



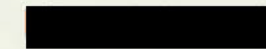
# WELCOME TO EUROJUST

European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation



Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network  
On-line Seminar on Environmental Crime  
1 June 2021

**Eurojust: Judicial Perspective and Experience**



Eurojust  
10:15–10:30

# An **EU agency** governed by **national judicial authorities** of the EU Member States



## **Eurojust is home to 'judicial embassies'**

- 26 National Members, 1 per EU Member State
- Operational: experienced prosecutors, judges

### **Employed by the home authority**

- 24/7 on call
- Additional staff to handle cases
- Together, the National Members form a College

## **Eurojust offers access to expertise and support**

- +220 EU staff: legal expertise and analysis, secure IT systems, meeting facilitation
- Headed by an Administrative Director

## **Cost effective and demand driven**

- Budget: EUR 40 million (2019)
- Practical support to almost 8,000 criminal investigations in 2019 (+17% y increase)
- Fully demand driven

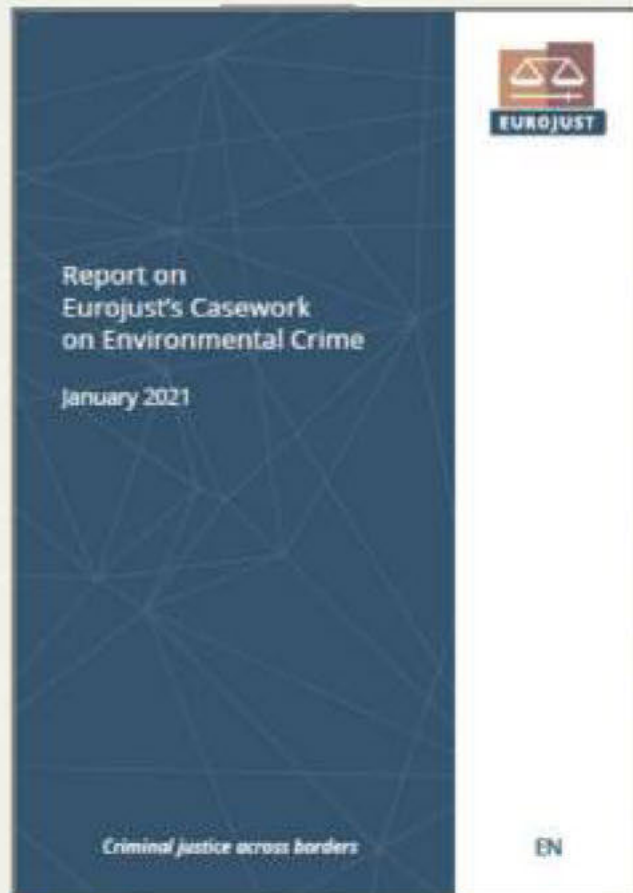
# Eurojust cooperation with third countries

- Global network
- Contact points
- Cooperation agreements
- Liaison Prosecutors



02/06/2021

Criminal justice across borders



## Experience, challenges and best practices identified in Eurojust's casework

- ▶ Statistical analysis
- ▶ Judicial cooperation instruments and tools
- ▶ Legal and operational challenges
- ▶ Role of Eurojust
- ▶ Best practices
- ▶ Conclusions and recommendations

*The link is [here](#)*

## Environmental crime cases referred to Eurojust in 2014-2018

57 Environmental crime cases opened by

16 EU Member States

### Top 3:

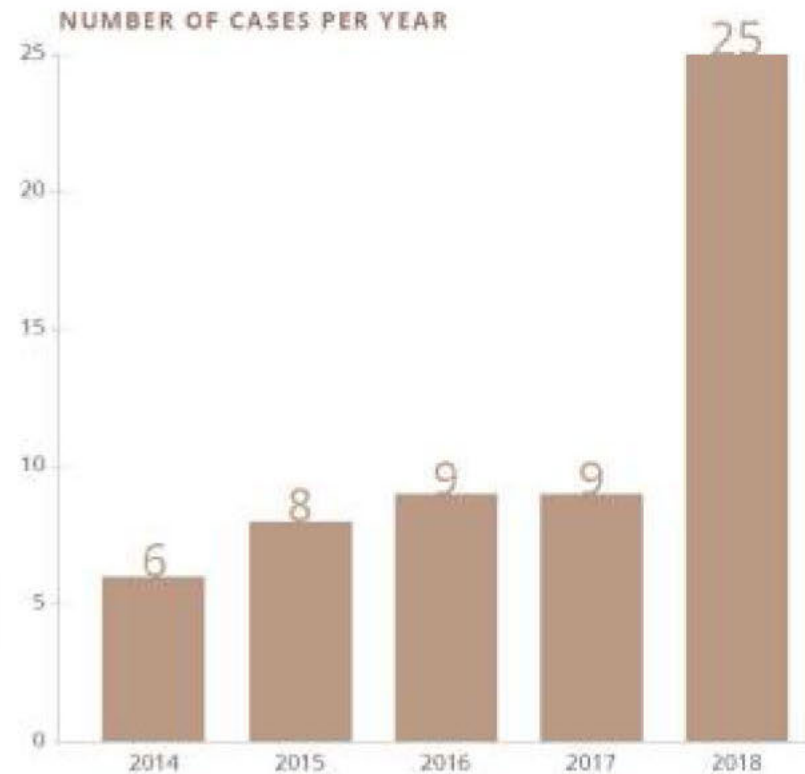
- Netherlands 12 cases
- France 9 cases
- Germany 9 cases

### Third States most often involved as requested parties:

- Switzerland 10 cases
- Norway 8 cases

### EU Member States most often involved as requested parties:

- Belgium 16 cases
- Germany 13 cases
- Netherlands 12 cases



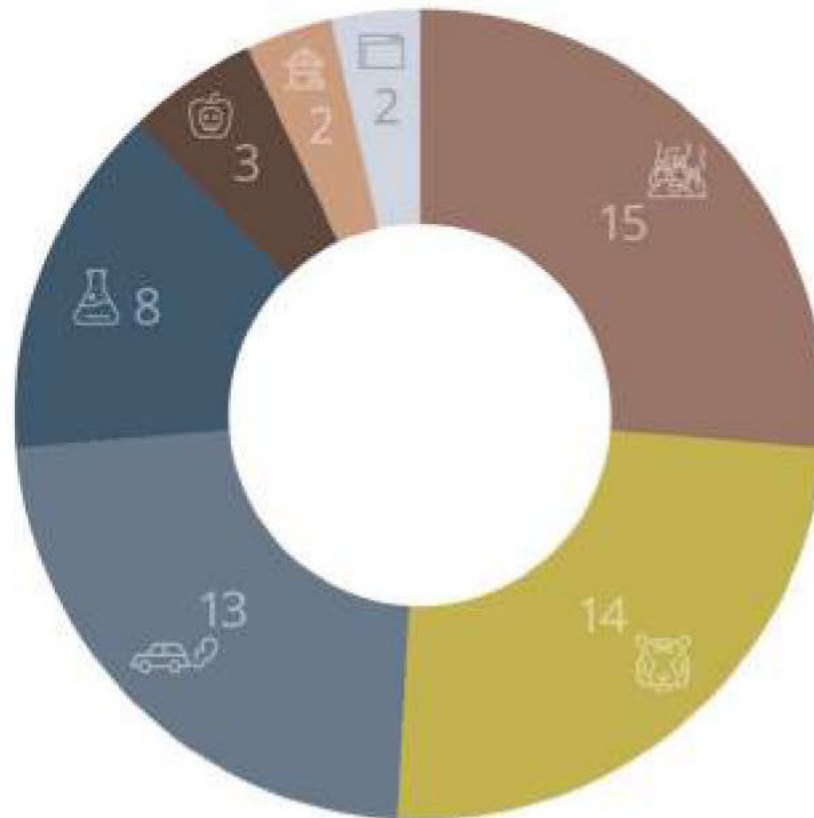
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EUROJUST

## Crime types in Environmental Crime cases referred to Eurojust in 2014-2018



## Other crime types in Environmental Crime cases referred to Eurojust in 2014-2018



NUMBER OF TIMES  
when other crime was involved next to environmental crime  
(in one case, more than one crime type can be involved)





## Operation Carpatos: Tackling an organised crime group involved in illegal fishing, tax evasion and money laundering



**May 2019**

Simultaneous actions by national authorities in Romania, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary and Portugal were supported through a coordination centre at Eurojust, including real-time coordination of three EIOs from Romania towards Hungary.

Operational results included 250 searches, the arrest of 13 suspects, and the seizure of 11 boats and 30 tonnes of illegally caught fish.



Two coordination meetings were held at Eurojust with the participation of Europol, to exchange information, decide on the investigative and prosecutorial strategies and resolve judicial and operational issues. Europol assisted the investigations with cross-matching of information and demonstrating links to France and Italy.



**2018**

National authorities of Romania initiated a criminal investigation into a cross-border OCG involved in illegal fishing, tax evasion and money laundering. Spanish authorities launched a parallel investigation into the same OCG, followed by authorities in Italy and France.

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## Recommendations (1)

1. Effective **multidisciplinary cooperation** among the competent administrative, law enforcement and judicial authorities at the national level is required
2. Environmental crime **needs to be recognised as a form of organised crime.**
3. It is important to conduct **financial investigations** and to **recover the illegal profits** of environmental crimes on a more systematic basis.

## Recommendations (2)

4. An **early involvement of Eurojust** allows for **effective international cooperation & coordination**.
5. The **use of JITs** should be considered as an efficient instrument.
6. Key **concepts of environmental criminal law** need to be further harmonised; **penalties** for environmental crime should also be more uniform and dissuasive.

## Contacts



[www.eurojust.europa.eu](http://www.eurojust.europa.eu)

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