

8. Fighting organised crime: prevention, investigation and cooperation

Organised crime

Developing a strategic concept

Fighting against organised crime is a priority of the Commission's action. A Communication on "**Developing a strategic concept on tackling organised crime**", will be shortly presented which will outline an overall European strategy for the coming years.

The Commission recommends developing **common methodologies** among national and EU bodies contributing to the fight against organised crime, as well as an **EU crime statistics system** (that will be created in **2005**), collecting information and measuring crime and victimisation in specific groups. Constituting the core of a **European Criminal Intelligence Model**, this will improve knowledge of the phenomenon and enable decision-makers to define European strategies based on thorough assessments.

The strategic concept on tackling organised crime includes measures designed for strengthening **prevention**, namely developing a model for **crime proofing legislation and new products and services**; this should avoid creating new opportunities for organised crime. Further development and implementation of a comprehensive **EU anti-corruption policy**, together with actions aiming at fostering public sector transparency, should prevent organised crime from infiltrating licit markets. Moreover, **Partnerships between the public sector and enterprises** are an effective tool for preventing crime in general, and organised crime in particular. The preparation and implementation of an EU Action Plan on Public Private Partnerships is a priority for the Commission in **2006**.

Cooperation among national law enforcement services (police, justice, customs) needs to be improved in order to combat organised crime in a more effective way and the potential of **Europol** and **Eurojust** has to be fully exploited, for example involving these bodies more closely in the investigation phase of cross-border organised crime cases.

Concurrently, **investigation** and **tools to address financial aspects of organised crime** will be strengthened. In particular, the Commission will promote stronger investigation skills (**2005**) and the establishment of criminal asset intelligence units in EU Member State.

The strategy must also contemplate intensifying cooperation on this issue with third countries and international organisations as one of its priorities.

The prevention of human trafficking, a particularly serious crime involving severe human rights violations, is a primary aim. The Commission will submit a Communication dedicated to combating **trafficking in human beings** in **2005** which will take an integrated, human rights oriented and victim centred approach.

For further information:



The Hague Programme: Ten priorities for the next five years A partnership for European renewal

- Virtual Documentation Centre - A common EU approach to the fight against transnational organised crime

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/doc_centre/crime/doc_crime_intro_en.htm

