Countering Migrant Smuggling
Tools and Challenges

Trier, 30 November-1 December 2017

Speakers

Dr Simona Ardovino, Policy Officer, Irregular Migration and Return Policy Unit, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Brussels

Marios Anastasi, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Directorate for Organized and Emerging Crime, Interpol, Lyon

Renza Cescon, Public Prosecutor, Prosecution Office, Court of Palermo

Ramin Farinpour, Senior Lawyer, Course Director, European Criminal Law, ERA, Trier

Eric Fréjabe, Judicial Cooperation Advisor, Operations Unit, Eurojust, The Hague

Maegan Hendow, Research Officer, Research and Documentation Unit, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Vienna

Emanuele Misiano, Coordinating Officer, Joint Operations Unit, Frontex, Warsaw

Rear Admiral Vincenzo Montanaro, Chief of Fleet Operations Department, Italian Navy, Rome

Morgane Nicot, Head of Global Programme Against Migrant Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna

Álvaro Rodríguez Gaya, Head of Strategy and Outreach, European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), Europol, The Hague

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Central Service for Combating Human Smuggling/Human Trafficking, Criminal Intelligence Service, Federal Ministry of Interior, Vienna

Ruairí Topping, Associate Liaison Officer, Liaison Office, Frontex, Brussels

Commander Miani Luca, European Union Naval Force Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED), Rome

Representative*, Court of Appeal, Douai

Key topics

- Update on actions implemented under the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling 2015-2020, the European Agenda on Migration and the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan
- Eurojust’s and the Europol Migrant Smuggling Centre’s (EMSC) tools and actions to enhance cross-border cooperation in countering migrant smuggling and tracking the proceeds of crime
- EU action to destroy migrant smugglers’ assets: Frontex and the EU Naval Force Mediterranean’s (EUNAVFOR MED) Operation Sophia and other international actors in the field
- Return policy and cooperation with third countries in countering migrant smuggling
- Methods for prosecuting migrant smugglers, in particular in cross-border cases
- Tracing and confiscation of assets connected to migrant smuggling

With the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union
Countering Migrant Smuggling

Thursday, 30 November 2017

08:30 Arrival and registration of participants
09:00 Welcome and introduction
Ramin Farinpour

I. THE EU’S FRAMEWORK OF ACTION IN DEALING WITH AND COUNTERING MIGRANT SMUGGLING
Chair: Ramin Farinpour
09:05 Migrant smuggling into the EU within a global context
The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and countering organised criminal groups, with a specific focus on migration flows into the EU from North Africa
Morgane Nicot
09:30 The smuggling of migrants: characteristics and responses
A review and evaluation of existing policies within the EU and cooperation with third countries
Maegan Hendow
10:00 Update on the EU legal and policy framework to prevent and counter migrant smuggling
Progress on the implementation of the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling (2015-2020), the European Agenda on Migration and the EU-Turkey Action Plan; enhancing cooperation with third countries on returns and countering migrant smuggling
Simona Ardovino
10:30 Discussion
11:00 Coffee break

II. JUDICIAL CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO MIGRANT SMUGGLING
Chair: Ramin Farinpour
11:30 Judicial challenges in investigating migrant smuggling:
• investigative approaches and techniques (open and covert)
• collection and use of evidence, including intelligence
• financial investigations and confiscation of assets
• cooperation with other law enforcement authorities
• a possible link between NGOs and migrant smugglers?
Renza Cescon
12:00 Investigating migrant smuggling networks and bringing the perpetrators to justice:
a French case study of a Joint Investigation Team with Belgium and the Netherlands
Prosecutor, Douai Court of Appeal
12:30 Discussion
13:00 Lunch
14:00 An update on Eurojust’s role in dismantling and prosecuting migrant smuggling networks: from mutual legal assistance requests to joint investigation teams, investigations into illicit financial flows, cooperating with other frontline actors and strengthening the transfer of intelligence into judicial proceedings: case studies
Eric Fréjabue
14:30 Discussion

III. LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO MIGRANT SMUGGLING
Chair: Simona Ardovino
14:45 Dealing with and investigating migrant smuggling in a frontline country – the Spanish experience:
• the increasing influx on the Western Mediterranean Route and counter-measures being taken
• disrupting cross-border migrant smuggling networks
• cooperation with other national and EU actors (Joint Operation Indalo 2017) in countering migrant smuggling
Emanuele Misiano

Objective
With the influx of irregular migrants into the EU only having partially subsided due to the closing of the Western Balkans route, criminals still smuggle migrants across the Mediterranean and other secondary routes making it one of the most profitable forms of transnational crime in Europe. An effective and coordinated judicial and law enforcement response across the EU is still lacking and the tools to deal with this problem are only slowly being put in place.

This seminar will look into the various aspects that need to be considered when dealing with migrant smuggling in order to identify the actions that can be taken to enhance cross-border judicial and law enforcement cooperation in this field.

Who should attend?
Law enforcement officers, ministry officials, judges, prosecutors, lawyers in private practice and NGOs.

Language
English

Event number
317D43

Organiser
ERA (Ramin Farinpour) in cooperation with EJTN

Your contact persons

Ramin Farinpour
Senior Lawyer
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Annette Geibel
Assistant
E-Mail: ageibel@era.int
15:15 Discussion
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 National activities in dealing with increased pressures on a main migratory route: the Italian Navy’s approach in dealing with migrant smugglers networks on the high seas, coordination with other national authorities, enhancing cooperation and coordinated action with third countries (Libya)
Vincenzo Montanaro
16:30 Update on Europol’s tools in countering migrant smuggling: the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), Hotspots to identify incoming migrants and identity and document fraud and security, cooperation with Interpol, financial investigations and the freezing of smugglers’ assets, smuggling networks’ use of social media: case studies
Álvaro Rodríguez Gaya
17:15 Discussion
17:45 End of first day
18:45 Guided tour of the city of Trier and dinner

Friday, 1 December 2017

09:00 Dealing with smuggling networks in a destination and crossroads country: Austria’s experience and the work of the local EU Joint Operational Office for regional operational investigations into migrant smuggling organised crime groups
Gerald Tatginer
09:30 Discussion

IV. EU AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES TO COUNTER MIGRANT SMUGGLING
Chair: Ramin Farinpour
09:45 Frontex’ activities in countering migrant smuggling: actions at EU external borders, cooperation with EU and international stakeholders to disrupt migrant smuggling networks; facilitating return operations, cooperation with third countries and EU stakeholders
Ruain Topping
10:30 Interpol’s work with EU Member States and beyond to counter migrant smuggling:
- Operational Forum on Countering Migrant Smuggling Networks
- Databases for Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) as well as fraudulent documents
- Integrated border management assistance and the Smuggling Training Operation Programme (STOP)
Marios Anastasi
11:00 Discussion
11:30 Coffee break
12:00 An update on EUNAVFOR MED and its operations to tackle migrant smuggling and patrol the Mediterranean:
- Operation Sophia’s latest actions in relation to intelligence-gathering, boarding, searching and diverting vessels on the high seas and destroying smugglers’ assets, as well as the use of Maritime Surveillance Networking (MARSUR)
- The new European Observatory on Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking
- Weapons seizures in relation to countering illegal arms trafficking
- Implementation of training programmes for the Libyan coastguard and navy
Miani Luca
12:30 Discussion
12:45 Panel discussion:
Identifying measures for more effective coordinated action in countering migrant smuggling in the face of shifting migratory routes and challenges
Marios Anastasi, Simona Ardovino, Renza Cescon, Eric Freijabue, Maegan Hendow, David Reisenzein, Álvaro Rodríguez Gaya
13:45 Participant discussion
14:00 Light lunch and end of seminar

What participants liked last year
“...the organization was nice and lectures very interesting...”
“...well organised and excellent subject matter...”
“...high professional level of speakers...”

CPD
ERA’s programmes meet the standard requirements for recognition as Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This event corresponds to 11 CPD hours.

Save the date
Annual Conference on European Asylum Law 2017
Brussels, 26-27 October 2017
Annual Conference on Countering Terrorism in the EU 2017
Trier, 23-24 November 2017
Recent Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights on Detention
Strasbourg, 7-8 December 2017

IMPORTANT NOTE
This event is part of the Catalogue+ of EJTN. There are 10 free places available for judges and prosecutors from the Member States. Application deadline: 23 October 2017.
To apply, please contact the EJTN secretariat:
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Programme may be subject to amendment.
Registration
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Trier, 30 November-1 December 2017 / Event Number: 317D43

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- Evening programme: I shall attend the function on 30 November 2017 (at no extra charge).

### Registration fee

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** Young lawyers & other groups
  - For young lawyers up to 30 years of age (important: the participant must provide a copy or details of his or her passport or identity card on registration);
  - Full-time staff of universities or comparable academic institutions;
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Language
English

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