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LIMITE

EUROPOL 14

NOTE

from : Europol Working Party

to : K.4 Committee

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Subject : **Report on the activities of the Europol Drugs Unit in 1997**

1. Introduction

1997 was the fourth year of existence of the Europol Drugs Unit (hereafter referred to as the EDU). There were significant developments both internally and at the political level as the EDU approached its transition to Europol.

The Amsterdam Treaty underlined the spirit of co-operation between Member States' law enforcement authorities and Article 30 provides a basis for the development of Europol's future role.

No new field of criminality was added to the mandate this year, and efforts were directed into developing co-operation and improving the effectiveness of EDU.

During the year principal activity was focused on the core business of information exchange and crime analysis; together with supporting the Third Pillar and planning for the future.

First, the crucial role of Europol Liaison Officers (ELOs) in the exchange of sensitive information and intelligence was fully recognised by EU law enforcement agencies and was reflected in an increase in cases by nearly 25%.

Second, analytical support was further developed entailing a more project based approach. This was elaborated through expert meetings leading to exchanges of intelligence coupled with analysis in order to aid joint or parallel investigations in Member States.

Third, there was preparation of the technical tools and legal regulations necessary to enable Europol to function from the moment it is formally established.

Fourth, EDU increasingly supported the activities of various Brussels fora when involved in subjects related to combating organised crime. Successive Presidencies have increasingly used EDU's expertise in Third Pillar events and groups in addition to the meetings of the Europol Working Group and the Drugs and Organised Crime Working Group.

Fifth, the EDU assisted both Presidencies by organising conferences and meetings related to organised crime (*Synthetic Drugs* and *Intellex 97* for the Netherlands; *Organised Crime* and *Stolen Cars* for Luxembourg).

Sixth, the necessary financial and business planning processes have been established to integrate long term strategic planning, based upon the future legal framework and the EDU vision of the future Europol, with medium term budget and short term activity planning.

2. New tasks

Several EU Third Pillar decisions had a direct impact on EDU activities:

1. To create and maintain a directory of specialised competencies, skills and expertise in the fight against organised crime, in order to facilitate law enforcement co-operation between Member States (Joint Action 28 November 1996);
2. To exchange information on chemical profiling of drugs in order to facilitate improved co-operation between Member States in combating illicit drug trafficking (Joint Action 28 November 1996);
3. To prevent and detect illicit cultivation and production of illicit drugs within Member States (Council Resolution 16 December 1996);
4. To create an early warning system on new synthetic drugs (Council Resolution June 1997).

The EDU was involved in the preparation of these decisions and in their subsequent implementation as they entered into force during 1997.

3. Intelligence related activities

3.1. Exchange of information

The exchange of information and intelligence (both personal and non-personal data) through the ELOs is the primary activity of the EDU.

The ELOs belong to a variety of law enforcement agencies from all Member States and act as representatives of their sending authorities. They guarantee an effective, efficient, fast and reliable multi-lingual and multi-disciplinary expert service 24 hours a day on behalf of each Member State. Their number is increasing and the diversity of the sending authorities is growing, reflecting a multi-disciplinary approach to organised crime at national level.

As a result of the successful support by the EDU to the respective law enforcement agencies (police, gendarmerie, customs, immigration, etc.), the Member States are increasingly using the ELO network and the specific EDU expertise. Bilateral and, more especially, multilateral information and intelligence are being exchanged more frequently every day, and a high level of service is offered (speed, accuracy, language facilities, upgrading of information/intelligence) to investigations and analytical activities related to criminal groups active on an international basis. More and more projects are initiated involving several Member States, and often being the basis of joint operations.

During 1997, 2608 cases were initiated by the Member States (2053 in 1996). Each case can involve several individual enquiries as it may be directed to more than one country or several replies may be given over time by one country, thus, from 2608 cases referred to EDU by Member States 8100 individual requests and 9165 individual responses were generated. An additional 252 responses to enquiries were sent to Member States from the EDU crime analysts.

It is possible to divide information exchange activities into the following categories:

- in 2139 cases (1601 in 1996) the EDU provided a rapid and reliable information and intelligence exchange for ongoing investigations and other law enforcement activities in the Member States;

- in 313 cases (329 in 1996) special expertise and analytical support was requested, so that investigations in the Member States were carried out with the direct and interactive support of the ELOs from the Member States concerned;
- in 156 of the cases (123 in 1996) co-ordination support was given by the ELOs in ongoing multilateral law enforcement activities (e.g. controlled deliveries). In particular, the total amount of controlled deliveries carried out by the competent agencies of the Member States using the ELO network and EDU facilities was 62.

Of the total number of cases, 1593 were drug related (61% compared to 71% in 1996), 227 covered money laundering activities (9% compared to 13% in 1996), 493 were linked to illegal immigration networks (19% compared to 8% in the previous year), 206 related to stolen vehicle trafficking (8% as in 1996) and 81 cases were related to trafficking in human beings. Only 8 cases were related to the illicit trafficking of nuclear or radioactive substances.

The flexible way of handling information by the ELOs is increasingly welcomed by the different Member States and excellent operational results have been realised in combating criminal networks active within the EU. Various joint operations took place resulting in the arrest of numerous criminal group members and the seizure of illicit drugs, weapons and money. Nevertheless, this experience identified some problems mainly related to different regulations and concepts at national level. These include, for example, access to subscribers telephone numbers in some countries. Other problems are related to the routing of inquiries sometimes making use of different channels (Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs), ICPO/Interpol) not always following a common EU strategy. Initiatives are underway in order to clarify the situation and identify possibilities for increased common understanding.

In order to monitor the quality standards when sharing intelligence via the ELO network, the Heads of Europol National Units (HENUs) decided to create a quality evaluation mechanism, going beyond evaluation of simply the response time by involving the Europol National Units (ENUs) in a common and continuous assessment of activities. This system started at the end of 1997 and first results can be expected in 1998.

3.2. Illicit drug trafficking

The European Union continues to be seriously affected by large-scale production of and trafficking in illicit drugs. In order to provide the Member States with relevant data, the EDU has prepared its third annual *European Union Situation Report on Drug Production and Drug Trafficking*, based on contributions from the Member States and other information, including open sources. The report describes developments with respect to the various types of drugs, source and transit regions, smuggling routes to and within the Union, trends, enforcement activities and political initiatives in the European Union. At the request of the 1996 European Council of Dublin, the report also contains an overview on drug tourism. Excerpts were used to explain the European Union-drug situation at various international meetings.

Growing production, trafficking and abuse, in the Member States, of synthetic drugs, including new designer drugs requires additional measures. This is also reflected in the work carried out by the EDU. Based on a November 1996 Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council resolution, the development of a *Drug Purity Indicator System* has progressed with the EDU working in co-operation with the European Network of Forensic Laboratories. The objective is an EU-wide overview of the average purity, both at importation/wholesale and consumer/street level, of the major types of drugs, through analyses of samples by Member States' forensic laboratories. This may identify priorities in combating the drug phenomena and assist law enforcement agencies. The system will be functioning in 1998.

The November 1996 JHA Council also adopted a Joint Action on the chemical profiling of the major types of drugs and identified the EDU as the organisation to analyse and disseminate data, to be obtained from forensic laboratories in the Member States. The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes will advise, with the involvement of the EDU, on the introduction of a *chemical profiling system*. This advice is expected in the first semester of 1998. Meanwhile a database on the chemical profiling of ecstasy is being developed by the EDU, in close co-operation with the German BKA.

Data will be linked to the EDU *LOGO Project* database system (currently containing non-personal data only) on the ballistic profiling of ecstasy pills. The project has been developed for the purpose of identification, by law enforcement bodies, of possible links between investigations and, through this, the identification of suspects, criminal networks and connections between seizures and production sites. In the context of the project, the EDU released a fourth catalogue in September 1997, containing details, including colour pictures of logos, of over 250 types of ecstasy pills that appear on the consumer markets in the Member States. Some 30,000 copies of the catalogue have been requested by law enforcement agencies and distributed.

The June 1997 JHA Council adopted a Joint Action on the creation of an *Early Warning System on new synthetic drugs*. Relevant information from national sources will be sent to the EDU, through the Europol National Units, and to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), via its REITOX network. An expert committee will assess the risks posed by these new synthetic drugs. Based on the assessment, the JHA Council will decide on the appropriate control measures. Such a concerted action will improve the situation in which requests for co-operation by one Member State cannot be complied with by others where a new substance is not banned. The system will be introduced as of January 1998. To that effect, the EDU and the EMCDDA have jointly agreed the reporting format.

The EDU, in close co-operation with Member States' experts, has started to draft a manual on the various aspects of the problem of synthetic drugs, and the requirements needed for an effective approach against illicit laboratories. The manual will be finalised in 1998.

The majority of heroin that appears on the consumer markets in the Member States is transported along the various Balkan Routes under the control of Turkish criminal groups. A strategic EDU report on *Drug Trafficking Activities by Turkish Criminal Organisations from an EU Perspective* was approved by the JHA Council and recommendations are currently being implemented through the Working Group on Drugs and Organised Crime. In addition, meetings held at the EDU resulted in three operational projects with parallel investigations in several Member States and a similar new project will be initiated in the first semester of 1998.

The increasing influence on drugs trafficking by ethnic Albanian-Yugoslav criminal groups in several Member States has inspired volunteering Member States and EDU, to draft a strategic report on the matter. This report was submitted to the September 1997 Heads of Europol National Units (HENU) meeting. As recommended in the report, a first operational project, involving four Member States, three non-member States, the ELOs and the EDU Analytical Bureau, is currently being developed.

Given the threat posed by Latin American criminal organisations, the EDU drafted, in close co-operation with Member States' experts, the strategic report '*Drug Trafficking by Latin American Criminal Organisations*'. The report was approved by the JHA Council and recommendations are currently being implemented. This includes the initiation of four operational projects. All Member States and the EDU participate in one or more of these projects. Based on the strategic report and the operational projects, a conference was held in Valencia, in September 1997, in which the projects as well as a 'proposed co-ordinated long-term European Union law enforcement strategy' proposed by the EDU, were finalised and improved by the Working Group on Drugs and Organised Crime.

With the aim of assisting law enforcement bodies in interested Member States, together with their drug liaison officers in Latin America and the Caribbean, the EDU has collected and disseminated relevant information from various open sources on a weekly basis through the Latin American Drug Bulletin Board. The project ended in December 1997 [...] but related open source information will continue to be available to ELOs as part of the overall EDU information strategy.

3.3. Illicit trafficking in nuclear & radioactive substances

EDU facilitates the swift transfer of data between Member States from seizures of radioactive or nuclear material in other Member States. EDU offered advice in this phenomenon and possible law enforcement reactions.

The planned threat assessment lost its relevance due to the very low frequency of incidents and, therefore, has been put back until 1998 at the earliest, to be undertaken when appropriate.

3.4. Crimes involving clandestine immigration networks

EDU finalised a strategic analysis on specified targets (Turkish organisations and Turkish nationals) using the Balkan routes.

EDU tried to produce an EU general situation report based on national reports and threat assessments. This proved a difficult exercise due to the shortage of national reports and information. Therefore, closer co-operation with IOM¹ (STOP Programme) has been initiated which it is hoped will lead to a more successful approach.

A monthly Intelligence Bulletin on Illegal Immigration Networks has been initiated by the EDU. It is based on sensitive and up to date information on these networks, which is provided to the EDU by the Immigration Services of the Member States, and then redistributed via protected channels to all the National Units.

Various Member States started investigations with international aspects and channelled the information via the ELO network also requesting specific support from the analytical EDU department.

3.5. Trafficking in human beings

Taking into account the results of an expert group meeting and of the HENU meeting, the following approach was agreed by the Working Group Drugs and Organised Crime and the WG Europol:

- A project group made up of delegates from volunteering Member States (Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany) and the Commission under Belgian chairmanship carried out a study of the legal implications and practical consequences of extending the EDU's mandate. This group made concrete proposals leading to an activity plan at both a national and EDU level. This activity plan was accepted by the Working Group Europol under the condition that a problem of definition will be regulated within the EU framework.

¹ IOM = International Organisation on Migration

- The ELOs handled several cases on request of their home authorities. From 1998 onwards, the ongoing exchange of intelligence via the liaison officers' network will be completed by a more structured EDU support functionality.
- The EDU is working on improved use of open sources in order to share the required intelligence with the interested Member States.
- The EDU is not able to create a central database on missing children, but it will support the Member States when creating compatible databases at national level.
- The EDU started to work out an initiative to increase awareness of law enforcement officers in this field of crime, sharing the experiences and best practices developed in the Member States.

3.6. Illicit vehicle trafficking

A second Expert Meeting on Illicit Trafficking of Vehicles was held in The Hague in February 1997 in the presence of experts from all Member States, the PECO² countries, the Baltic States and the European Commission in order to evaluate the criminal threat, to further study the needs and expectations of international co-operation and to initiate and support operational activities.

As a result of the conference the EDU prepared a consolidated questionnaire integrating the current ICPO/Interpol questionnaire and the HEUNI³ experience to promote a mutually standardised collection of information. This system will enter in force from 1998 onwards.

The EDU organised a meeting on training in November 1997 which resulted in the provision of a training for trainers programme for all Member States and other participating countries as mentioned before.

The Luxembourg Presidency, supported by the EDU, organised a conference to initiate and to improve the control of car-related documents in close co-operation with the registration authorities of the Member States. Attention was also paid to the development of new technical systems for the better protection of cars and to a specific control initiative against trafficking of stolen cars via maritime ports.

² PECO = Central and Eastern European Countries

³ HEUNI - Helsinki United Nations Institute

The EDU invited by the Schengen authorities to participate in their pilot project on stolen vehicle routes, carried out an analysis focusing on controls of routes known as being frequently used by traffickers.

3.7. Money laundering

On the basis of the EDU common strategy on money laundering several initiatives were developed during 1997.

The EDU organised a meeting in order to identify training needs within the Member States and this will result in a money laundering course for investigators in 1998.

A pilot project of the EDU in 1997 with the participation of seven countries, for a monitoring system on criminally derived cash/assets from and towards the EU via selected international airports, has demonstrated the potential positive impact of such initiatives provided that the legal framework is flexible enough. The EDU helped draft various EU documents (e.g. Enfopol 135/231, Crimorg 29) dealing with the effectiveness of anti-money laundering measures within the EU in the fight against organised crime.

The EDU is also involved in a feasibility study concerning the possible development of an international database for suspicious transactions.

Research was initiated to identify best practice in money laundering investigations and a first report will be produced in 1998.

3.8. Intelligence Model

A series of internal meetings leading to a workshop with Member States took place to develop a common model for dealing with intelligence, intelligence activities, procedures and products. This concept needs to be further elaborated in order to be finalised and accepted before Europol takes up its activities.

3.9. Special techniques

The EDU updated the Controlled Deliveries manual covering legal, judicial, factual, structural and financial problems. A meeting on special techniques with the participation of experts from different Member States led to the development of a European Union *Aide Memoire* as an advisory instrument for checking all pre-conditions before introducing a controlled deliveries request.

A preparatory meeting was organised by France supported by the EDU in December 1997 in the framework of the OISIN⁴ programme, in order to perform a controlled delivery exercise in 1998. The EDU is studying the systems in existence for registering informants and comparing methods of controlling informants and qualification systems.

4. Crime analysis

4.1. Legal Situation

As central storage of personal data is still not permitted (until the Convention is ratified), analytical support to investigations and operations continued to be given under the authority of Member States who were responsible for the collection, analysis and distribution of data. Once again the involvement of their representatives greatly enhanced the analytical products, particularly in respect of operational work.

4.2. Workload

The EDU was still able to maintain its principle of responding to all requests for analytical support made by the Europol National Units, Ministers and working groups.

⁴ OISIN = EU programme set up by the Irish Presidency to support projects in the field of police and customs co-operation.

The breakdown of work in 1997 was as follows:

Table 2 - Requests for assistance

Requests for Assistance (Strategic and Operational)	Number 1996	Number 1997
Yearly Assessments	5	5
Major Requests	26	43 (20 being long term requests; 9 being strategic requests)
Minor Requests	272 (resulting in 2495 searches)	209 (resulting in 1642 searches)

More than 80% of minor requests were dealt with within 24 hours and several of these requests generated further operational work for the bureau.

Among the major requests, long term operational work increased from 16 to 20 and strategic projects from 10 to 14 (including the 5 yearly assessments). In addition a number of other analytical projects were undertaken such as training and analytical meetings.

The strategic activities were varied, with strong participation in the methodology and drafting of the EU Organised Crime Situation Report; active involvement by advising the European Commission in the STOP Programme; research and assistance to the European Commissions' TACIS⁵ JHA Missions; as well as active involvement in many of the EDU reports such as the EU Situation Report on Drug Production and Drug Trafficking.

⁵ TACIS = The EU Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Mongolia

4.3. Analytical Support to Member States' investigations and operations

Major enquiries have been undertaken for Denmark (5), Netherlands (3), Italy (2), Portugal (2), Sweden (2), Finland (1), Spain (1), Ireland (1), the United Kingdom (1) and Germany (1). All the enquiries were made up of two or more Member States and every crime area within the mandate of the EDU was covered at least once. Analytical support continued to be carried out not only within the EDU building, but also in the Member States where the enquiry originated, when technical advice, knowledge and assistance was required to give support to a specific and complex enquiry, and when personal contacts with competent National Authorities were needed.

4.4. Harmonisation of Analytical Methods

The 3rd EU Criminal Intelligence Analysts' Conference was held at the EDU in October 1997, with 58 delegates from all Member States attending along with observers from ICPO/Interpol, World Customs Organisation and the European Commission (UCLAF⁶). Guest speakers came from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and Italy, imparting their knowledge and expertise from both an operational and academic perspective in respect of strategic and operational analysis. Once again the idea of the conference was to support the EDU's underlying principle of expanding the awareness of analytical work.

This was further demonstrated by the 2nd two week Strategic Analysis and Intelligence Course held in April 1997, attended by 22 representatives from 12 Member States and 2 representatives from ICPO/Interpol and the European Commission (UCLAF). In response to requests from Member States, the 1st Senior Managers Seminar on analytical matters was held in November 1997, and as a result of suggestions from the delegates there will be a further seminar in 1998, probably in the form of workshops.

In addition the Bureau undertook a one week operational analysis for officers of the Italian police in Rome and took part in courses run by Spain and France.

⁶ UCLAF = The Anti Fraud Unit of the European Commission

In order to avoid duplication of work but to give EDU's input into the international development of analytical methods a member of the Bureau participated in the work of the Crime Analysis Working Group of ICPO/Interpol, assisting them in the preparation of their analysis booklet, as well as their 2nd Analytical Conference.

4.5. Software Standardisation

The Analytical Bureau continued to work closely with the IT bureau to ensure that the most relevant software and hardware products were available for use by the analysts. In conjunction with this approach one analyst has been assigned to the Interim System project to ensure future products are compatible for the needs of the user and to assist in the development of the overall system (see Section 6.7.3).

5. Preparation for the Convention

As in previous years, the EDU participated in the implementing work of the Working Group on Europol during 1997. The focus this year was mainly on the Staff Regulations, the Confidentiality Regulations with the Security Manual, and the regulations concerning the co-operation of Europol with third States and bodies. Four meetings of Member States' experts were held at EDU during 1997 in connection with the Staff Regulations and the Security Manual.

6. Management and support activities

6.1. Personnel & training

The EDU recruited a number of additional personnel in 1997 which enhanced the diversity and representation by individual Member States (see Appendix A for a detailed breakdown).

An in-house training strategy was approved. Language training in Dutch, business English, French, German and Serbo-Croat was provided. An on-going programme of training in the use of MS Office applications was developed in-house in addition to more specialised training for IT and technical staff.

6.2. Conferences and travel

During the year the EDU organised 199 meetings with external participation.

The delegates stayed approximately 4,000 hotel nights in The Hague, 3,800 of which were booked through the EDU.

More than 600 duty trips were undertaken by EDU personnel during 1997, an increase of 220 compared with 1996.

6.3. Finance

6.3.1. Budget 1996

The 1996 accounts were closed at the end of February 1997. The Final Report from the Coordinator on the implementation of the 1996 budget was presented in March 1997. Total 1996 expenditure under the Common Budget amounted to 4,495,826 ECU leaving 11.6 per cent unspent. TECS expenditure totalled 877,115 ECU leaving just over 20 per cent of the 1.1 MECU budget unspent.

In July 1997 the external auditor issued his report on the 1996 budget and in December 1997 the Council of Ministers formally approved the implementation of the budget.

6.3.2. Budget 1997

Expenditure in 1997 has stayed well within budget. The amount left unspent under the Common Budget when the accounts are closed at the end of February 1998 will be considerably smaller than in previous years. No transfers were needed beyond those which can be approved by the Coordinator. Renegotiations of certain contracts helped reduce costs such as those for simultaneous interpretation.

The adjustments of financial procedures agreed over the last years with Member States and sending authorities have borne fruit. In consequence the majority of contributions have been paid on time and personnel costs are invoiced more regularly than before, enabling the EDU to improve its financial management and planning. The detailed implementation of activity plans has been monitored closely and where necessary adjustments made in the course of the year. The experience from 1997 will enable business planning procedures to be refined still further.

6.3.3. Budget 1998

After lengthy negotiations the EDU budget for 1998 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 1997. The increase for the 1998 budget was agreed at 20 per cent leading to a total Common Budget of 6,722 MECU. The TECS budget for 1998 was fixed at 3.26 MECU of which 2 MECU was intended as first payment for the supply contract.

In September the EDU presented a Draft Supplementary and Amending Budget for 1998 to take account of the additional costs foreseen following the entry into force of the Europol Convention. The proposal was considered as a basis for continuing the negotiations as soon as the date of entry into force of the Convention is known. The December JHA Council gave agreement in principle to the EDU Coordinator to advance credits for Europol expenditure from the EDU Budget if necessary during 1998.

6.3.4. Preparation for the transition from the EDU to Europol

For Europol to function an administrative system will have to be established which will enable the organisation to run its own human resources and financial (including payment of salaries) administration. To this end a number of contacts have been established with other international organisations and in December 1997 a consultant initiated a study of the different possibilities and their financial implications.

6.3.5. *Financial controls*

In accordance with the recommendations of the external auditor, a number of new initiatives were undertaken during 1997 to optimise internal controls.

6.4. **General Services**

The General Services staff completed a number of projects in 1997, paying particular attention to the working and security environment for EDU personnel.

The major works related to the maintenance of the building included fitting new exterior sunblinds, replacement of the floor covering in the hall, overhaul of the electrical no-break installation, replacement of 850 m² of ceiling, interior and exterior redecoration, installation and replacement of data lines and power supply sources, renewal of part of the roof and of the lightning installation, replacement of some windows and installation of a new awning for the entrance.

The cost of these projects amounted to 285,000 ECU of which 155,000 was financed by the *Rijksgebouwendienst*⁷ of the Host State and 130,000 by the EDU.

6.5. **Security**

During 1997 Security registered nearly 7,000 delegates and other visitors, including maintenance, catering and cleaning personnel.

A high standard of training and vigilance was maintained throughout the year. The Emergency Response Team, consisting of security and selected Europol staff, received intensive fire fighting and evacuation training at a specialised training centre.

⁷ *Rijksgebouwendienst* = State Department for Structural Engineering

6.6. Co-operation with the Host state

After the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities was agreed by the Working Group on Europol in the summer 1997, the Headquarters Agreement had to be adapted to the new text. Contacts with the Host State authorities resulted in the necessary modifications and the draft Headquarters Agreement was presented by the Dutch delegation to the Presidency of the Working Group during its last meeting in 1997.

6.7. Information Technology

Sophisticated and reliable Information Technology is vital to the EDU's success. The personnel must be able to receive, handle, add value to and send on information in a meaningful and effective way. This applies equally to liaison officers, analysts, experts and internal support staff, who work with operational intelligence or in support of EU Third Pillar activities, and who communicate with Europol National Units in the Member States or with the Council Secretariat, the Translation Centre and other institutions – some 20 external partners in all.

6.7.1. Infrastructure

The internal computer network was completely upgraded with an ATM backbone between the hubs and servers, and a high speed switched Ethernet.

By connecting to the fibre-optic based NL PTT City Ring, the EDU now enjoys wider and ultra reliable digital telephone connections with the outside world.

The telecommunications between the EDU and the Member States were enhanced by the provision of new ISDN connections with Sweden, United Kingdom, Portugal, and Germany. The link with Belgium was reconfigured and upgraded, and a secure temporary connection with Unisys was established.

A fax gateway was implemented which enables users to send and receive faxes directly at their workstations.

6.7.2. Software

EDU Staff were responsible for a number of in-house software upgrades, adaptations and new developments including:

- Upgrading the operating system to NT4, the desktop applications to MS Office 97 and improvements for Europol Liaison Officers in the *Info-Ex* application.
- Setting up a case management application for the Analytical Department.
- Provision of a search facility for the LOGO project.
- Production of a prototype for evaluating the use of a chemical profiling database system.
- Establishing a *Centres of Excellence* database.
- Creation and regular provision of updates of a virus cleaning package for external e-mail partners in the Member States.
- Introduction of Intranet based self-study and testing for MS Office 97 software.
- Development of a staff photograph application.
- Introduction of a document handling and storage system for the Management Support Unit.

6.7.3. The Europol Computer System (TECS)

During 1997 the TECS project moved from Stage 1 (Statement of Requirement) into Stage 2 (Requirement Specification). This has involved reaching agreement on the contents of the Statement of Requirement, evaluating proposals received from companies wishing to carry out the work of Stage 2 and agreeing the contract with Unisys in March.

After some initial delays, a one-week visit to each Member State was carried out during September and October. The purpose of these visits was to expand and confirm the common requirements and, where appropriate, to establish the individual needs of each Member State. A written questionnaire was produced in all 11 EU languages to form the basis of the visits and interviews that took place. The findings of these visits are currently being analysed.

Because of the unavoidably long time scale of the project, and the expectation that Europol will take up its activities during 1998, it is intended to have an interim analysis system working by then. A separate but closely linked project team has been established which is using rapid application development techniques to model the requirement and produce the software.

The project plan and budget were approved in December 1997 and a notice was placed in the European Journal calling for tenders to supply the components. These will be integrated in-house to build the interim system on the excellent infrastructure already in place.

6.8. Documentation

Throughout each working day and all year round, the Documentation Bureau has supplied to EDU and ENU staff, news and other material including strategic and operational information from both open and specialised sources worldwide.

The EDU is regarded as a centre of excellence in this field attracting many visits from academic and law enforcement personnel. The Documentation Bureau participated in and supported a number of international conferences on Information Services, Open Sources, Information Warfare and the World Criminal Justice Library Network.

The newly installed Intranet facility began to show its potential as a means of easing the dissemination of information within the EDU and, if desired, to ENU staff.

7. Conclusion

The involvement of the EDU both in operational work and in the political arena has continued to develop in a well-defined manner.

The current limitations on the work of the EDU (such as the inability to hold personal data or to establish formal relationships with third countries and bodies) highlight the need for Member States to ratify the Europol Convention.

In future, a progressively enhanced role for Europol is to be expected taking into account both the specific provisions on Europol in the Amsterdam Treaty and the incorporation of Schengen acquis into the third pillar. High priority must also be given to developing the relationship between Europol and the countries aspiring to join an enlarged European Union.

The EDU is preparing itself for the transfer to Europol in 1998, which will be prepared under the presidency of the United Kingdom and completed, it is hoped, either under the U.K. or the Austrian presidency. This will be a major advance for law enforcement in the European Union, provided, of course, that adequate consideration is given to the key issues of budget, recruitment and organisational development.

Jürgen Storbeck

Coordinator

Annex A - Recruitment 1997

The following posts were filled in 1997:

1	Analyst (first officer), Analytical Bureau
1	Assistant analyst (second officer), Analytical Bureau
1	Second officer, Management Support Unit (MSU)
1	First officer, Mandated Areas Department, Trafficking in Human Beings
1	First officer, External Relations, MSU
1	First officer, Planning & Development, Business Planning and Transition EDU - Europol
1	User support officer, IT Bureau
2	Security officers, Security Bureau
1	Technical support assistant, General Services
1	Assistant, Mandated Areas Department
1	Assistant, Documentation Bureau
1	Assistant, Conferences, Travel & Relocation Bureau
1	Assistant, MSU

EU-wide recruitment procedures are under way as follows:

1	Head of Personnel and Training Bureau
1	First Officer, Mandated Areas Department, Human Beings
1	First Officer, Finance Bureau
1	First Officer, Analytical Bureau
1	Second Officer, Mandated Areas Department, Drugs
1	Second Officer, Mandated Areas Department, Money Laundering
1	Second officer, Centres of Excellence
1	Administrative analytical assistant, Analytical Bureau
1	Helpdesk/user support, IT Bureau
1	Software developer, IT Bureau
1	Network & security officer, IT Bureau

Of the 135 EDU personnel

42 are Europol Liaison Officers and technical assistants to the liaison bureaux from the 15 Member States.

Of the remaining 93

48 are Dutch (16 for the Security Unit), 10 British, 7 German, 6 Italian, 6 Danish, 5 French, 3 Spanish, 2 Belgian, 2 Portuguese, 1 Luxembourgish, 1 Irish, 1 Swedish, and 1 Greek from 13 Member States in total.

All the officers of the Security Unit and 19 other staff members have been locally recruited.

Annex B- Illustrative examples of cases in 1997

For reasons of confidentiality it is not possible to give full details of the cases handled by Europol Liaison Officers and Analysts. Nevertheless the following examples are indicative of the kind of work undertaken. The cases can range from a simple request for information not readily available through other channels, to long term support of a complex multi-national investigation.

Illustrative example 1

In 1997 the UK ELOs were asked to assist in a number of cases where UK Customs had detected drugs in transit to other Member States of the EU. With the assistance of the UK National Criminal Intelligence Service, the other ELOs and their Europol National Units, the drugs were allowed to proceed as controlled deliveries from the UK. As a consequence, in excess of 49 kilos of cocaine were seized and 32 persons were arrested in the countries of destination. By re-directing these cases via the ELOs, the UK NCIS has been able to optimise the use of its resources.

Illustrative example 2

An operation brought to the EDU by Italy arose from the arrest in October 1996 of 6 people and the seizure of 50 kg of hashish and 2 kg of cocaine. The targets were members of a criminal organization dealing with trafficking of various types of drugs (cannabis, ecstasy & cocaine) and the laundering of crime proceeds involving Italy, France, Spain and The Netherlands.

Taking into account the complexity of the operation, Italy, with the support of the other involved Member States tasked that the EDU Analytical Bureau undertake an analysis of the case in order both to:

- identify the links between the various targets, collect further information and indicate the main geographical areas in the different MS;

- to suggest any new possible fields of investigation or possible future activities.

The co-ordination of the operation is supported by EDU and the different ELO's. The operation is continuing.

Illustrative example 3

A case was referred to the EDU by Belgium concerning a seizure of 600KG of cannabis destined for Denmark in a consignment of wood. Information was exchanged between six Member States who were involved in the case and an operational meeting was arranged through the EDU to co-ordinate this exchange of information. The enquiries revealed that the organisation had previously organised the transportation of drugs (cannabis, amphetamine and XTC). The co-ordinated operation led to the arrest of the main target in Belgium and the further arrest of another target in Denmark along with the seizure of another 20 kg of cannabis.

Illustrative example 4

This case was initiated by the Italian authorities in September 1994 following the murder of a known drug trafficker in Sicily. It was clear from the beginning that a Mafia-type organised criminal group engaged in drug trafficking was involved.

The investigation was aimed at identifying the suppliers and distribution network of an international drug trafficking network operating in a number of countries.

International police co-operation during this investigation was set up through different channels: bilateral liaison officers, direct contacts between the investigating teams, the Europol Drugs Unit (EDU) and ICPO/Interpol. The provisions of the Schengen Convention also proved useful when the need for a cross border surveillance operation arose.

Several drug seizures were made during the investigation, the most notable being 730 kg of hashish in Malaga Spain in July 1996.

The final phase of the investigation was entirely co-ordinated at international level by the Europol Liaison Officers (ELOs) of the countries involved. The active contribution of the competent judicial authorities from the countries involved who decided to use the EDU to plan and carry out simultaneous arrests in each country made all of this possible.

In total, 68 people were arrested. The arrests took place simultaneously in Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and Italy. A co-ordination team of ELOs monitored the whole operation, making use of the support and co-ordination facilities at the EDU.

Information about the arrests was received directly by the ELOs and made promptly available to the co-ordination team in Italy. A target to be arrested in Belgium was not found in his residence, but it was possible to have him arrested in Italy half an hour later on the basis of an Italian telephone number that was found during the search of his house and was immediately communicated to Rome via the ELOs.

Key factors for the success of the operation were the professional handling of exchange of information by the Europol liaison officers using the EDU operational support facilities, strict confidentiality and trust in the EDU from the judicial authorities and also the complementary use of other available channels such as ICPO Interpol and bilateral liaison officers.

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CORRIGENDUM A LA NOTE

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Subject : **Report on the activities of the Europol Drugs Unit 1997**

Page 13, 4.4. Harmonisation of Analytical Methods

This last sentence on page 13 reads as follows :

"In addition the Bureau undertook a one week operational analysis for ***Italian law enforcement officers*** in Rome and took part in courses run by Spain and France.