

## **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT**

# **Animal Rights Extremism**







Quarterly Bulletin

July – September 2010

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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 France**

#### **2.1.1 Number of incidents: 4**

*25/07/2010*

##### **Belfort**

Around 200 posters of the Circus Medrano were defaced with animal rights slogans.

*28/07/2010*

##### **Restignes and Cinq mars la Pile**

Tags were found on shops with the signature ALF / Viande = Meurtre.

*31/07/2010*

##### **Millas**

Anti-bullfighting tags were found on the wall and on 5 private vehicles. A signature of ALF was found.

*18/08/2010*

##### **Trausse**

A hunting cabin was damaged with tags. In addition hunting material was destroyed. This incident was claimed on BiteBack on 21 August 2010.



## **2.2** **Germany**

### **2.2.1 Number of incidents: 20**

*08/07/2010*

#### **D-26603 Aurich**

Material damage was caused by posting leaflets. The amount of the damage is unknown. The leaflets contained anti-circus messages: "Manege frei für Tierquälerei" ("Clear the ring for animal cruelty").

*09/07/2010*

#### **D-35043 Marburg**

The window panes of the animal laboratory of the University were shattered. The amount of damage is unknown.

*12/07/2010*

#### **D-29323 Wietze**

An unknown number of inhabitants of a camp disrupted and later threatened a company's surveyors. The incident is related to the occupation of a field where a chicken slaughterhouse is foreseen to be built.

*12/07/2010*

#### **D-30519 Hannover**

Graffiti was spray painted on building walls. The amount of damage is unknown. Graffiti: "Zirkus Knie quält Tiere" ("Circus Knie tortures animals").

*16/07/2010*

#### **D-87437 Kempten**

Graffiti was spray painted on building walls. Graffiti: "Meat is Murder".

*20/07/2010*

#### **D-29323 Wietze**

Theft of the surveying tools of a surveyors' company. The incident is related to the occupation of a field where a chicken slaughterhouse is foreseen to be built.

*24/07/2010*

#### **D-26789 Leer**

Material damage was done to circus posters. The amount of damage is unknown.

30/07/2010

**Buchholz-Sprötze - Lower Saxony**

Early in the morning on 30/07/10, unknown perpetrators in Buchholz-Sprötze/NI, probably by forcing the main gate accessed a newly built animal farm and set it on fire. The inscription "Fu.. you" was found written in the sand next to the building. Footprints were also found. The damage amounts to approx. 500,000 Euro.

A claim of responsibility for this act was published in German and English on the Internet website [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info) (website of the "Bite Back Magazine"). The claim is not signed by a group and deals with environmental costs of the meat industry and the living conditions in the fattening plant. Between 13 and 21/05/10, a long-term vigil "against the building of a poultry fattening factory in Sprötze and animal exploitation" took place with some of the participants coming from the outside. The participants were part of the squatter and animal rights scene. In this context, several actions (chalk graffiti, distribution of flyers) took place in the centre of Buchholz. On 19/05/2010, a registered demonstration, attended by 15 individuals belonging to the animal rights scene, took place in Sprötze. In the past, the planning and construction of fattening plants and abattoirs have been repeatedly in the focus of the animal rights scene, including squatting on intended construction grounds (e.g. in Wietze/Niedersachsen and Hannover/Niedersachsen).

31/07/2010

**D-29323 Wietze**

In front of the municipal administration, an official German flag was purloined and replaced with a banner opposing the planned poultry abattoir.

01/08/2010

**D-29323 Wietze**

Graffiti was spray painted on the sides of an animal transport trailer of a circus. The amount of damage is unknown.

07/08/2010

**D-65195 Wiesbaden**

The window panes and exterior walls of a butcher's were covered in graffiti. The amount of damage is unknown.

09/08/2010

**D-29323 Wietze**

Graffiti was sprayed on the walls of the municipal administration building. The amount of damage is unknown. Graffiti: "Ihr mordet mit" ("You participate in murder"); "Wer baut kriegt Stress" ("Who builds, will have problems"). The action is linked to the squatting on a site foreseen for the construction of a poultry abattoir.

10/08/2010

**D-29323 Wietze**

In connection with the clearing from squatters of a site foreseen for the construction of a poultry abattoir,

- 9 – acts of resistance to state authority
- 5 – acts of criminal trespass

were committed.

Individuals identified included two Finish citizens and some people from the animal rights scene.

13/08/2010

**D-23552 Lübeck**

In the context of an event against McDonalds and others, confrontations with police took place.

16/08/2010

**D-38159 Vechelde-Alvesse**

In the context of squatting on a site foreseen for the construction of a poultry fattening plant, police cleared the site. The owner of the site reported 14 individuals to the police on charges of criminal trespass.

17/08/2010

**D-30159 Hannover**

In relation to the construction of a poultry abattoir and a number of poultry fattening plants, the [REDACTED] a threatening letter.

20/08/2010

**D-23858 Reinfeld**

Circus equipment and banners were stolen. A sticker said: "Abgesagt wegen Tierquälerei!" ("Cancelled because of animal cruelty!").

23/08/2010

**D-38239 Salzgitter**

Graffiti was spray painted on a building. The amount of damage is unknown. The Victim is building a poultry fattening plant.

05/09/2010

**D-24392 Süderbrarup**

On the Internet portal YouTube ([www.youtube.com/TSEK2010](http://www.youtube.com/TSEK2010)), a video which can be taken as a claim of responsibility was uploaded under the title "Mission 6". Release of approx. 5,500 minks; the damage is between 100,000 and 150,000 Euros.

28/09/2010

**D-09306 Seelitz-Döhlen**

Cages of a mink plant were damaged. The amount of damage is unknown. On the Internet portal YouTube ([www.youtube.com/TSEK2010](http://www.youtube.com/TSEK2010)), a video which can be taken as a claim of responsibility was uploaded under the title "Mission 9". Approx. 560 of the approx. 600 minks released were caught again.





## **2.3 Italy**

### **2.3.1 Number of incidents: 9**

*08/07/2010*

#### **Venaus - Turin**

From 8-11 July in Venaus (TO), the annual "Animal Rights Gathering 2010", took place. Approx. 200 participants from the most radical wing of the Animal Rights movement were present. Most of them came from abroad. The summit was preceded by a demonstration in the centre of Turin, in which approx. 150 activists participated. They showed a banner "LIBERIAMO I CANI DI GREEN HILL", referring to the "Green Hill" beagles farm campaign, which has its headquarters in Montichiari (BS). The dogs are destined for medical experimentation. The demonstrators held a banner with "APRITE OGNI GABBIA - ANIMAL AND HUMAN LIBERATION" and shouted slogans in support of direct action.

*16/07/2010*

#### **Milan**

In the afternoon, about 10 individuals entered the offices of ISTIFID and NOMURA Italia where they shouted slogans against the exploitation of animals and vivisection and left leaflets against the "Green Hill" di Montichiari (BS) (dog farm for animals destined for medical experiments). It is possible that foreigners were amongst the participants. Both companies are in contact with "Green Hill". Further, documents were published against the company ISTIFID who they believe is an accomplice of "Green Hill" since it owns 20% of the farm in Montichiari (BS).

*31/07/2010*

#### **Calco (Lecco)**

During the night, security officers of the company "Charles River Laboratoires", which has specialised in farming guinea pigs for pharmaceutical research, prevented unknown individuals from entering the laboratory. Outside the 'laboratories' four plastic bottles containing flammable liquid, two plastic bottles containing oil, as well as six detonators made up of matches and slow combustion materials were found., These devices could have been used to manufacture a rudimentary explosive device.

*04/08/2010*

#### **Asiago (Vicenza)**

Unknown animal rights activists penetrated inside a farm releasing about 100 Chukars (Coturnices or Rock partridges / Alectoris graeca).

*13/08/2010*

#### **Castelvetro (Modena)**

Claim was delivered to the newspaper 'La Gazzetta di Modena'. Unknown individuals penetrated a bird breeding, releasing about 8.000 partridges. The total amount of damage runs up to about € 70.000. On 24 August, the crime was claimed with an announcement, signed "Black lih the night" ("Neri Come la Notte"), delivered to the newspaper "La Gazzetta di Modena". In the same communication the same authors expressed solidarity to known anarchist's animal rights activists [REDACTED] e [REDACTED] who are still detained in Switzerland.

*18/08/2010*

#### **Conco (Vicenza)**

In Gomorolo, unknown perpetrators cut the fence of the mink farm "S.A.V.I." and released approx. 150 animals.

05/09/2010

### Lonigo (VI)

On the occasion of the Birds' Fair ("Festa dei osei"), 4 "Animal Liberation Front – ALF" militants wrote "Hunter you must die" (CACCIATORE DEVI MORIRE)" and "VIVA IL CACCIATORE MORTO" on structure walls with black paint. They also caused damage to the wooden beverage kiosk.

19/09/2010

### Cavazzoli (Reggio Emilia)

Alleged militants of "Animal Liberation Front – ALF", released 4 Beagles from a dog farm in Cavazzoli (Reggio Emilia).

28/09/2010

### Muggia (Trieste)

CENTOPERCENTOANIMALISTI

The corpse of a pit-bull was found in the sea with 6 kg of "iron" around his neck. The animal's owner was reported to the A.G., believed to be responsible for the incident. The local newspapers reported on the incident mentioning the perpetrators' initials. In the days that followed, in Muggia, leaflets were found with the Photo of the dead pit-bull and the text "L.C. murderer...bastard...God forgives but we don't! Only culture: animal rights movement", and signed "centopercentoanimalisti". The incident was also published on the Animal Rights' organisation's website.



## 2.4 Spain

### 2.4.1 Number of incidents: 1

01/09/2010

#### Sacedón (Guadalajara)

Three members of a TV news program team were attacked during the "encierros" (bulls running through the streets). A TV camera and three anti-taurine members were injured as a result of the attack.

The incident happened when two anti-taurines activists spread out a banner (35 square meters) from a bridge in Sacedón. 20-30 persons began to throw stones to the activists and the cameraman and attacked them. They even surrounded their car when they were trying to run away from the town and the windscreen of the car was broken. Guardia Civil escorted them out the town.



## 2.5 Switzerland

### 2.5.1 Number of incidents: 1

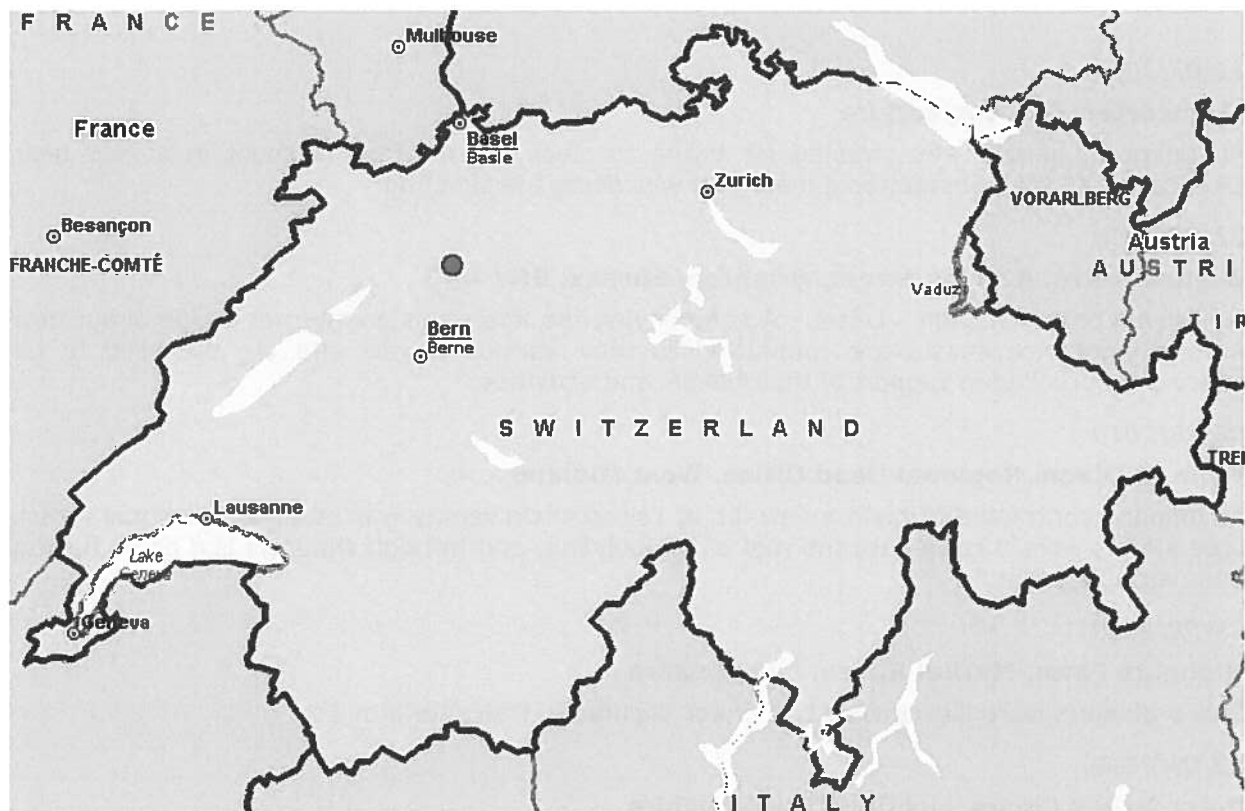
04/09/2010

#### CH 4562 Biberist

During 04-11 September 2010 a deer stand was sawn down in a forest near the town Biberist. The unknown perpetrators sprayed the letters "ALF" on its roof. An internet article in German can be found on:

[www.jagdportal.ch/jagdampnatur/news/news-einzelansicht/article/6/vandalenakt101675.html](http://www.jagdportal.ch/jagdampnatur/news/news-einzelansicht/article/6/vandalenakt101675.html).

Photos of the deer stand are enclosed as pdf-file.



## 2.6 United Kingdom

### 2.6.1 Number of incidents: 10

19/07/2010

**Highgate Farm, Highgate Lane, Normanby-by-Spital, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 2HQ**

A white Mercedes Sprinter van was set alight and destroyed by fire. Militant Forces Against Huntingdon Life Sciences (MFAH) claimed responsibility for this incident. Highgate Farm breeds animals for use in experiments at Huntingdon Life Sciences.

22/07/2010

**Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

An unknown person was arrested for trying to steal pigeons from a shoot in a field near Cirencester and they assaulted a male who was doing the shooting.

22/07/2010

**Beyond Retro, 42 Vine Street, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 4AG**

Malicious Communication - Letter - Accompanying the letter was an internet article about how Animal Rights extremists are committed to their various causes and are prepared to be imprisoned or killed in support of their beliefs and activities.

02/08/2010

**Wilmott Dixon, Regional Head Office, West Midlands**

A company contracted to build a new lab at Leicester University was attacked. Personal attack type alarms were thrown onto the roof of the building, and through windows and doors having been activated first.

15/08/2010

**Highgate Farm, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire**

Two protestors were issued warnings under Section 50 Police Reform Act.

03/09/2010

**Peter Jolly's Circus, Lichfield, Staffordshire**

Peter Jolly reported that animal rights protestors had torn down a number of posters and had made off in a vehicle.

09/09/2010

**Linden Foods, Cramlington, Northumbria**

3 vehicles were painted with the word ALF and windows damaged on office building. Paint was also thrown on building and vehicles.

09/09/2010

**Novartis UK, Horsham, West Sussex**

An unknown driver of a vehicle drove at speed towards employees of Novartis before coming to a screeching halt and shouting words to the effect of 'F\*\*\*ING ANIMAL TESTERS'. The incident was recorded as offence under Sec 5 POA.

*25/09/2010*

**Hunts Party, Farmland, North Yorkshire**

One NFA, one FPN for rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour. The incident resulted in a charge under Sec5 Public Order and Obstruct Police.

*29/09/2010*

**Sheffield University, Animal Laboratory, South Yorkshire**

A threatening email was sent to a member of staff at the Department of Psychology in connection with animal abuse.





### 3 Conclusions

- A total of 45 incidents were reported to the police in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2010. The amount of incidents slightly increased from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010 (42 incidents).
- Two arson attacks were reported. Both were committed with IIDs. *The framed text in this document indicates the arson attacks.*
- In 64,4% of all cases the target was a private company. Out of these 29 cases 5 incidents affected animal breeding companies, 6 affected circuses and in 7 cases the company dealt with meat production.
- 33,3% of all incidents were related to anti meat/Butcher (20%) or anti circus (13,3%) campaigns. Only 4,4% were this quarter related to anti fur campaigns. That shows a significant decrease compared to the second quarter bulletin in which 16,6% of all cases were anti fur related.
- During the summer months in Germany, the planning and construction of fattening plants and abattoirs have been repeatedly in the focus of the animal rights scene, including squatting on intended construction grounds (e.g. in Wietze/Niedersachsen and Hannover/Niedersachsen).
- The total amount of reported damage in this quarter ran up to €70,600,-