The objective of Europol shall be to support and strengthen action by the competent authorities of the Member States and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating organised crime, terrorism and other forms of serious crime affecting two or more Member States”

(Art. 3 Europol Council Decision)
As the European Union law enforcement agency, Europol’s mission asks to support EU Member States in preventing and combating all forms of international serious crime and terrorism.
Our vision is to contribute to a safer Europe by providing the best possible support to law enforcement authorities in the Member States. We will achieve this by delivering a unique set of operational services for the European Union, developing as its principal:

- support centre for law enforcement operations;
  - criminal information hub and
  - centre for law enforcement expertise
• All forms of **serious international crime** as mentioned in the Europol Council Decision

• At least **two Member States** involved
I Function as the principal EU support centre for Law Enforcement operations

- Maximise the operational value of information held by Europol
  - offer mobile support
  - offer more data matching capabilities
  - strengthen operational specialist capabilities
    - Euro counterfeiting
    - Terrorism
  - establishing horizontal focus across all crime areas
    - financial intelligence
    - cybercrime
  - provide flexible responsive support
Function as the EU criminal information HUB

- identify common information gaps
- investigation priorities
- further promote the ECIM through further development of the OCTA
- improve the analysis capabilities
  - standardised strategic assessments
  - target most significant criminal networks
  - scan the environment
  - automated cross-checking and data transfer
III Expand the capabilities as a Law Enforcement Expertise Centre

- assist MS through
- support
- advice
- research
- training
- tech support
- prevention
- forensic methods

- EPE (European Platforms for Experts)
Centre for strategic knowledge and analysis – driving the development of ECIM by the production of the OCTA, other TAs and ‘early warning’ reports on new crime developments

Continuous scanning of the environment, including the exploitation of open sources

Identification of top EU criminal networks (OC SCAN)

Identification of key information requirements

Professional centre for analysis in Europol – pioneer of new techniques through expert platforms and operational R&D, including the exploitation of forensic and biometric data;

Development of analytical methods, techniques and training

Cooperation with the private sector.
EPE European Platforms for Experts

- Controlled Deliveries
- Cross Border Surveillance
- CHIS Handling
- Eu NAT (Network Advisory Teams)
- ATLAS
- Witness Protection
Controlled Deliveries

- **Actual status**
  - Important technique / tactic
    - Entire structure criminal organisation / key players
    - Criminal proceeds
    - Modus Operandi

- **Compilation on Practices**
  - OSCE / SECI / CARICC

- **Yearly High Level Expert Meeting**
  - Standardised form for information exchange ???

- **Upcoming ... Expert platform**
  - Library - Legislation / Contact information / Manual / Best practices
  - Mail / Communications forum
  - 2 way encryption
Strategic Board & Permanent Working Group CSW

Europol Conference biennial (Nov 2011 DE)
- legal problems (Shengen, Napels II, Bilateral agreements, ...)
- best practices
- interoperability
- ...

CD (2008 / restricted) compilation questionnaire MS

Upcoming ... Expert platform
- links to Electronic Surveillance, Covert Co-operation, ...
Areas of difficulties

- **Differences**
  - Legal systems
  - National legislations
  - Crime definitions
  - Law enforcement powers (Police, Customs, Border Guards)
  - 24/7 Centralised Co-ordination offices

- **Crime areas**
  - Drugs
  - Counterfeit goods
  - Firearms and explosives
  - Organs smuggling
  - THB

- **Law Enforcement methods**
  - CHIS
    - Informants (degree of activity / participation)
    - Covert Operatives
  - Prosecution / Seizure
  - Disclosure in court procedure / anonymity
Areas of difficulties continued

- Difficulties holding “Control”
  - Long term surveillance
    - Huge investment / engagement of assets
  - Personal risks for the operatives
  - Risks for society
  - Interoperability
    - Language
    - Radio frequency
    - Technical equipment
    - Handlers / Controllers
    - ...

- TIME

- Chain of evidence
  - Origin / Transit / Intervention
Europol's future role?

- High Level Expert Working Groups
- EPE
- Co-ordination
- Operational support
- Financial support
- ...

Thank you for your attention

Would be pleased to answer your questions

Sven Lemmens
Europol
O2 – Analysis and Knowledge Unit
O27 – Special Tactics
+31 70 353 1239
sven.lemmens@europol.europa.eu