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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Version 29 September 2019

International conference on online investigations: Darknet and online sexual violence against children

30 September-1 October 2019, The Hague, Netherlands

**Jointly organised by Eurojust and by the GLACY+ joint project of the
Council of Europe and the European Union**

OUTLINE

Background and justification

As societies rely increasingly on the use of information technology, cybercrime and the use of electronic evidence become challenges for criminal justice authorities and to the rule of law. With offences involving computers and electronic evidence evolving rapidly both in number and in sophistication, effective countermeasures to enhance international judicial cooperation in cybercrime cases in a consistent and harmonized manner is essential.

Eurojust and the **Council of Europe** have agreed to join forces and to support such efforts through the "International conference on internet investigations: Darknet and online sexual violence against children".

Eurojust stimulates the coordination of investigations and prosecutions between the competent authorities in the Member States of the European Union and improves cooperation between competent authorities of EU Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests. Eurojust supports in any way possible the competent authorities of the EU Member States to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime the same types of crime and offences for which Europol has competence, cybercrime being one of them. The European Union and the Council of Europe assist countries through a range of joint projects, including the **GLACY+** project on Global Action on Cybercrime Extended implemented by the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (**C-PROC**). GLACY+ helps create the necessary capacities to implement the Budapest Convention and to cooperate internationally within the framework of this treaty in countries committed to implement it.

The Budapest Convention is the most relevant international treaty on cybercrime and electronic evidence with currently **64 Parties and 8 Observer States**. Work on an additional protocol on enhanced cooperation commenced in September 2017.

Law enforcement agencies and prosecution services are therefore increasingly required to deal with identification of cybercriminals in foreign jurisdictions or with acquisition of data that are located abroad, and the use of such tools as the 24/7 points of contact network and the Mutual

Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) have become key to successful investigations and prosecutions.

Besides using those routes, it is further acknowledged that there are alternatives for data sharing, such as what is envisaged in the relevant provisions of the Budapest Convention, as well as ad-hoc arrangement that could be defined with private companies to provide information on voluntary basis.

However, investigators and prosecutors have often reported difficulties in using such tools, mainly related to issues such as: lengthiness of the overall process, partial or no execution of the requests, necessity to cope with very diverse legislations and policy frameworks, and different levels of collaboration provided by private sector. This is the case when judicial and law enforcement authorities are performing internet investigations into the Darknet or when addressing the phenomenon of online sexual violence against children.

The Council of Europe and Eurojust will address these issues with a specific focus on strengthening international cooperation amongst police, prosecution services and central authorities for MLA by streamlining the respective procedures for MLA on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence.

Expected outcome

By the end of this international conference, experts participating countries will have enhanced their knowledge with regard to the investigation of sexual violence against children in the darknet:

- On how to successfully conduct investigations in the darknet and related cases of online sexual violence
- On how to use specific investigative tools in practical cases
- On the work carried out by different international organizations and tools available to address the phenomena of online sexual violence against children in the darknet.

Participants

The Council of Europe will invite 2 representatives from the following 38 countries and across the following C-PROC projects:

- **GLACY+:** Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Panamá, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tonga;
- **[CyberEast](#):** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine¹;
- **[iPROCEEDS](#):** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*², Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
- **[CyberSouth](#):** Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- **[EndOCSEA@Europe](#):** Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine³

All participants should be officials engaged in international cooperation, in particular with experience in cybercrime and electronic evidence or specialized prosecutors on cybercrime or

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine should only appoint one participant per country under CyberEast

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC Resolution 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

³ The priority countries of EndOCSEA@Europe project should appoint only one participant per country

officials from the Central Authority for MLA or Law Enforcement Officials engaged in the fight against cybercrime.

Each participating country should designate one specialized prosecutor or member of the central authority **AND** one Law Enforcement Officer with experience in investigating cybercrime (ideally the head of a cybercrime unit if available).

In addition, the following organizations/institutions will also be invited to appoint participants in the following ratio:

1. One representative of each EU Member State at Eurojust;
2. The liaison prosecutors of USA, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine, North Macedonia and Montenegro represented at Eurojust
3. One representative of the United States Department of Justice;
4. One representative of UNODC;
5. Two representatives of Europol;
6. Two representatives from INTERPOL;
7. One representative from the EU-DEVCO;
8. Two international experts designated by the Council of Europe

That is, approximately 120 participants in total.

Location and other arrangements

The workshop will take place at the **EUROJUST** premises in The Hague, The Netherlands at Johan de Wittlaan 9, 2517JR The Hague. Interpretation will be provided in **English, French, Spanish and Portuguese**

Programme

Sunday, 29 September 2019	
All day	Preparation of the conference room at Eurojust and coordination meeting with CoE and Eurojust staff involved
Monday, 30 September 2019	
09h00	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ladislav HAMRAN, President of the College of Eurojust, The Hague (NL) - Alexander SEGER, Head of Cybercrime Division and Executive Secretary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), Council of Europe - Carlos BANDIN-BUJAN, Programme Manager, Unit B-5, EU-DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels (BE)
09h30	<p>Challenges, obstacles and constraints for international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting in the darknet, in particular cases of online sexual violence against children in different regions of the world (Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania)</p> <p>Moderator: Alexander SEGER</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegation of Argentina (LATAM) - 10 mins - Delegation from Senegal (Africa) - 10 mins - Delegation from Philippines (Asia) - 10 mins - Mieke DE VLAMINCK, Judicial Cooperation Advisor, Eurojust for Europe - 10 mins - Delegation from Tonga (Oceania) - 10 mins <p>Comments by participants (10 mins)</p>

10h40	<p>The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christel DE CRAIM, Vice-Chair of the Lanzarote Convention Committee, Brussels (BE) (10 mins) <p>Discussion moderated by Manuel ALMEIDA PEREIRA, Council of Europe (10 mins)</p>
11h00	Coffee break
11h15	<p>Eurojust mission, objectives and core tasks and available judicial tools for efficient international cooperation and MLA in Cybercrime matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniela BURUIANA, National Member for Romania at Eurojust and Chair of the Cybercrime Team, Eurojust, The Hague (NL) (30 mins)
11h45	<p>Obtaining electronic evidence under the Budapest Convention: current procedures, issues encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rajka VLAHOVIC, Council of Europe (20 mins) <p>Discussion moderated by Manuel ALMEIDA PEREIRA (10 mins)</p>
12h15	<p>Collaboration with national and multi-national service providers: current practices, issues encountered and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexandra GELBER, Deputy Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Senior Counsel for Policy and Legislation of the United States Department of Justice, Washington (US) (20 mins) <p>Discussion moderated by Daniela BURUIANA, Eurojust (10 mins)</p>
12h45	Group photo
13h00	Lunch break
14h15	<p>Case studies on darknet and online sexual violence against children: challenges, obstacles and solutions encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Case "Riño" by the Costa Rican delegation (15 mins) - Presentation of Case "Lobo feroz" by the Colombian delegation (15 mins) - Presentation of Cases from Thailand by the Thai delegation (15 mins) <p>Discussion among participants moderated by Manuel ALMEIDA PEREIRA (15 mins)</p>
15h15	<p>Empowering Cyberspace and New technologies Lab; Innovation Center INTERPOL; The Project DarkTOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rolf van WEGBERG, Cybercrime researcher at TNO and Delft University of Technology, The Hague (NL)
15h45	Coffee break
16h00	<p>EU and international organizations' experiences and tools for internet investigations on darknet and online sexual violence against children Presentation with examples of cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSE investigations and Darknet Silviu CRISAN, Senior Specialist in Victim Identification, Europol/EC3 (15 mins) - Innovation in Investigations Silviu CRISAN (15 mins)
16h30	<p>EU and international organizations' experiences and tools for internet investigations on darknet and online sexual violence against children Presentation with examples of cases (continuation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gordana VUJISIC, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Vulnerable Communities, Crimes Against Children, INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation, Singapore (15 mins) - Kamola IBRAGIMOVA, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Counter-Cybercrime Education, UNODC, Vienna (AT) (15 mins)

17h00	<p>Discussion among participants on the tools and presented cases</p> <p>Moderated by Europol and INTERPOL</p> <p>What are the take-aways? What do participants recommend for their respective countries? (30 mins)</p>
17h30	End of day 1
Tuesday, 1 October 2019	
09h00	<p>The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE); Bringing together stakeholders and expertise to build efficient cyber capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wouter VEENSTRA, Head, Global Outreach and Partnerships, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), Secretariat, The Hague, NL (20 mins)
09h20	<p>Formal assistance requests during internet investigations on Darknet and online sexual violence against children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing, receiving, executing and responding to formal requests from foreign authorities for assistance to obtain electronic evidence: Rules and good practices; issues encountered 2. Practical tips related to requesting e-evidence from ISPs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christian AGHROUM, Council of Europe (20 mins) - Robert LAID, Judicial Cooperation Advisor, Eurojust (20 mins) <p>Discussion moderated by Daniela BURUIANA (15 mins)</p>
10h15	Coffee break
10h30	<p>Overview on current practices on obtaining evidence from another country and the role of the 24/7 POC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rajka VLAHOVIC and Christian AGHROUM, Council of Europe (20 mins) <p>Discussion among participants moderated by Manuel ALMEIDA PEREIRA (10 mins)</p>
11h00	<p>Special discussion panel with Internet Service providers, Industry and Civil Society on the exchange of information and provision of support to investigations and prosecutions on the Darknet and online sexual violence against children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexandru Catalin COSOI, Chief Security Strategist, Bitdefender, Bucharest (RO) - Sander DE GRUIJL, Data Protection Officer, EOKM (Expertisebureau Online Kindermisbruik), Amsterdam (NL)
11h45	<p>Conclusions and the way forward on the streamlining of procedures for MLA in cases of investigations in the darknet and online sexual violence against children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderated by Daniela BURUIANA and Manuel ALMEIDA PEREIRA <p>Takeaways and best practices to be shared and received from all participants.</p>
12h30	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manuel DE ALMEIDA PEREIRA, Council of Europe - Carlos BANDIN-BUJAN, European Commission - Daniela BURUIANA, Eurojust
13h00	Lunch break and end of Conference
14h00 - 16h00	<p>Bilateral meetings between delegations and national desks at Eurojust to discuss casework.</p> <p>A separate agenda for these eventual meetings should be prepared by Eurojust</p>

Contacts

At the Council of Europe:

Manuel DE ALMEIDA PEREIRA
Project Manager
Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council
of Europe (C-PROC)
Bucharest, Romania
Tel: +40 21 201 78 32
Email: Manuel.PEREIRA@coe.int

Elvio SALOMON
Senior Project Officer
Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council
of Europe (C-PROC)
Bucharest, Romania
Tel: +40 21 201 78 41
Email: Elvio.Salomon@coe.int

Sinziana HANGANU
Senior Project Assistant
Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council
of Europe (C-PROC)
Bucharest, Romania
Tel: +40 21 201 78 87
Email: Sinziana.HANGANU@coe.int

At EUROJUST:

Daniela BURUIANA
National Member for Romania at Eurojust and Chair of
the Cybercrime Team
The Hague – The Netherlands
Tel: +31-70 412 5360
Mob: +31 6 119 57 605
Email: dburuiana@eurojust.europa.eu

Peter GOUWY,
Senior Judicial Cooperation Officer
Eurojust
The Hague – Netherlands
Tel: +31-70 412 5621
Mob : +31 6 479 34 828
Email : pgouwy@eurojust.europa.eu