



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 September 2022
(OR. en)

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EXT 1

COSI 84
ENFOPOL 172
CRIMORG 45
CORDROGUE 33
CYBER 106
CT 52
ENFOCUSTOM 52
JAIEX 29
RELEX 426
COPEN 116
JAI 436
COMIX 171

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Impact of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on crime and terrorism in the EU
– Follow-up assessment

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



Brussels, 1 April 2022
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NOTE

From: Europol
To: Delegations

Subject: Impact of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on crime and terrorism in the EU
– Follow-up assessment

Delegations will find attached the Follow-up assessment on impact of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on crime and terrorism in the EU.

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Key findings

- The war in Ukraine will have significant implications for serious and organised crime and terrorism in the EU. The combination of an armed conflict in the EU's neighbourhood, the existing pre-crisis organised crime landscape in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus as well as the established criminal networks and criminal infrastructure in the EU will inevitably result in a displacement and changed focus of crime.
- Ukrainian women and children arriving in the EU are the most immediate and vulnerable targets at risk of falling victim to human traffickers. Even if they are eligible for temporary protection in the EU, the threat of being deceived or recruited for exploitation is high. Certain locations such as train stations, reception and accommodation centres are risk areas for recruitment.
- So far, no major cyber attack targeting the EU specifically has taken place. However, EU citizens, private and public sector organisations are already, and will be further directly impacted by the shifting criminal landscape, as seen in the widespread charity fraud schemes online. Today, the cyber domain has been the most immediately affected by the Russia war against Ukraine. Cybercriminals target private individuals, private sector organisations and public authorities deploying DDoS attacks, malware campaigns and phishing attempts.
- Disinformation campaigns threaten to weaken the trust in national governments and EU institutions in tackling the impact of the crisis and may result in the radicalisation of those consuming it.
- Criminal activities will be geographically displaced; modi operandi and some routes will be adapted. Criminal networks will exploit new opportunities, new criminal organisations will emerge and some dormant criminal organisations may become active again. Some criminals previously active in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus will relocate to the EU.
- High-risk criminal networks and high-value targets based in the EU, Ukraine and Russia, including thieves-in-law, will seek to exploit the situation and may attempt to enhance their presence in the EU. These networks can rely on their previous experience, an expanded possible victim pools, established and growing networks among the rapidly growing diaspora communities.
- Criminals likely attempt to move illicit funds previously held in Ukraine to jurisdictions unaffected by the Russian war of aggression using various money laundering techniques. It is expected that the flow of illicit money will accelerate. In many cases, the origin of the funds leaving these countries cannot be verified and may include licit and illicit funds. These may also be used by individuals on EU sanctions lists in order to transfer fund to and from the EU.
- The threat from terrorist activity in the EU in relation to the Russian war in Ukraine may emerge also. Foreign fighters are already travelling to the war zone, and some may eventually return to the EU radicalised to pose a public security threat.
- The challenging economic situation within the EU, with rising fuel prices and general inflation, will put many EU companies under pressure. Struggling companies are more vulnerable to investments with untraceable origins. This creates a risk of criminal infiltration of the EU's legitimate economy, affecting EU citizens in a less immediately visible way.

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(page 32)

