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"EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE BETWEEN
EUROPOL AND
THE MEMBER STATES AND BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES
RESPECTIVELY"
REPORT ON AUSTRIA

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REPORT ON AUSTRIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following the adoption of the Joint Action of 5 December 1997, a mechanism for evaluating the application and implementation at national level of international undertakings in the fight against organised crime was established.
- 1.2 Following a proposal originating from the Swedish delegation and taken up by the Presidency to evaluate the supply of information and intelligence to Europol and the exchange of information and intelligence between Member States, the MDG adopted the proposal at its meeting on 3 and 4 June 2002.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 3 December 2002 the MDG approved the questionnaire on the third round of mutual evaluations on the topic "exchange of information and intelligence between Europol and the Member States and among the Member States respectively".
- 1.4 Following discussion at the MDG meeting on 9 January 2003, a list showing the order of Member States to be visited was agreed. Austria is the twelfth Member State to be evaluated during the third round of evaluations.
- 1.5 The questionnaires and the objectives of this evaluation are contained in document 11679/3/02 REV 3 CRIMORG 71.
- 1.6 The experts in charge of this evaluation were: Mr. Bernd SCHULZ-ECKHARDT (Germany), Mr. Colin WOODCOCK (United Kingdom), Mr. Sjaak BAX (Netherlands). Two observers, Mr. Yves JOANNESSE (Commission) and Mr. Mogens LUNDH (Europol), were also present, together with the General Secretariat of the Council.
- 1.7 The evaluation team has prepared the following report with the assistance of the Council Secretariat, on the basis of the observations and conclusions of the experts in the team together with the Austrian authorities' answers to the questionnaire.

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1.8 The report first deals with the general information and structure (2), followed by the internal organisation of the exchange of information (3) and of the external exchange of information (4) and then deals more specifically with Europol (5). In the last chapter, the experts make a global and technical evaluation and then propose some recommendations to enhance cooperation and effectiveness in the exchange of information within Austria and with other Member States and Europol.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRUCTURES¹

2.1 LEGAL BASIS

Reference should be made to the Federal Criminal Police Office Act (BKA-G) (Federal Act on the establishment and organisation of the Federal Criminal Police Office, BGBl [official gazette] No 22/2002), the Police Cooperation Act (PolKG) (Federal Act on international police cooperation, BGBl I No 104/1997, as amended in BGBl I No 146/1999), the Schengen Convention (Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders) and a large number of bilateral agreements briefly listed below.

Agreements and conventions

(as at 1 May 2004)

Germany:

- Agreement of 16 December 1997 between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation between police and customs authorities in border areas (applied provisionally, except for Article 11(1), as from 1 September 1999; came into force on 1 August 2001; BGBl III No 11/2000);

¹ This part of the report is based partly on the answers to the questionnaire and partly on the documentation provided by the Austrian authorities.

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- Memorandum of Understanding of 13 April 1988 between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in combating international terrorism, international organised crime, international drug trafficking and unauthorised entry into the country (came into force on 13 April 1988);
- Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany on cross-border cooperation in police work to avert dangers and in criminal matters (signed on 10 November 2003; not yet in force; upon entry into force, supersedes the Agreement of 16 December 1997).

Estonia:

- Memorandum of Understanding of 7 July 1998 between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia on cooperation in combating international organised crime, international drug trafficking and international terrorism (came into force on 7 July 1998).

Italy:

- Memorandum of Understanding of 15 December 1997 between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Italian Republic on police cooperation (came into force on 1 March 2000; BGBl III No 52/2000);
- Convention concluded between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Minister for the Interior of the Italian Republic on cooperation in combating international terrorism, international organised crime and international drug trafficking (came into force on 12 November 1986).

Latvia:

- Agreement of 20 January 2004 between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on police cooperation (came into force on 1 April 2004).

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Lithuania:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in combating international organised crime and international drug trafficking.

Malta:

- Convention on police cooperation (in preparation).

Poland:

- Agreement of 22 August 1987 between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Polish People's Republic on cooperation in preventing and detecting criminal offences and in ensuring road traffic safety (came into force on 1 August 1988; BGBl No 261/1988);
- Agreement of 10 June 2002 between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Poland on cooperation in preventing and combating crime (came into force on 1 December 2003; BGBl III No 139/2003).

Slovakia:

- Agreement of 21 June 1988 between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on cooperation in preventing and detecting criminal offences and in ensuring road traffic safety (BGBl No 212/1990; came into force on 1 January 1995 with the proviso stipulated in the exchange of notes between the Republic of Austria and the Slovak Republic concerning continued application of certain international treaties concluded between Austria and Czechoslovakia (BGBl No 1046/1994));
- Memorandum of Understanding of 30 June 1993 between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in combating international organised crime, international drug trafficking and international terrorism (came into force on 30 June 1993);

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- Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Slovak Republic on police cooperation (signed on 13 February 2004; not yet in force; upon entry into force, supersedes the Agreement of 21 June 1988).

Slovenia:

- Memorandum of Understanding of 23 June 1995 between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia on cooperation in combating international organised crime, international drug trafficking and international terrorism;
- Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Slovenia on police cooperation (signed on 28 October 2003; not yet in force; upon entry into force, supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding of 23 June 1995).

Spain:

- Convention of 9 July 1987 between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Minister for the Interior of the Kingdom of Spain on cooperation in combating terrorism, international drug trafficking and organised crime (came into force on 9 July 1987).

Czech Republic:

- Agreement of 21 June 1988 between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on cooperation in preventing and detecting criminal offences and in ensuring road traffic safety (BGBl No 212/1990; came into force on 1 June 1990; continued application after the date of succession by the Czech Republic to the relevant part of the former CSFR (1 January 1993) was mutually agreed, as announced in BGBl III No 123/1997);
- Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Czech Republic on police cooperation and the second addition to the European Convention of 20 April 1959 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (in preparation).

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Hungary:

- Agreement of 27 November 1979 between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic on cooperation for criminal investigation and traffic police purposes (came into force on 1 October 1980; BGBl No 399/1980);
- Agreement of 12 June 1996 between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in combating international terrorism, international drug trafficking and international organised crime (came into force on 1 July 1997);
- Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in preventing and combating cross-border crime (in preparation).

Cyprus:

- Agreement between the Federal Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation in combating international organised crime; international drug trafficking and international terrorism (in preparation).

2.2 STRUCTURES

Under Article 78a to d of the 1929 Austrian Constitution (Federal Constitutional Act), the supreme security authority is the Federal Minister for the Interior.

Security directorates come directly under the Federal Minister for the Interior, and under them, as security authorities, come district administrative authorities and federal police directorates. If there is a present danger to life, health, freedom or property or if such danger is imminent, the security authorities have a duty to provide general emergency assistance, irrespective of the fact that another authority may be responsible for protecting against that danger, until such time as the proper authority intervenes. Federal laws determine the extent to which district bodies must act as security authorities.

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Each federal *Land* has a security directorate, headed by a security director. Federal police directorates are headed by police directors; the head of the Vienna federal police directorate is the chief of police.

Outside the local operational spheres of the federal police directorates, the provision of security is a matter for district administrative authorities. District gendarmerie headquarters, and the gendarmerie units which come under them, assist these authorities in the provision of security.

Police/gendarmerie bodies [*Wachkörper*] are armed or uniformed formations, or other formations organised along military lines, entrusted with police duties.

In Austria, the central body for dealing with the areas of crime coming within Europol's remit is the Federal Criminal Police Office. Under section 4 of the BKA-G, that central body is responsible for performing the Federal Minister's international police cooperation duties in running the national central bureau for the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), the Europol National Unit and the national Sirene bureau. The Federal Criminal Police Office takes on the direction and coordination of official business, while also delegating tasks to subordinate authorities according to the circumstances of specific cases.

3. INTERNAL ORGANISATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

3.1 STRUCTURES

International cooperation in tackling crime, especially organised crime and all forms of economic crime, is the responsibility of department II/BK/3 within the Ministry for the Interior and its various specialist sections. The sections liaise with the courts, customs authorities and subordinate police and gendarmerie units. It should also be pointed out here that there are in fact plans in hand to merge Austria's police and gendarmerie and that, since 1 May 2004, Austria's customs guard has been disbanded and most of its officers transferred to the staff of the Ministry for the Interior.

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As stated above, the Federal Criminal Police Office directs and coordinates official criminal investigation business throughout Austria and acts as a contact point for international police cooperation by way of the ICPO/Interpol, Schengen and Europol. The Federal Criminal Police Office is itself empowered to obtain, compile, process and pass on information. Security authorities and units in the *Länder* are required to supply it with any relevant information. Operational cooperation in criminal investigations is provided by department II/BK/3, which includes the experts participating in analytical work files in which Austria is involved.

3.2 CHOICE OF COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

The communication channel to be used is decided by the case officer.

Basically, the bulk of criminal investigation correspondence is channelled via Interpol. The reason for this is that, owing to its geographical position, Austria has up to now traditionally been an Interpol area, thus ensuring a large proportion of Interpol correspondence with neighbouring countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, to name but a few. In specific cases, therefore, preference has been and is given to direct communication with those neighbours. The position will have to be reassessed as a result of the new situation brought about by EU enlargement.

4. EXTERNAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

4.1 DATA EXCHANGE PROCESS

4.1.1 Exchange of information with Europol

Communications between liaison offices are channelled via the Info-Ex system; for Analysis Work Files (AWFs) in specific areas of crime, they are always channelled via the liaison office or the Europol National Unit. In addition, experts regularly exchange information by way of meetings on criminal investigation intelligence relating to AWFs.

4.1.2 Exchange of information with Interpol

For information exchange with Interpol, in the past the X.400 system was used, but now it is the I/24/7 system.

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4.1.3 Exchange of information with EU Member States

Austria's main partners are Germany, Italy, France, Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. There has recently been increased contact with the Netherlands and Spain.

It should be added that many specific cases without any link with organised crime do not come within Europol's sphere of responsibility.

4.2 CHOICE OF COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

4.2.1 Communication channel with Europol

The national liaison office is used especially for AWFs, but also for exchanging information on general matters.

In general, exchange of information with Europol via the liaison office proves considerably faster than using Interpol channels. Information is exchanged with Europol mainly for AWFs.

4.2.2 Communication channel with other States

Interpol channels are normally used for bilateral exchange of information. In urgent cases and in particularly important cases, personal contact is established with foreign units. Interpol channels are also used for multilateral exchange of information involving EU Member States and non-member countries, in order to obviate the need for multiple channels. It should again be pointed out that most such cases involve forms of crime not coming within Europol's remit.

Differing national legal bases for exchange of information may give rise to considerable delay in conducting official business. For instance, in some EU countries, obtaining details of criminal records requires an application for mutual legal assistance, which inevitably causes delay.

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5. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND EUROPOL

5.1 DEFINITION OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE

Section four of the 2000 Data Protection Act (BGBl I No 165/1999) distinguishes between "personal data", "indirect personal data" and "sensitive data", as follows:

Personal data are details of identified or identifiable data subjects. Sensitive data are details of individuals' racial or ethnic origins, political views, trade union membership, religious or philosophical beliefs, health or sexuality.

Indirect personal data constitutes data for a client, a service provider or other recipient of data supplied, if the data subject is not identifiable by any legally permissible means.

These definitions also apply to use of data by security authorities, under the Security Police Act (BGBl No 566/1991, as last amended in BGBl I No 104/2002).

Austria's Information Security Act (BGBl No 23/2002) lays down four classification levels: "top secret", "secret", "confidential" and "restricted".

5.2 NATIONAL EUROPOL UNIT

Under section one of the Federal Criminal Police Office Act (BGBl [official gazette] No 22/2002), in conjunction with section six of the Security Police Act (BGBl No 566/1991, as last amended in BGBl I No 22/2002), the Federal Criminal Police Office was set up for the purposes of effectively combating criminal offences and playing a central role in international police cooperation.

Organisationally, the Federal Criminal Police Office forms part of the Directorate-General for Security at the Federal Ministry for the Interior. In performing those duties, the Federal Criminal Police Office is to be regarded as the Europol National Unit (ENU). The Office's structure, as established on 8 July 2003, places the Europol National Unit section in department II/BK/2, for international police cooperation, in close proximity to the contact points for the ICPO/Interpol and for the Schengen Information System.

As the Federal Criminal Police Office is the national unit, department II/BK/3, when exchanging information with Europol via the Austrian liaison office, acts as a national unit. Office 2.2, for the Europol National Unit, serves as an information interface via the Austrian liaison office for Europol. It performs legal and administrative duties and strategic tasks.

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The strategic unit, office II/BK/2.2, performs legal and administrative duties (such as stationing liaison officers or seconding experts), draws up training schemes and information campaigns to raise awareness among police officers and assists with projects promoted by the European Union. In 2003 the national unit entered into close cooperation with the Hungarian and Slovak national units, which has already brought traineeships in December 2003 and May 2004. The national unit runs the Austrian liaison office, currently staffed by two officers, with an increase to be forthcoming. In addition, that unit's staff are represented on various Europol bodies, such as the HENU (heads of Europol National Units), the Management Board and its subordinate bodies.

The Austrian law enforcement authorities and the Federal Criminal Police Office are sufficiently aware of the provisions of the Europol Convention (BGBl.III 1999/81). Data are supplied to the relevant units at Europol via the Austrian liaison office or via office II/BK/2.2.

Austrian law enforcement personnel is informed about the role, mandate and task of Europol and of the ENU through:

- Talks as part of basic training.
- Talks at specialist conferences, such as criminal investigation conferences for working detectives and for senior officers.
- Production of information material, such as lecture notes and brochures.
- Articles in specialist journals.
- Countrywide special seminars with the assistance of the Austrian liaison office and with Europol staff as speakers.
- Close contact by means of regular exchange of information with officers participating in analysis projects.
- Coordination in preparation for HENU and Management Board meetings.

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5.3 USE OF INFORMATION AND EUROPOL ANALYSIS CAPABILITY

Europol needs up-to-date information. It is therefore always supplied with relevant information before or during an investigation. In the event of an offence coming within Europol's remit, the Federal Criminal Police Office, as national unit, endeavours to exchange information with Europol and EU Member States as quickly as possible, so that crime can be tackled efficiently. Information is channelled through the Austrian liaison office in The Hague, save in the case of the exceptions laid down in Article 4 of the Europol Convention. To date there have been no cases in which those provisions in Article 4 of the Europol Convention were applied.

Austria has indicated that it first establishes domestic priorities. Participation in an AWF depends on the extent to which Austria is affected by a form of crime coming within Europol's remit. Consideration is also given to whether Austria has the resources to provide input into an AWF or whether it has any intelligence on the form of crime to be covered by that AWF.

Austria is currently involved in twelve AWFs. Not all existing AWFs are considered necessary by the law enforcement authorities. When the Europol Information System is finally brought into operation and put to use, however, some AWFs are expected to be discontinued.

5.4 PERCEPTION OF EUROPOL VALUE

In Austria's view, Europol brings a great deal of added value as regards AWFs, particularly for drugs. Mention should be made, too, of exchange of up-to-date investigative intelligence (especially background information). Europol's work is also of great benefit to Member States in producing strategic analyses, such as situation reports and risk assessments, and in supplying evidentially valid analysis of criminal and terrorist organisations.

In addition, with the possibility of seconded experts, Europol provides a very important source of know-how for Member States in the training area, e.g. in combating currency counterfeiting and in analysis generally.

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6. EVALUATION MADE BY THE EXPERT TEAM

6.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

Austria is a federal state covering a total area of 83 858 km² and consisting of nine independent provinces ("*Bundesländer*") whereas the state capital Vienna is also a province in itself. Austria is a landlocked country and has common borders (2 706 km) with eight other countries including two non EU-members (Switzerland / Liechtenstein).

98% of the population of almost 8.1 million is German-speaking and with a number of approximately 27 000 law enforcement officers (incl. administrative police functions), the ratio is one officer per 300 inhabitants.

The evaluation team met with officials of the Ministries of Justice and of Finance, the Austrian Armed Forces, the Federal Agency for State Security and Counterterrorism, the Federal Criminal Police Office (Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria), the Federal Gendarmerie and the Provincial Security Directorate in Burgenland and was struck by the open and positive attitude of all practitioners encountered during the visit. The meetings and presentations provided a clear idea both of the organisations in place and of practical aspects of information exchange.

While the team focused on international information and intelligence exchange it also assessed national exchange between various institutions and departments active in the fight against serious, international or organised crime.

6.2 REORGANISATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES

After a long tradition with a complex system incorporating customs, gendarmerie and police services on national and regional level, Austria eventually decided to reorganise its entire law enforcement structures.

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6.2.1 New customs administration

The first service to be affected has been the Austrian customs administration. Formerly the staff comprised of more than 2 000 customs guards officers ("*Zollwachebediensteten*") and app. 1 500 civil customs officers. Their 63 offices were situated at all state levels and in charge with the application of customs legislation, the control of prohibitions and restrictions and the fight against illegal employment.

As a consequence of the EU enlargement of 1.5.2004 customs borders with four neighbouring countries vanished (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia). Subsequently the customs guards were transferred to the Federal Ministry for the Interior (BMI) and more than 50% of this staff (~1 100 officers) joined the police or gendarmerie. Approximately 700 officers became civil customs officers while around 300 retired.

On central and regional level, tax and customs administration merged and at ministerial level a common anti fraud-unit for taxes, customs and excise was established. Existing competences and powers of the Austrian customs service remained, moreover the national customs law introduced new measures based on the Naples II convention¹ (e.g.: cross border observation, controlled deliveries for non-prohibited goods, covert investigation and common investigation teams).

In certain organised crime related areas like trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, cigarette smuggling or international business related fraud, dual competencies for customs and police/gendarmerie remained and customs also still conducts related criminal investigations with one exception. In international drug trafficking cases, customs is involved only in so far that it carries out drug interdiction operations based on analysis of own information and intelligence. In cases of arrests or seizures the case is immediately handed over to the police for further handling and investigation.

Joint police and customs checkpoints are carried out occasionally and upon request the police also provide technical and training assistance.

¹ OJ 98/C 24/01.

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6.2.2 Merging police and gendarmerie

The next phase in the reorganisation will be the merging of the Austrian police and gendarmerie. This move follows the decision to introduce a unique organisational body, the new federal police ("*Bundespolizei*"). In March 2003 a project called Team 04 has been mandated with the project to merge the different Austrian gendarmerie and police bodies ("*Wachkoerper*", "*Bundessicherheitswache*", "*Bundeskriminaldienst*"). Their concept includes a new unified command structure divided in nine regional police command centres and the merging of security divisions and criminal investigation divisions to be subordinated under the Ministry for the Interior. With the approval of this concept by the Minister for the Interior and the Austrian Parliament, the project will enter into the implementation phase of the new organisation starting 1.1.2005. The federal police is expected to be functional within the new command structures as of 1.7.2005.

During the meetings, some of the officials met described the traditional law enforcement organisation in Austria as complicated and sometimes even for insiders confusing. They welcomed and supported the reorganisation and thus this endeavour would require a lot of resources, there were high expectation amongst all Austrian officials and the opinion that through the reorganisation Austria will gain a more clear and efficient structure.

6.3 AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Since 1990 the Austrian Armed Forces support the Ministry for the Interior with a Border Surveillance and Support Operation (BSSO) at the eastern Austrian borders. They cooperate closely with the gendarmerie and border policing units in Hungary and Slovakia under rules of engagement similar to the gendarmerie's, defined by the Ministry for the Interior. Their concept of operation includes border patrols and stationary surveillance of the border in order to prevent illegal immigration. For any criminal investigation, information and/or arrested persons will be handed over immediately after apprehension to the law enforcement authorities. The BSSO will be terminated as soon as the neighbouring countries Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia gain Schengen status.

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The experts found that the Armed Forces with their special equipment and training were a real asset for this specific task and complementary to Austria's law enforcement activities related to illegal immigration. Nevertheless, the involvement of the Military in the fight against crime with its differing structures and background requires additional information exchange, training and coordination and also a common strategy. The experts noted that in Austria this has been developed well over time.

6.4 DATABASES

6.4.1 Electronic criminal information system (EKIS)

The most important technical source of information for Austrian law enforcement is EKIS. This interface is linked to the Schengen Information System (SIS), the aliens information system (FIS) and various databases, totalling some 120 different applications. The available data is not limited to criminal information but covers a wide range of information relevant for daily policing and research (e.g.: resident's registration, driving licences, identification material incl. pictures, file registry [not covering organised crime investigation files], stolen items and arrest warrants) For legal and technical reasons, the accessible databases are not interlinked and require manual (cross-)search, however, standard queries combining several "most used" databases are pre-fixed. Seven data stations guarantee 24 hrs/7 days a week (24/7) on-time input of current information.

The entire law enforcement personnel has access through approximately 10 000 terminals though the individual access level differs depending on function and duties.

The experts found it remarkable, that this infrastructure provides all law enforcement staff with a broad range of information. For example officers on street level can check the legal status of aliens or retrieve pictures of wanted suspects or items.

6.4.2 Crime monitor ("*Sicherheitsmonitor*")

The crime monitor is an Austrian-wide database, containing non-personal basic data about criminal incidents and cases. It serves as a research, management and monitoring tool. This web application enables approximately 25 000 officers to enter structured case related information directly from their workplace. The pooled information allows every user to conduct individual state-wide, regional or local searches and analysis. The products cover different formats (e.g.: crime mapping, early warning systems, hot spot lists and periodical reports), some of which can only be produced at the BKA but can then be disseminated via a web server.

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The experts are of the opinion that the crime monitor provides a good overview about the crime situation in general and about certain developments, especially in combination with the visualisation options shown during the presentation. This system is a valuable source for further research in organised crime cases with a broader geographical scope.

6.4.3 Customs databases

Austrian customs maintains its own databases for internal use only. They contain various information (e.g.: regarding import and export regulations, electronic customs declarations, drug seizures and modus operandi of smuggling cases) including criminal information and intelligence.

Police and gendarmerie have no direct or online access to these databases and have to submit queries through regular communication channels on an informal basis.

On/line access to EKIS (criminal justice, border control) for certain users of the tax and customs administration for certain purposes already exists. Access by the security authorities to tax and customs databases is not possible for legal reasons (obligation of confidentiality in tax matters).

The experts found that due to the overlapping authority that exists between police and customs, it would be helpful, if both services could have direct access to each others related information stored in databases for their own research and checks.

6.5 INTERNAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6.5.1 Information exchange within police/gendarmerie

Most of the relevant police information is exchanged via the EKIS system and the crime monitor. However, databases mainly hold criminal information post-incident or from processed investigations.

The expert team was told that information and intelligence related to organised crime or obtained through covert measures is not collected and collated at one central place. Different investigating/intelligence handling units would keep their case related information separated from others. Any query or cross-check would have to take place through personal contacts or at conferences or working meetings. Those meetings would take place according to needs at varying times on central level. This is why it would be very difficult to get a comprehensive overview.

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The experts feel that a common national database on organised crime and a structured reporting mechanism to one central authority would improve the situation and guarantee a rapid exchange of information and help avoiding conflicts or overlapping work. ¹

The development of crime fighting strategies follows an initiative of the Director of the BKA and takes place in joint conferences together with the heads of the provincial security directorates.

These conferences are held infrequently and with varying participants depending on the agenda.

6.5.2 Information exchange with customs service

The cooperation and information exchange between customs and police mainly takes place case-by-case and on the tactical level. There is a legal obligation upon the custom administration to inform the Ministry of Interior when they become aware of specific crimes. Though both sides considered this to be very effective there are currently ideas to develop the situation through the establishment of secure lines for data exchange between customs and police, online access for customs to databases within EKIS (e.g.: residence and vehicle registration) and establishing direct and secure communication between customs and the Europol liaison office in The Netherlands (Austrian Desk) to allow direct exchange. Regarding all these measures there are still legal and financial obstacles to overcome.

There seemed to be little coordination of operational activities in areas of common interest. For example it was reported that when customs applies covert measures, there would be no prior cross-check with the police to obtain additional information or avoid conflicts. In exception to this general situation, covert customs operations in which electronic tracking devices are used are notified to and/or coordinated with the Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) of the Federal Criminal Police Office through the customs observation unit.

¹ Following the evaluation visit Austria provided information about three centralised analytical databases on organised crime related topics, of which two have been implemented as recent as beginning of 2005 and thus could not be evaluated during the visit: Database "Türkei": persons with turkish origin, established July 2004; database "Rotlicht": information related to red light and trafficking in human beings, established in January 2005 and database "GUS": information related to persons with Russian or former eastern block origin, established February 2005.

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It was stressed that a memorandum of understanding for police and customs cooperation has been considered for some time but due to the law enforcement reorganisation has not been formalised, yet. However, common issues for police and customs would be discussed on the ministerial level. Nevertheless, the experts noticed that the common strategy for tax and customs enforcement is currently being developed at the Ministry of Finance but not coordinated with the Ministry for the Interior or police/gendarmerie.

The Ministry of Finance representative generally welcomed the idea of placing a liaison officer within the BKA to facilitate information exchange, but pointed out that lack of staff had thus far prevented them from doing so. In this context it was stressed that owing to the fact that 1100 former customs guards recently joined the police and gendarmerie the already existing excellent personal contacts had improved still further, leading to a lower priority for this measure. This explains also why authorities would see no need for additional information exchange with Austrian police or Europol related to international drug trafficking beyond the existing informal procedures.

6.5.3 General findings

It was emphasised on several occasions that owing to the fact that there are many established personal contacts excellent cooperation exists between all national law enforcement officers including customs.

This cooperation developed from the organisational contacts which existed by way of the respective responsibilities at regional and central level in both departments. This cooperation was not impaired by the organisational changes in both departments, which were in part far-reaching.

The evaluation team does not doubt this level of cooperation but feels that work is carried out on the basis of personal rather than organisational contacts. It is also very understandable that such a working method has been developed in Austria, partly due to the fact that the size of the law enforcement agencies is as such that many officers know each other personally. Despite the fact that this system is very flexible and seems to work quite well, it falls short in some areas.

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The experts are of the opinion that an unstructured approach might appear appropriate as long as it works well but can fail when there are changes of personnel. A defined concept and structure could facilitate an efficient means of cooperation and provide a framework with a clear focus on organisational objectives and a comprehensive overview about all information exchanged. Such a concept could include for example regular meetings at different levels with all units / services affected and a formatted reporting system for information and intelligence up to central level.

6.6 EXTERNAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6.6.1 Information ownership

In Austria all law enforcement officers are authorised to exchange information without prior approval of judicial authorities unless the information was obtained through the use of coercive measures. Under those circumstances (e.g. information obtained through searches or telephone interception) the consent of the prosecutor is required and requests from foreign authorities will have to be forwarded in the framework of rogatory letters.

6.6.2 Information and intelligence

The terms "information" and "intelligence" are not defined in legislation or otherwise. A definition for "personal data" does exist and it was remarkable that "sensitive data" was described as details of individuals' racial or ethnic origins, political views, trade union membership, religious or philosophical beliefs, health or sexuality. This is not in line with the description as given in the Europol Intelligence Model document and it appeared from discussions with ahead of department within the BKA that they were aware of the existing, broader, description which was contained therein. ¹

In Austria the assessment of the reliability of the source and the quality of information is not standardised in a common evaluation system which would guarantee compatibility and comparability of information and intelligence, especially on international level.

¹ Soft/sensitive data are either non-verified data or data which is sensitive because:

- Of the way in which they were obtained;
- They were obtained by using sensitive techniques, the disclosure of which might jeopardise the future use of the technique, the life or safety of the source or current investigations;
- Of rules of confidentiality which are legally protected;
- Of specific legal obligations on secrecy;
- The data are considered soft/sensitive for other reasons.

RESTREINT UE

6.6.3 Structures

6.6.3.1 Federal Criminal Police Office

In Austria, communication with foreign authorities to exchange criminal information and intelligence can happen in different ways.

In principle, every international contact in this regard has to be brought to the attention of the BKA. However, existing cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries include provisions for so-called "small-border-traffic", allowing direct contacts between neighbouring authorities in matters of common, border-related interest. This facilitates daily work and exchange of general information or criminal information of just local interest. Nevertheless, every Interpol or Europol contact has to be channelled through the BKA.

Within the BKA itself, international law enforcement cooperation is organised in different sections and units. While the Europol National Unit and the SIRENE offices are situated in section two of the BKA, a single point of contact (SPOC) is established within section one. Though these three units are located in the same building they do not share office space but reside in different places.

There is no Interpol office as such; in fact the Interpol National Central Bureau is the entire BKA and for example every case officer in the investigative section three is authorised to communicate directly with foreign services representing the NCB.

The SIRENE office and the SPOC are both staffed 24/7 to guarantee uninterrupted availability but there is some overlap in their work since for example both units need access to the same databases in order to fulfil their functions.

In the case of urgent matters after office hours, most of the information will be received by/sent to the SPOC where duty officers will take care that the appropriate officer within the third section responsible for further handling is going to be informed.

6.6.3.2 Liaison officers

To cover all of the topics relevant to the Ministry for the Interior, Austria has set up a network of Liaison officers posted abroad (currently 13 officers). The administrative coordination for these liaison officers is not within the BKA but within Section I/4 (International business) of the Austrian Ministry for the Interior.

RESTREINT UE

6.6.3.3 Customs services

Austrian customs maintains its own international contacts for cooperation and information exchange and participates in international customs working groups or works together with OLAF, WCO and the SECI-Centre. Though in theory possible, customs for primarily budgetary reasons does not have its own liaison officers stationed abroad. Instead there is an informal agreement, that liaison officers from the Ministry for the Interior provide support and assistance to customs when possible.

Despite its competencies Customs have made little use of Europol so far, however they would now be interested in participating, where appropriate, in Europol AWFs'. It has been agreed that this exchange of information will take place directly through the Austrian Desk at Europol.

6.6.3.4 Experts' findings

The experts are of the opinion, that the work of units and services tasked to deal with national and international law enforcement cooperation could be improved if they were located closer to a common platform. A common platform would:

- ensure compliance with the recommendations of the High Level Group's Action Plan on Organised Crime from 1997,¹
- enable compliance with the ideal functions of a model national unit as outlined during the HENU meeting 24-25 November 2003²,
- create a single gateway for the mutual benefit of Austria internally and externally in the exchange of information and enquiries,
- maintain the application of common standards,³
- guarantee the correct channelling of information,
- play an integrated part in the concept of Intelligence led Policing,
- give full sense to the term SPOC which currently could be misinterpreted by requesting authorities who are not familiar with the Austrian system.

¹ OJ 97/C 251 p. 001-016.

² Topic B6: Europol National Units "The ideal Model".

³ For example timeliness of response, quality control and proper use of handling codes.

RESTREINT UE

6.6.4 Communication channels

There is no procedure or regulation in place for choosing the communication channel for international information exchange. Accordingly, it is not the type of information or the urgency that requires certain channels - it is up to the individual officer's discretion to choose whatever he/she deems appropriate and this is based on personal experience or knowledge and might differ from case to case.

To improve this situation the Austrian authorities took the initiative to develop a handbook for international information and intelligence exchange. This handbook will include guidelines for the choice of information channels and should be completed soon. A future evaluation based on these guidelines will then also ensure effective allocation of resources and that proper results are being achieved.

6.6.4.1 Interpol, Europol and bilateral contacts

Owing to Austria's geographical situation and the fact that previously the majority of the neighbouring countries have not been EU Member States, Austria had to rely on Interpol channels or direct contacts for international cooperation with most of its neighbours. This also explains the large number of bilateral agreements Austria has concluded.

Even today, Austria mainly uses the Interpol channel or direct bilateral contacts for the international exchange of information and intelligence.

Europol has been described as a channel of growing importance, this should increase in the aftermath of the EU enlargement. Austria's ENU is very active in changing the attitude of the individual officers within the BKA and the provincial services who have established a sound network of personal contacts and a long history of good experiences and successes with Interpol and direct bilateral contacts. This was emphasised on several occasions and stressed as being crucial for Austria's international cooperation. The BKA staff when deciding about the communication channel used for international information and intelligence exchange seems to be still very Interpol oriented. This might in parts be due to a lack of information about Europol's role and function.

RESTREINT UE

Though the ENU already puts a lot of effort in its awareness programme (organising courses and lectures on Europol throughout Austria and internships at the Austrian Desk at Europol), the experts feel that extensive awareness sessions with the staff of the BKA could also be helpful to shift the orientation more towards Europol.

6.6.4.2 Liaison officers

In addition to Interpol and bilateral contacts, the Austrian BKA also uses the liaison channel for international information exchange. Currently 7 of the 13 Austrian liaison officers posted abroad are originally BKA officers. This explains the very good relationship with the BKA case officers and their motivation to make frequent use of this channel.

Foreign countries also posted liaison officers in Austria and these foreign liaison officers are authorised to exchange information directly with case officers within the BKA, the BVT as well as law enforcement officers in customs, gendarmerie and police on regional level.

6.6.4.3 SIRENE

With countries which are parties to the Schengen Convention, information is also exchanged via the SIRENE channel. Although this relates primarily to hits in response to Austrian alerts in the Schengen Information System, information on crime prevention and investigation may also be provided.

6.6.5 Exchange with Member States

The cooperation with bordering countries was described as generally being very good. With some countries, due to a historically close relationship this is on a stable level (e.g. Germany and Hungary) while with others, not sharing such a long tradition, it was described as constantly improving (e.g. Slovakia).

As an example for a good daily international cooperation and information exchange, the procedures at the Austrian/Hungarian border have been presented. There the one-stop-control principle with joint controls has been implemented and while Austrian officials check information in the SIS, their Hungarian counterparts, not having access to the SIS, participate indirectly through the information available to the Austrian officers in the joint control team.

RESTREINT UE

The Austrian authorities also emphasised the various bilateral agreements with their neighbouring countries, facilitating direct bilateral cooperation and the Salzburg Forum¹ covering the political level and the operational level via the Europol National Units representatives.

6.6.6 Exchange with Europol

6.6.6.1 Austrian Desk at Europol

As a standard all exchange of operational information between Europol and Austria takes place via the Austrian Desk which is physically located within Europol and uses the infrastructure made available to it by Europol. The Austrian Desk forwards questions received by Europol concerning information from Austrian police files to the third section within the Austrian BKA (Investigation department for organised and general crime), preferably to the responsible coordinating officer(s) in person.

Operational information/requests coming from Austria may be exchanged in two ways: Investigation offices from all over Austria can supply the information directly to the Austrian Desk, which will forward it to the competent Europol department(s). A copy of the information will be transmitted to the responsible officer in the third section of the BKA for the record.

The second option is for the Austrian investigating services to supply the information to the responsible unit/officer within the third section of the BKA for submission to Europol. The BKA will then forward the information to Europol via the Austrian Desk.

The experts think the latter offers the advantage that the information can be coordinated and enhanced with additional information at central level and the best decision can be taken as to which channel should be used to forward the information to other countries. Nevertheless, as long as there is no formalised structure or centralisation of this process, procedures and results might vary.

¹ Founded 2000. Established cooperation in the form of security partnerships with Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia Czech Republic and Hungary. Concrete results cover inter alia police cooperation agreements, increased multilateral cooperation in border issues and exchange of liaison officers.

RESTREINT UE

In this regard, the Austrian Desk at Europol is more a "front office" for the operational exchange of information while sections three and five of the BKA, the BVT and customs can be considered to be the "back offices".

Overall the main department for the exchange of operational related information is not the Europol National Unit, but section three of the BKA. As outlined earlier, based on explicable historical and operational reasons, the staff of this unit is far more Interpol oriented.

6.6.6.2 Europol National Unit

As described previously, the majority of information is exchanged directly between the Austrian Desk at Europol and case officers within the BKA. Furthermore investigators enter data directly into the Austrian information system. This allows the Austrian ENU to concentrate more on strategic and policy issues.

Awareness is very high on the ENU's agenda and specific courses throughout the country in relation to Europol and its products have been developed. Alongside this the ENU established an internship system where members of the BKA (section four, analysis department) and regional officers are sent to the Austrian Desk at Europol on temporary assignments (6 months). According to ENU members this has been successful in creating a better understanding and promoting Europol in the respective home units/services.

The experts welcomed these temporary assignments which seem to be perfectly suited for the sending units, however, it could be worthwhile to consider an extension of the duration for temporary assignments to the Austrian Desk for those officers dedicated to specific AWFs. A lot of effort has to be put in the first three to five months to train and guide such an officer by the existing two liaison officers within the Austrian Desk. and the remaining time to effectively support the Desk officers would be very limited.¹

¹ According to Austrian authorities, the latest assignment following the evaluation visit (01. March 2005) has already been extended to one year.

RESTREINT UE

It was obvious to the experts, that the Austrian ENU as established within Section two of the BKA is more a policy oriented unit working mainly on strategic issues and acting less as a national coordinating centre that would be responsible for decisions relating to the selection of international networks for the exchange of information in accordance with the partnership policy.

The present structure seems to put undue pressure on the two liaison officers in The Hague and the experts were of the opinion that a realignment of the procedures and responsibilities would provide an effective remedy to the present situation.

6.6.6.3 Information related to Analysis Work Files

Austria is only participating in AWFs via one of the units within the third and fifth section of the BKA as well as via the BVT. Any operational information relevant to AWFs are exchanged between Europol and the Austrian national units within BKA or BVT via the Austrian Desk. In the event of customs participating in a specific AWF in the future the plan is for information to be exchanged directly from and to customs via the Austrian Desk as well.

The provision of information with regard to AWFs is mainly related to drugs, counterfeit money and terrorism and mostly concerns investigations after arrests and/or seizures made. The experts were of the opinion that the implementation of the good practice as outlined in 6.6.3.4 would improve the collection and collation of live and current intelligence and information across a broader spectrum of Europol mandated areas.

As a result of the missing evaluation standard the majority of information provided to AWFs is not evaluated according to the existing and agreed Europol standards. It was stated to the evaluation team that since Europol accepts non-evaluated information anyway the need to do so is not considered to be very important.

RESTREINT UE

6.6.6.4 Information not related to Analysis Work Files

Exchange of reports not relating to a specific operation between Europol and the Austrian investigation services also takes place via the Austrian Desk. The Austrian Desk forwards Europol reports to the Europol National Unit within the second unit responsible for international police cooperation within the BKA for further distribution. If the Austrian liaison officers at the Austrian Desk know in advance that the information has to be handled by a specific colleague within one of the other units of the BKA they can send this information directly to this colleague while copying it to the Austrian ENU.

6.6.6.5 Europol Information System

Austrian officials stated they would have the impression that they lack precise and reliable information about the status of the EIS and therefore would be unsure as to define what type of information can be provided to the system. Nevertheless, the experts feel that the identification of relevant information within their existing data bases, based on the text of Article 8 of the Europol convention, will enable Austria to play a full role when EIS is fully rolled out.

6.6.6.6 Automated data transfer

Austria has launched a pilot project called "AWF data transfer" which is aimed to standardise an automated workflow from national work files including personal related data to Europol. The technical phase of the project is expected to be completed in mid-2005 and will consequently be followed by the operational phase with some of Austria's law enforcement organisations. During the presentation, the experts have been assured that the Austrian authorities are aware that automated systems can only check plausibility but need to be complemented by a check of the content of the information. In relation to the use of handling, evaluation, classification and limiting the use of data, the Europol "acquis" needs to be taken into account but a decision regarding the system for quality control of the information to be transmitted has not been taken, yet. The experts were very impressed with the progress so far and considered that, if successful, this programme could be promulgated throughout the other Member States. The evaluating team were sure that Europol would wish to be kept apprised of progress.

RESTREINT UE

6.6.7 Remarks

The evaluation team learned that in general the regional law enforcement officers are not aware about the participation of Austria in the different AWFs within the Europol framework. The distribution of Europol reports as well as directly resulting from the cooperation within the AWFs or other information to the regional law enforcement agencies is somehow limited. This way, they can not assess which information might be of relevance for Europol.

Among the reasons mentioned for this was the fact that these reports are received in English while the knowledge of this language amongst Austrian law enforcement officers in general was considered to be limited. In addition a lack of resources would make it impossible to have all the reports received from Europol translated in order to be able to distribute them in German.

The experts are of the opinion that it would be helpful if sufficient translation capacities could be made available in order to make further use of this kind of information. Nonetheless, the distribution of some transmissions in its original language might also raise the awareness about Europol and even help improving basic language skills.

In addition the awareness initiatives of the Austrian ENU should include a system of ongoing and updated information about AWFs running by Europol thus guaranteeing that all criminal investigation units, up to regional level, are fully informed about Europol's AWFs.

Austrian authorities in the ENU and at the strategic level see Europol as a real added value in relation to AWFs in particular and as a great benefit to Member States in producing strategic analysis.

The exchange of operational information with Europol was said to be in general fast and reliable and the organisation of platforms of experts and meetings of such experts by Europol was seen as another added value.

At the same time it was also admitted that Austria was still more Interpol oriented and on a tactical and operational level there would still be some hesitation to cooperate with Europol or include Europol in the information flow when exchanging information internationally.

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7. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT TEAM

The experts noted, that the Austrian authorities were heavily engaged in a major reorganisation of the entire law enforcement structure. The absorption of 1 100 former customs guards within the Ministry for the Interior and the upcoming merging of police and gendarmerie have taken quite a toll on the staff of all organisations involved and bound resources with internal issues.

The Austrian system of international information and intelligence exchange relies to a large extent on Interpol, bilateral relationships and personal contacts. Being concerned about this, the Director of the BKA and the HENU raised their hopes that this might change in the future and that Europol will be used more. In this regard several initiatives have been taken to raise awareness about the role and function of Europol and to develop and promote international exchanges in a more systematic and structured way. The evaluating team looks forward to reviewing the proposed handbook (see 6.6.4) which hopefully could be emulated by Member States. They also took notice of the enormous effort that had been made by Austria within the EUVID project.

7.1 FOR AUSTRIA

- 7.1.1 Create a common platform in line with the High Level Group's Action Plan of 1997. (See 6.6.3.4 and 6.6.6.2)
- 7.1.2 Structure cooperation and coordination of information exchange. (See 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.6.3.4 and 6.6.4)
- 7.1.3 Establish a common national database on organised crime. (See 6.5.1)
- 7.1.4 Implement a common information evaluation system for all Austrian law enforcement agencies according to Europol standards including a quality control system for information transmission to Europol. (See 6.6.2 and 6.6.6.3)

RESTREINT UE

7.1.5 Enhance coordination and cooperation between police and customs, in particular through the placement of a permanent customs liaison officer within the national platform for international information exchange and improved access to each other's databases. (See 6.4.3 and 6.5.2)

7.1.6 Expand the awareness programmes regarding Europol and AWFs and enhancing the distribution of information originating from Europol. (See 6.6.4.1 and 6.6.7)

7.1.7 Broaden the access of Europol to all relevant law enforcement authorities. (See 6.5.2 and 6.6.3.3)

7.1.8 Develop a concept on data transmission to the future EIS. (See 6.6.6.5 and 6.6.6.6)

7.2 FOR EUROPOL

7.2.1 Improve the information programme regarding the development of the EIS to enable the Member States to prepare necessary measures for its future use. (See 6.6.6.5)

7.2.2 Liaise with Austria and monitor progress of their automated data transfer programme with a view to wider dissemination for Member States. (See 6.6.6.6)

7.3 FOR OTHER MEMBER STATES

Organise temporary assignments to the National Desk at Europol for relevant and appropriate personnel. (See 6.6.6.2)

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ANNEX A

PROGRAMME OF VISITS

17 November 2004

08.30 – 08.45	Departure from hotel
09.15 – 09.30	Welcome
09.30 – 09.45	Introduction and outline of the programme
09.45 – 11.00	Introduction of heads of departments and sub-departments <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brief presentations of the units Drugs, Euro Counterfeiting, Traffic in Stolen Motor-Vehicles; Smuggling of Human Beings, Terrorism- Brief introduction Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance
11.00 – 11.15	coffee break
11.15 – 12.30	Presentation of the Europol National Unit
12.30 – 14.30	lunch
14.30	Visit to a subordinate service of the Ministry of Finance (afternoon programme organised by the Austrian Ministry of Finance)
18.30	Return to the hotel

18 November 2004

9.30	Departure for EISENSTADT, visit to the "Security Directorate"
approx. 10.30	Arrival at the Security Directorate
10.30 – 10.45	Welcome of the delegation by the Deputy Security Director
10.45 – 12.15	Presentation of the regional structures of the law enforcement service, inspection of the building Deputy Security Director
12.15 – 13.45	lunch
13.45	Departure for the border post of Klingenbach
15.00 – 16.00	Inspection and presentation of the borderpost
16.00 – 16.30	Trip to the district of Oberpullendorf
16.30 – 17.30	Presentation and demonstration of the assistance service by the Federal Army
17.30	Departure for Lutzmannsburg
17.30 – 19.00	Wine Sampling
19.00 –	Dinner; return to Vienna (Hotel)

19 November 2004

09.15 – 09.30	Presentation of the merger of the gendarmerie and police (TEAM 04)
09.30 - 10.30	Presentation "Asset Forfeiture"
10.30 -10.45	coffee break
10.45- 11.00	Intervention - structures Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter-terrorism (BVT)
11.00- 11.15	Presentation of SIRENE
11.15-11.45	Presentation of the "Crime Monitor" Austria
11.45 – 12.15	Presentation of the National Information System - Data Bases
12.15	Farewell to the delegation

RESTREINT UE

ANNEX B

LIST OF PERSONS MET

Federal Ministry of Justice

- Dr. GARTNER Irene – Public Prosecutor

Federal Ministry of Finance

- Dr. HELLER Herwig – Representative from the Ministry of Finance
- FUEHRNSTAHL Christian – Representative from the Ministry of Finance

Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)

- Dr. HAIDINGER Herwig – Director of the Federal Criminal Police Office (Criminal Intelligence Service Austria)
- Dr. HALLER Johann - Dept. for International Relations
- Mag. HAMIDI Elisabeth – Europol, Head of ENU
- Dr. LOIDL Gabriele – Europol, Deputy Head of ENU
- Mag. ZWETTLER Erich – Investigations, Organised and General Crime
- Mag. SPRINZL Rupert – Property Offences
- Mag. UNTERKOEFLER Rudolf – Economic/Financial Investigations
- GROSSLER Martin – Central Unit for Combating THB and illegal Immigration
- MUEHL Burkhard – Organised Crime, Unit for Asset Forfeiture
- MITS Klaus – Head of CID Support Services
- TREIBENREIF Bernhard – Commander of COBRA (Anti-Terror/Special Operations Unit)
- Mag. GUTMANN Andreas – SIRENE, Legal Officer
- Mag. AICHBERGER Manfred – SIRENE, Legal Officer
- WAGNER Andreas – SIRENE, IT Specialist
- Mag. FUCHS Dietmar – Crime Analysis, Crime Statistics, Prevention
- Mag. RANNICHER Brigitta – Interpreter
- MALI Ursula - Dept. for International Relations

Federal Agency for State Security and Counterterrorism (BVT)

- Mag. TISCHHARDT Josef – Head of Counterterrorism Unit

Provincial Security Directorate Burgenland

- Mag. SCHINDLER, Thomas - Deputy Security Director
- Obstlt. ERHARD, Rainer - Federal Gendarmerie Command, Province Burgenland, Head of CID Division
- WEISS, Ulrike - Head of Federal Police Directorate Eisenstadt

Austrian Armed Forces

- Obstlt. GASSER -Chief of Staff Provincial MilHQ Burgenland

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACRONYM ABBREVIATION TERM	GERMAN	ENGLISH TRANSLATION OR EXPLANATION
ASSE / BSSO	Assistenzeinsatz zur Grenzüberwachung (ASSE)	Border Surveillance and Support Operation (BSSO)
AWF	Europol Arbeitsdateien zu Analysezwecken	Europol's Analysis Work Files
BGBI	Bundesgesetzblatt	Official Gazette
BKA-G	Bundeskriminalamt-Gesetz	Federal Criminal Police Office Act
BVT	Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung	Federal Office for State Protection and Counter- Terrorism
CSFR	Tschechoslowakische Sozialistische Republik	Czech & Slovak Federal Republic
EIS		Europol Information System
EKIS	Elektronisches Kriminalpolizeiliches Informationssystem	Electronic Criminal Information System
ENU	Nationale Europolstelle	Europol National Unit
FIS	Fremdeninformations System	Aliens Information System
HENU	Leiter der Nationalen Europolstelle	Head of Europol National Unit
ICPO	Internationale Kriminalpolizeiliche Organisation	International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)
MDG	Multidisziplinäre Gruppe Organisierte Kriminalität	Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime
NCB	Nationale (Interpol-) Stelle	National Central Bureau (Interpol)

ACRONYM ABBREVIATION TERM	GERMAN	ENGLISH TRANSLATION OR EXPLANATION
OLAF	Europäisches Amt für Betrugsbekämpfung	EU Anti Fraud Office
PolKG	Polizeikooperationsgesetz	Police Cooperation Act
SECI-Centre	Südosteuropäische Kooperationsinitiative, Regionalzentrum für die Bekämpfung grenzüberschreitender Kriminalität	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Transborder Crime Fighting Centre
SIS	Schengen Informations System	Schengen Information System
SPOC	Zentraler Kontaktpunkt	Single Point of Contact
WCO	Welt Zoll Organisation	World Customs Organisation
EUVID		European Vehicle Identification Manual

DECLASSIFIED