology is being used by youngsters. There is also SIP-Bench, a benchmarking of existing parental control tools, and research that would allow us to better understand issues such as online grooming.

Some of the most important steps have been taken in self-regulation – bringing mobile operators and social

### Operation "Koala"

In 2007, judicial cooperation facilitated by Eurojust, in the case named Operation "Koala", led to the arrest of an Italian national running a website that was offering tailor-made videos showing children being abused. The material was filmed and produced in Ukraine, Belgium and the Netherlands. Many "customers" of the website were also arrested.

The investigation began in 2006 when a child abuse video was discovered in Australia. This particular video had been produced in Belgium. A Belgian perpetrator and two victims were identified. Consequently, the sole producer of the material, a 42-year-old Italian national, was arrested. He was running a website on which he sold over 150 self-made, sexually explicit videos of underage girls. This business had been running for a year and a half, generating considerable profits from around 2500 customers worldwide.

The information from Australia was routed via Interpol to Belgium. The Belgian Federal Prosecutor asked Eurojust to initiate coordination. The keys to the success of this operation were the provision of valuable data by Member States and Interpol, crime analysis carried out for more than one year by specialists dealing with online child sex abuse cases handled by Europol, and the judicial coordination carried out by Eurojust.

The abusive material was mainly produced in Ukraine in the man's private studio. Some material was filmed in Belgium and in the Netherlands. The children were paid small amounts of money to pose as models in a sexually explicit fashion. One of the videos sold by the Italian suspect shows a father sexually abusing his daughters of 9 and 11 years of age. The customers were also able to order tailor-made videos. Upon request, the children wore suggestive lingerie, at times bought by the customers themselves. Requests on how to pose were also made and some customers even travelled to the studio to attend the video shoots or to make their own private videos.

Shortly before the producer was due to move permanently to Ukraine, the Italian national police in Bologna arrested him. After his arrest, the Italian authorities forwarded all the digitalised material, including customer details, to Europol. The material was analysed and disseminated to the countries in which customers were identified. Eurojust invited representatives of the judiciary and the police from 28 countries to several operational meetings in The Hague and worked in close cooperation with Europol.

At Eurojust, the Belgian and Italian National Members took the initiative to coordinate, on a judicial level, all the countries involved. This remarkable level of cooperation with all Eurojust National Members, addressing their national authorities to follow the deadlines established for the common operations, contributed to the success of the joint Eurojust-Europol operation. Subsequent investigations were initiated by the national authorities, leading to a significant number of arrests and the seizure of a considerable amount of child abuse material: 23 children between 9 and 16 years of age were identified. Amongst those arrested were several persons working in trusted positions, such as school teachers and swimming instructors.

Although the case was closed in 2008, links to new cases have been identified. Swedish authorities analysed 1½ million photographs in the context of Operation "Koala", and, using this analysis, links were discovered by the US and Swedish authorities to US and Swedish criminal activities.



networking sites to higher standards of safety. This is certainly not something that is less tough or successful than traditional regulation. In fact, it's often the best way to cope with the fast-paced digital world. So, overall, I am confident we really are on the right track. But more than ever, we need to listen to young people's views – and to keep raising awareness. When I say 'Every European Digital' that also means 'safely'."

*How can technical measures and self-regulatory processes in the private sector be enforced?*

"Technical measures, such as the use of parental control tools, need to be accompanied by awareness-raising activities and education. You don't so much 'enforce' measures, but take people to a situation where delivering a safer environment is a win-win for everyone. That does not mean the approach is all 'carrot' and no 'stick'. To be credible and effective, self-regulation needs to build in accountability, transparency and monitoring of implementation of the agreed measures. And if self-regulation stops working, we reserve the right to consider other measures. The goal is not self-regulation or regula-

tion; the goal is child safety and we will do what we have to do to achieve it. As an example of what I mean by accountability, see the latest results of the implementation of the Safer Social Networking Principles for the EU at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sip/self\\_reg/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/self_reg/index_en.htm). Therefore, by taking many related actions and always keeping an eye on progress, we can keep moving forward."

*Can a European Union regulation on blocking child abuse sites be implemented?*

"A new Directive aimed at combating sexual abuse, exploitation of children and child pornography has just been agreed upon by the Parliament and Council. The Directive foresees that Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the prompt removal of web pages hosted in their territory that contain or disseminate child pornography, and to endeavour to obtain the removal of such pages hosted outside of their territory.

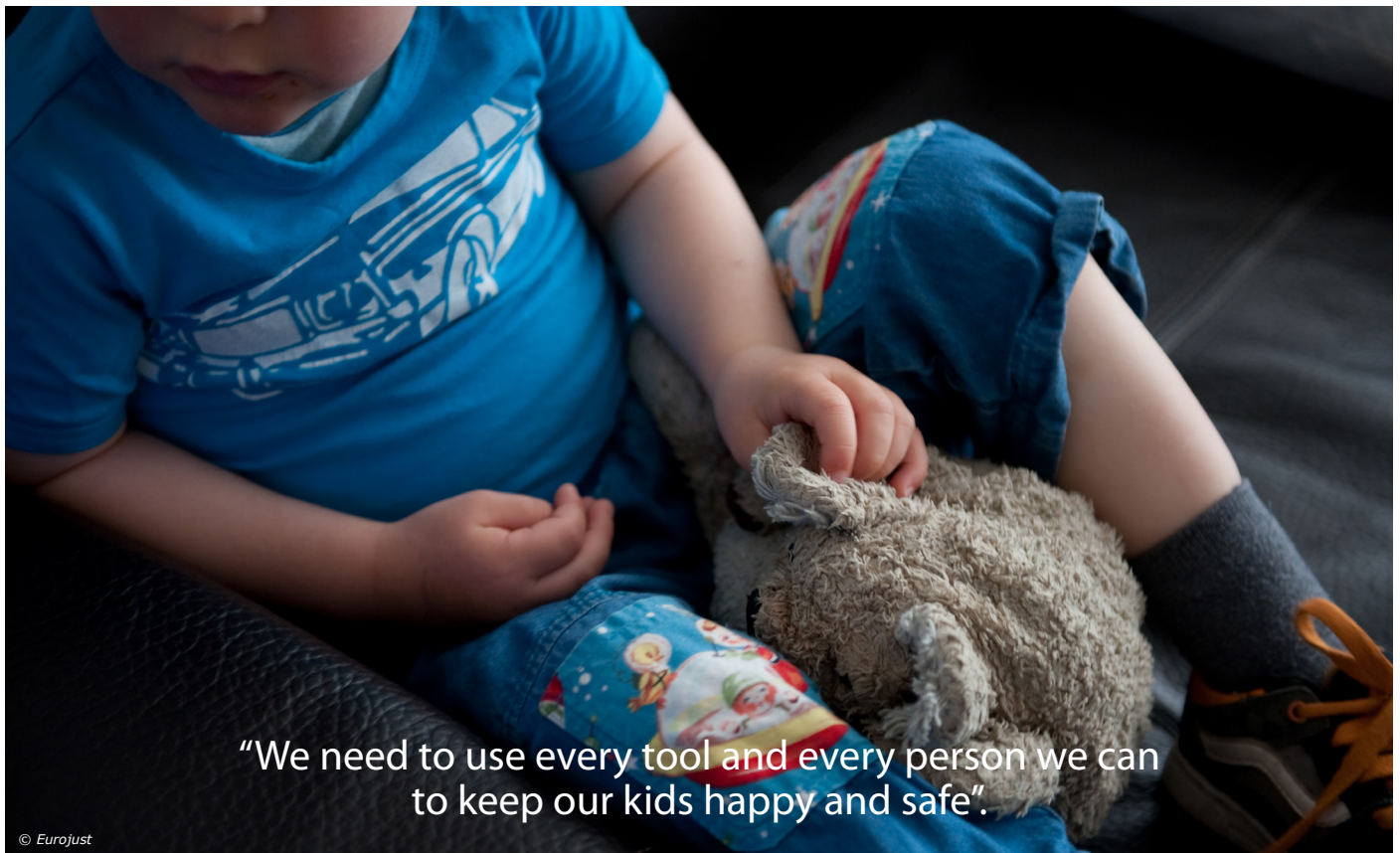
The Directive also clarifies that blocking is optional and must be set by transparent procedures and provide adequate safeguards, in particular to

ensure that the restriction is limited to what is necessary and proportionate, and that users are informed of the reason for the restriction. These safeguards include the possibility of judicial redress.

At the same time, the CEO coalition that I formed will also be working on improving the effectiveness of taking child abuse material off the internet. Companies will work to improve co-operation with law enforcement and hotlines, and take proactive steps to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet."

*What role can Eurojust play in assisting you in your important initiatives on this subject?*

"You've got so much to offer. It starts with your core role relating to the implementation of directives such as combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and you can do much by raising awareness through your networks across the justice field. I hope by answering your questions, your readers will also see they have an ally in Brussels working on these issues. After all, we need to use every tool and every person we can to keep our kids happy and safe." ■



"We need to use every tool and every person we can to keep our kids happy and safe".

© Eurojust

## Interview with Yves Goethals

### Superintendent Team Child Pornography, Federal Judicial Police, Belgium

*Eurojust: What is child abuse on the internet?*

Yves Goethals: "Child abuse on the internet is a quite recent phenomenon. Our conclusion is that it has developed rapidly since the beginning of the 21st century, perhaps as a consequence of the ease of accessibility of the internet for everybody."

There is a discussion on the terminology: in international police circles we avoid speaking about child pornography, as this implies an agreement between parties. We prefer to call this 'child abuse online'. However, in some countries, such as Belgium, we find the term 'child pornography' in the articles in the criminal law books, so in our police reports, we must use this term to comply with national legislation. This is, for example, also the situation in some other Member States. I know that Interpol, Eurojust and Europol are making an effort to have the right term for this crime implemented and used in the future."

*How can you trace these crimes?*

"There are several possibilities. The police can search and monitor the internet, or we receive information from abroad, or the more common way: a person files a complaint at the local police office. Most of our information, around 90 per cent, comes from international exchanged information, data from Interpol, Europol and Eurojust, depending on how the national authorities choose to forward their information to us. In Germany, for example, the police have a specialised team that proactively will search for sites and newsgroups on this subject."

We are very fortunate that, under the umbrella of CIRCAMP (see page 8), we can share all information internationally, making it possible for us to work with information from other countries that already have more legal tools in place. In the USA, police are allowed to work undercover to gather intelligence. In Belgium, undercover intelligence-gathering is subject to strict regulation. It may never constitute a 'fishing expedition'."



Mr Yves Goethals, Superintendent Team Child Pornography, Federal Judicial Police, Belgium (© Eurojust)

*Which countries/entities supply the most information?*

"The UK and German authorities send the most significant amount of information to the Belgian police. Another main source is Europol, which analyses the facts, and we are regularly invited to Eurojust to participate in coordination meetings, where we can share information."

*Is there a "type" of perpetrator?*

"This is one of the most difficult questions. There is no typical perpetrator; it can be anyone, although mostly male. There are also female perpetrators who can, in our experience, be very violent, but 98 per cent of the perpetrators are male. All classes of society, all professionals, and all places of residence are involved, from 19 to 84 years of age. There is only one common characteristic: they all know very well how to use a computer and to find their 'material' online. According to the psychologists and psychiatrists work-

ing and studying this phenomenon for many years, they have a kind of short-circuit in the brain that makes them act like this."

We also see a lot of recidivism; we meet the same persons again and again. Until now, no one has been able to show me a therapy that guarantees results. According to experts attending international meetings, child abusers are not easily integrated into group therapies with sexual abusers of adults because child abusers are considered completely different types of criminals whose behaviour is not acceptable, even to abusers of adults."

*How can you deal with this phenomenon from day to day as a police officer?*

"Well, I am now 11 years in this team. First of all, all members of our team volunteered for this; they knew what it was all about. We are of course supported by a team of psychologists from the Federal Police, but we all developed a kind



of barrier to focus more on the criminal facts and less on the actual child abuse. In the pictures, we look for other sorts of information to allow us to detect the locations, persons and other relevant facts. Nonetheless, we have very sophisticated technical tools in place so that we are less confronted with the pictures as such. For example, specialised software allows us to filter out the pictures we have previously viewed and labelled. We also have tools that allow us to import information quickly. So we only need to see about 30 per cent of a hard disk. The software can determine, based on our input, which pictures and videos need a closer look. So, we can analyse photographs in 1/100 of real time."

#### *How can Eurojust assist you?*

"CIRCAMP, as presented at Eurojust to Mr Laurell, is a great tool to exchange all the information on this

phenomenon amongst the participating Member States and to coordinate operations. Eurojust needs to be available when needed. Involving all the prosecutors from the beginning, in the stage of the investigation involving intelligence-gathering and exchanging information, makes no sense; on the contrary, this involvement can even slow down an investigation, as mentioned by some Eurojust National Members. Eurojust should be there 'just in time', and as we have a unique contact point at Eurojust, in the person of Mr Laurell, we know what we must do.

In the past, we participated eight times in coordination meetings, where we were able to anticipate possible problems and find solutions in advance. If we have a specific question about the procedure in another Member State, at Eurojust the prosecutor of that Member State is sitting next to me, so we can directly

ask for what we need. And that is exactly the role of Eurojust, to take over where the police have to stop, due to differences in legislation, different judicial systems, etc. At Eurojust, we find prosecutors from all these Member States and judicial systems around one table."

#### *What can be improved in the near future?*

"You know that child abuse online is one of the priorities of the European Commission, as well as at Interpol, Europol and Eurojust. The Polish Presidency of the European Union mentioned this crime type as a priority. But we never see this carried over to the national authorities when we present requests for legal assistance.

We have an obligation to protect our children as much as possible, and we are doing our job, but often we are told that there are other priorities, or a shortage of available police manpower. A second important improvement could be the exchange of information on judicial level. Amongst police forces, this process goes quite smoothly. Eurojust has already made considerable progress in this area.

The fact that Eurojust exists is a great step forward. But results may still take up to six weeks to arrive in the requesting country in response to an official request between two neighbouring countries. This is the reality and I do not think that Eurojust is there to intervene in each request for assistance. Speed is important; the internet is a fast world; within half an hour the information can change completely. Eurojust needs to be informed about all cases involving international crime.

The best example of this need was Operation "Koala" (see page 5), where the information from Eurojust went smoothly to the national prosecution offices, to the local prosecutors and the local police who made the searches, seizures and arrests worldwide. This was a dream for police officers; we also would like to see this effort made in smaller cases. This message should go to all the Member States. Criminality has changed; the thief is no longer living around the corner, but is acting internationally. We need faster procedures." ■

#### CIRCAMP

The European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF) established the Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for Police (COSPOL) initiative in 2004 to "form international operational cooperative networks amongst law enforcement agencies in Europe". Online child exploitation was identified by the EPCTF as one of the areas that required COSPOL support, and this led to the formation of the COSPOL Internet Related Child Abuse Material Project (CIRCAMP) in 2006.

This law enforcement network is driven by Norway and the UK. Other members of the network are Denmark, Belgium, France, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain and Germany. These countries are supported by Europol and Interpol.

CIRCAMP members will cooperate with police authorities in any country in the world willing to participate in access blocking, will share information and will make personnel available, share information and best practices, and attend and speak at conferences.

The three primary goals of the CIRCAMP network are:

- "1. Detect, disrupt and dismantle networks, organizations or structures used for the production and/or distribution of child abusive files and to detect offenders, identify children and stop abuse
2. Through cooperation create a common understanding towards global policing of the Internet
3. Reduce harm on society by attacking the distribution of child abuse material on a European level, and disrupt the methods used by organized crime groups responsible for the illegal pay per view sites."

Source: CIRCAMP website: <http://circamp.eu>



## Operation “Lost Boy”

In 2008, Eurojust registered a case code-named “Lost Boy”. The case was registered, at the request of the Norwegian Liaison Prosecutor at Eurojust, to support an investigation into the sexual abuse of minors and the production and distribution of child abuse images. The case also concerned travelling child sex offenders. As the investigation developed, it revealed possible links to twelve countries and suspects, including Italy, the USA, Romania, the UK, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Afghanistan and Brazil.

The US network operated as a forum for the production and distribution of child abuse materials, and used the internet to communicate and exchange materials via an online message board based on sophisticated security protocols, and brought together technologically advanced users communicating via public posts and private messages. The users of the board, some of whom were actually engaged in sexual molestation of children, resided in Europe, North and South America and New Zealand and victims were to be found world-wide. Some of the offenders met personally and exchanged child abuse materials, or made trips together.

As a result of the targeted and efficient law enforcement and judicial efforts of the countries involved, investigations were launched and progressed and arrests of offenders took place. Forensic examination of seized computers helped discover multiple terabytes of incriminating materials, including millions of child abuse images and thousands of videos, and provided evidence and links between offenders in different countries.

Victims of sexual abuse were identified in Norway, Romania, Brazil and other countries. Some of the evidence seized by the national authorities proved vital for investigations and judicial proceedings in other countries. Between 2008 and 2010, approximately 30 suspects were either convicted or under investigation; and more than 70 victims were identified.

Eurojust successfully facilitated the cooperation and coordination amongst judicial and law enforcement authorities of the involved countries. Five coordination meetings were held during which the participating countries shared evidence and coordinated requests for mutual legal assistance and actions against the criminal network. The coordination and exchange of information via Eurojust facilitated the initiation and conduct of investigations in some of the involved countries.

Issues regarding the competent jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute were solved. Joint actions by the Norwegian, Italian, Romanian and US authorities were planned and executed, including house searches, arrests and hearing of suspects.



Svein Erik Krogvold of the Norwegian Police and Anne Grøstad, Liaison Prosecutor for Norway at Eurojust (top) and Ola Laurell, National Member for Sweden and Contact Point for Child Protection at Eurojust (bottom) announce results of the “Lost Boy” investigation at a press conference held in December 2010 at Eurojust.



## Interview with Ola Laurell

### Contact Point for Child Protection at Eurojust

*Eurojust: Can you briefly describe some aspects of your role in Europe?*

Ola Laurell: "My focus is on cross-border investigations of child abuse on the internet and travelling child sex offenders. I closely follow the work of relevant authorities, law enforcement organisations and other bodies in the field of child protection. Amongst our preferred partners, I enjoy excellent cooperation with Europol, and attend their annual experts meeting. I also cooperate with Interpol and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). I have twice addressed meetings of the LIBE Committee."

*Can you describe the nature of your contacts with the USA?*

"We cooperate very often with the US authorities. I am Chair of the EU/US Child Exploitation Working Group, which was established in February 2009 as part of an initiative,

proposed by the USA at the EU-US Justice and Home Affairs meeting in Prague, to enhance cooperation in the field of child protection between the European Union and the USA. Ms Mary Lee Warren, then Liaison Prosecutor for the USA at Eurojust, was instrumental in establishing this working group, which meets several times per year via video link.

The working group's primary focus is on crimes involving child exploitation over the internet (and other means), travel for the purpose of sexual assault on children, and trafficking of minors. Europol is also a member. The working group exchanges information on trends and best practices, and knowledge of technical advances. The information gained is shared with EU and US authorities, and can assist, upon request, with Eurojust's operational casework.

In February 2011, I visited the US Department of Justice's Child Explo-

tation & Obscenity Section (CEOS), as well as the Innocent Images Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and its Cyber Division, the Cyber Crime Section at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE, also known as Homeland Security Investigations) (ICE has deployed 150 field officers throughout the world, and has the capability to decrypt encrypted hard discs), and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), an NGO. The purpose of the visit was to understand how the system in the USA operates, learn how the different units cooperate, understand the links, and explore further avenues of cooperation."

*What is the role of the EFC?*

"I am a member of the Steering Group of the EFC. Eurojust has been a member since 2009. The EFC, currently chaired by Europol and composed of Eurojust, law enforcement authorities, NGOs and private sec-



Mr Ola Laurell (© Eurojust)



tor entities, 'contributes to the fight against the distribution of illegal content depicting the sexual abuse of children where a commercial relation is established between two or more parties in all online environments.'

Other members include the Dutch Police (KPL), Microsoft™, PayPal™, MasterCard™, Visa™, Missing Children Europe (MCE), which is responsible for the EFC Secretariat and is the umbrella organisation for 23 NGOs, INHOPE and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC)."

*Some discrepancies have been encountered regarding the use of the terms "child abuse images" and "child pornography". Can you explain?*

"In many EU jurisdictions, possession of or distribution or otherwise making child abuse images available is criminalised as child pornography or child pornography crime. As adult pornography at the same time is not criminalised, one is given the impression that child pornography is just another type of pornography.

This opinion is sometimes even encountered in court by prosecutors. Of course, the difference between child pornography and adult pornography is tremendous. The possession or handling of even a single child abusive image is a crime. In my opinion, child pornography is therefore an unfortunate expression and should be replaced in the long run.

'Child Sex Tourism' is another expression that I think is not an appropriate description of a criminal offence or

behavior. It consists of three positive words. A more well-balanced expression is Travelling Child Sex Offend-

ers (see below), which accurately describes this type of very serious perpetrator." ■

### "Dreamboard"

Operation Delego is the name of an investigation launched in December 2009 into a private online bulletin board, named "Dreamboard", hosted in the USA. The bulletin board enabled members to trade explicit images and videos of themselves and other adults sexually molesting children under the age of 12, often in a very violent fashion. Perpetrators used various measures to avoid detection, including aliases, proxy servers, encryption and passwords.

Countries involved include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Qatar, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland, and there are also links to a total of 45 countries. The images constituted a huge private library of global child sexual abuse. To maintain their membership in Dreamboard, members were required to regularly upload their own child abuse images (at least every 50 days), and were ranked and granted access to other images according to the extent of their contributions to the library.

International coordination and cooperation between the US Department of Justice and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Eurojust, Europol, Interpol and worldwide law enforcement authorities led to the arrest of 71 Dreamboard members in 13 countries, including two of the five leaders of the network's board. During a coordination meeting organised by Eurojust in June 2010, representatives from Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the USA attended, and coordination and communication strategies were agreed upon. A later coordination meeting, convened by Eurojust in November 2011, gave the opportunity for eight involved National Desks and the US authorities to provide an update of the ongoing investigations and served as a forum for a review of previous activities.

A total of 72 individuals have been charged with participation in this international criminal network, and more than 500 additional individuals worldwide are under investigation for membership in the network. Of the 72 charged individuals, 52 have been arrested in the USA, where arrests so far have led to six guilty pleas, with sentences ranging from 20 to 35 years imprisonment, and lifetime supervision after release. At least 16 children have been rescued. The investigation in the USA is approaching its final stages, but continues in Europe. "Dreamboard" has now been dismantled.

### Tactical meeting on travelling child sex offenders

On 14 and 15 September 2011, Eurojust held a tactical meeting on travelling child sex offenders, organised by the Contact Point for Child Protection, and attended by EU prosecutors, judicial specialists in child exploitation and police officers, NGOs from Cambodia and India (two of the most common South and South East Asian destinations for child exploitation), the USA, Europol and the European Commission. The goal of the meeting was to consider the main problems faced by judicial authorities in the fight against offenders travelling abroad for the purpose of sexual abuse of children, with the famous "Lost Boy" case as a platform for discussion (see case example on page 9). A report on the tactical meeting will soon be available on the Eurojust website, providing best practices to be used in the fight against this form of abuse. During this meeting, the important role of reputable NGOs in third States (also known as destination countries) was stressed. These organisations provide English speakers and, along with liaison officers from the police, facilitate informal contact with local authorities in the absence of more formal contact points such as liaison prosecutors. Eurojust has also undertaken important coordination work in this area.



## New Administrative Director at Eurojust

On 14 July 2011, the College of Eurojust selected and appointed Mr Klaus Rackwitz as the new Administrative Director of Eurojust. Mr Rackwitz took up his duties on 01 October 2011.

The new Administrative Director was born in Germany in 1960. He studied law at the University of Cologne, and upon graduation was appointed as a judge. Since 1990, he headed the division for information technology and reorganisation in the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia, with responsibility for large-scale reorganisation projects in the judiciary.

Mr Rackwitz's experience led to his engagement as a Senior Administrative Manager in the Advance Team of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Since January 2003, he was a staff member of the Office of the Prosecutor and contributed to building up and developing the office, currently with more than 300 staff

members. Mr Rackwitz was responsible for the budget, the reporting and all financial transactions of the Prosecution Office, general administration, Human Resources administration, IT, language services and the management of all information and evidence received by the Prosecutor. He worked in the field of IT law and has lectured for several years on civil law, commercial law and IT law at the Universities of Cologne and Düsseldorf and the Technical Academy of Wuppertal.

Following his appointment, Mr Rackwitz commented: *"I am honoured to become part of such an important institution in the European Union. I will offer all my professional experience as a judge and a manager in prosecution offices. Eurojust is increasingly needed on the European scene and has become a successful player in the 'European area of Freedom, Security and Justice'. With its 27 National Members representing*



*the judicial authorities of the Member States, it is also a unique organisation in the judicial world. It will be a very interesting challenge to be part of its further development."* ■



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*Eurojust is a European Union body established in 2002 to stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions among the competent judicial authorities of EU Member States when they deal with serious cross-border crime.*

*Each Member State seconds a judge, prosecutor or police officer to Eurojust, which is supported by its administration. In certain circumstances, Eurojust can also assist investigations and prosecutions involving a Member State and a State outside the European Union, or involving a Member State and the Community.*

*Eurojust supports Member States by:*

- *coordinating cross-border investigations and prosecutions in partnership with judges, prosecutors and investigators from Member States, and helping resolve conflicts of jurisdiction;*
- *facilitating the execution of EU legal instruments designed to improve cross-border criminal justice, such as the European Arrest Warrant;*
- *requesting Member States to take certain actions, such as setting up joint investigation teams, or accepting that one is better placed than another to investigate or prosecute; and*
- *exercising certain powers through the national representatives at Eurojust, such as the authorisation of controlled deliveries.*

## Colophon

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