



EUROJUST

A stylized illustration of two hands shaking, symbolizing cooperation. The hands are rendered in white with black outlines and are set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of dots and lines. The hands are positioned horizontally across the middle of the page, with the left hand on the left and the right hand on the right. The fingers are interlocked in a firm grip.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN JUDICIAL COOPERATION

2025

Judicial cooperation and Eurojust operational work

Eurojust tools and support for judicial cooperation instruments in 2025

Eurojust has a well-developed practical set of tools to support cross-border investigations. Coordination meetings, coordination centres and support for JITs are offered to practitioners in investigations that require the higher-level cooperation they provide.

Eurojust has also gained and continues to build significant expertise in the use of European and international judicial cooperation instruments.

From the European Arrest Warrant, established in law in 2002 – the same year as Eurojust – to the new European e-evidence legislation entering into application in 2026, the Agency provides expertise to support national prosecutors and other investigators.

This includes support for:

- ▶ European Investigation Orders (in 48.1% of Eurojust cases open in 2025),
- ▶ mutual legal assistance requests (29.7%),
- ▶ European Arrest Warrant (7.4%) and further issues of extradition,
- ▶ freezing and confiscation orders (5.2%),
- ▶ issues of conflicts of jurisdiction, ne bis in idem and transfers of proceedings (at least 4.3%),
- ▶ and a growing number of transfers of sentenced persons.

Eurojust, based on its casework, retains and shares knowledge of recurring issues that complicate the use of judicial instruments, as well as best practices to address them. The Agency also monitors the case-law of the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights to advise national prosecutors.

The expertise built this way can ensure smooth execution of judicial cooperation instruments, prevent conflicts of jurisdiction or ensure that evidence is collected in a manner admissible in court. This work of Eurojust is unique: there is no other European body or agency with such expertise in EU law on judicial cooperation in criminal matters that can offer this kind of practical support to getting justice done in cross-border cases.

Coordination meetings and centres

Eurojust offers national authorities [coordination meetings](#) and [coordination centres](#) as dedicated and unique tools for achieving successful prosecutions and ensuring justice is done.

In cross-border investigations, Eurojust organises coordination meetings to bring together the judicial and law enforcement authorities of the involved countries. The meeting provides an opportunity to share information and agree on the methods of cooperation and next steps for coordinating investigations and prosecutions. This can include supporting the execution of mutual recognition instruments or mutual legal assistance requests, setting up joint investigation teams or planning a joint action day.

Key case



Dismantling a major drug trafficking with links to Latin America



CRIME: An OCG traffics illicit drugs worth at least EUR 175 million across the European Union. By setting up legitimate companies that trade and transport legitimate goods, the illegal activities are hidden.

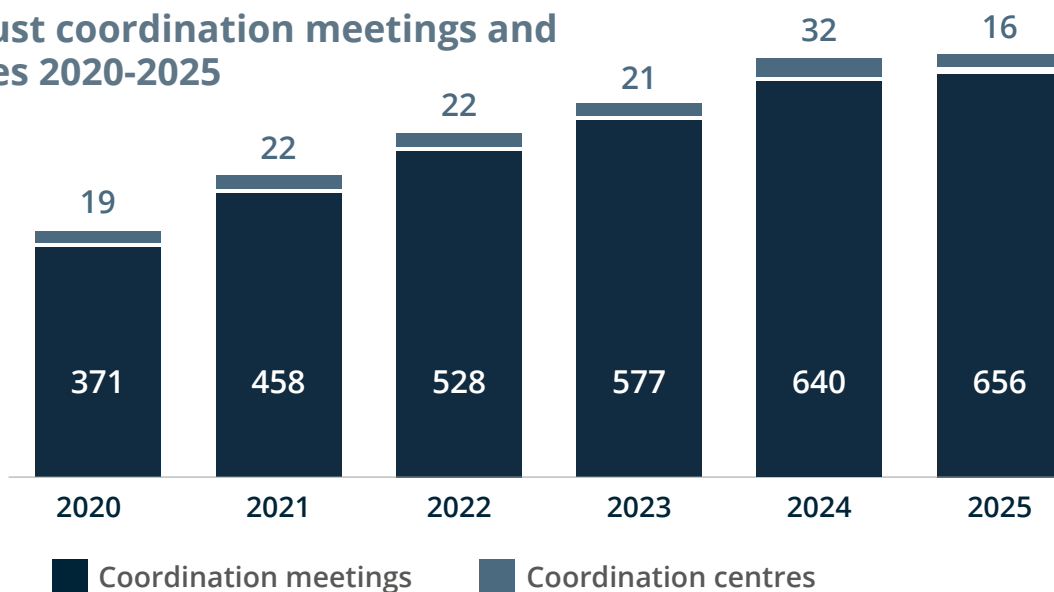
ACTION: Nearly 580 law enforcement officers are involved in coordinated actions taking place in Hungary, Slovakia, Germany and Spain. During searches, authorities not only find various drugs ready for transport, but also an illegal cigarette production line.

RESULT: Authorities arrest 22 suspects, including the alleged leader of the criminal group. Over EUR 370 000 in cash, various drugs, documents, phones and other communication tools are seized.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust supports the Slovak-Hungarian JIT and assists with the execution of EAWs and EIOs. To ensure all measures are implemented on the action day, a coordination centre is set up at the Agency.



Eurojust coordination meetings and centres 2020-2025



Coordination meetings are held at Eurojust's premises or via secure videoconferencing, and are fully supported by Eurojust's expertise, budget (e.g. funding for travel costs) and infrastructure, making the resolution of legal and practical issues easier.

The number of coordination meetings facilitated by Eurojust each year has increased steadily over the past 5 years, with a total of 653 coordination meetings organised in 2025. Economic crimes accounted for the highest number of coordination meetings (258), followed by drug trafficking (119) and cybercrime (102).

Coordination centres enable real-time monitoring of joint action days targeting criminal organisations, during which arrests, searches, interviews of suspects and witnesses, seizures of evidence and freezing of assets are executed in several countries simultaneously. The centres are set up in dedicated rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology and virtually via videoconferencing to ensure swift judicial coordination and the exchange of information and evidence between all involved national authorities in a secure environment.

Sixteen coordination centres were set up at Eurojust in 2025, half of them tackling economic crimes. This number fluctuates every year as the need for coordination centres depends on the maturity of cases and operational constraints.

Coordination meetings and centres in 2025 by crime type

Crime types	Coordination meetings	Coordination centres
Economic crimes	258	8
Drug trafficking	119	3
Cybercrime	102	3
Trafficking in human beings	53	-
Mobile organised crime groups	47	1
Terrorism	37	1
Migrant smuggling	30	-
Core international crimes	17	-
Environmental crime	7	-
Intellectual property crime	5	-

The data contained in this table were extracted from Eurojust's case management system on 17 January 2026. Due to the ongoing nature of cases, possible discrepancies with previously reported numbers may exist, and statistics may be updated in the future.

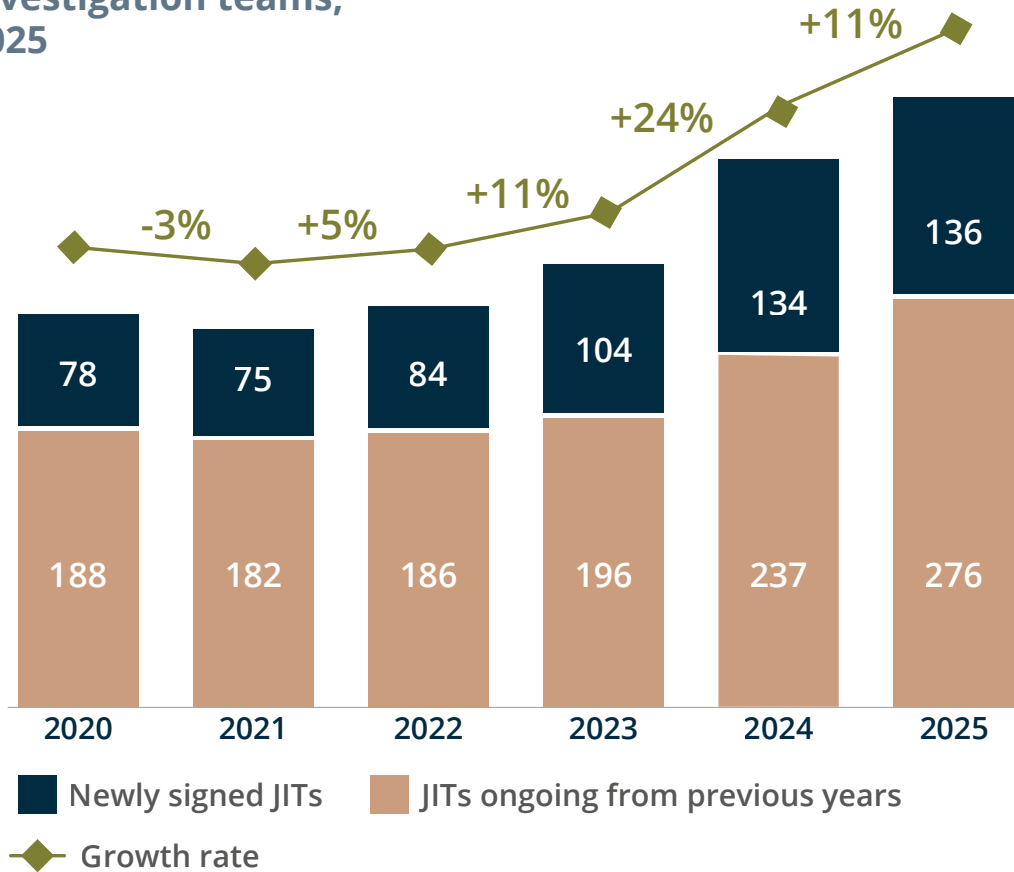
As a coordination meeting/centre may deal with more than one crime type, the total number of coordination meetings and centres cannot be calculated by adding up the numbers in this table.

Joint investigation teams

Joint investigation teams are an advanced tool for judicial cooperation supported by Eurojust. In 2025, the Agency supported 11% more JITs than in 2024, continuing the upward trend from previous years. Eurojust facilitated 412 JITs throughout the year, approximately one third of which were newly signed in 2025.

JITs were used in several major cross-border cases involving both EU Member States and third countries. The newly signed JITs in 2025 covered a wide range of crime types: the largest number of JITs were established to tackle drug trafficking (33) and money laundering (28).

Joint investigation teams, 2020-2025



Key case



Decisive action against scammers targeting victims in Austria and Latvia



CRIME: Over 3 000 victims are defrauded of several million euros by a criminal network offering its scam models and technical tools to other criminals as a crime-as-a-service. Their online service provides phone numbers from over 80 countries and entire infrastructures to set up fake accounts on social media.

ACTION: Cooperation between Austrian, Estonian, Latvian and Finnish authorities, together with Eurojust, uncovers the different methods offered by the criminal network. Joint actions are planned to arrest the suspected members of the network and take down their servers.

RESULT: Seven members are arrested, five servers are taken down and a SIM-card based technical system, along with 40 000 active SIM cards, is dismantled.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust supports and finances a JIT, enabling the authorities to work together swiftly and efficiently.



Key case



Main organisers of drug transports to Nordic countries arrested



CRIME: Five suspects organise the long-term, large-scale transport of drugs to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. The drugs are transported via France and Germany in trucks with secret compartments. Afterwards, local criminal groups sell and distribute the drugs.

ACTION: After the previous arrest of eight members of the network, authorities work together to disrupt the transport route and arrest five more members of the criminal group.

RESULT: An operation in Serbia leads to the arrest of five suspects and the seizure of several encrypted mobile phones, documents, a firearm and ammunition.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: To consolidate ongoing investigations into the transport network, a JIT is set up at Eurojust. The Agency provides logistical, organisational and financial support to the JIT.



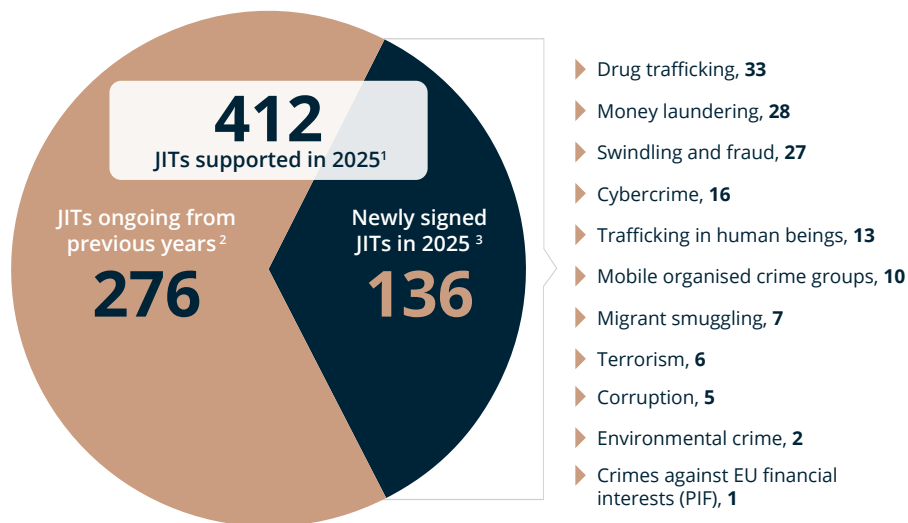
Eurojust JITs funding programme

Eurojust funded close to half of the 412 JITs supported by the Agency in 2025. During the year, the JITs Network Secretariat received 403 funding applications and awarded 365 grants under the standard funding scheme and 25 grants under the urgent funding scheme.

Through these grants, Eurojust provided financial support to 199 active JITs (75 of these JITs were established in 2025). The JITs funding programme budget for 2025 was EUR 2.1 million.

The increase in the number of funding applications submitted (by almost 15% compared with 2024) and in the amounts requested (by more than 20%) highlights the importance of financial support for the functioning of JITs. Most of the awarded grants were used for translation and interpretation, as well as for the purchase of equipment.

The Claims Module, an online tool for submitting JITs funding reimbursement claims, continued to be used successfully in 2025 and will be the sole method for submitting reimbursement claims and extension requests from 2026.



Eurojust support to JITs includes financial and operational support. As of January 2026. Due to the ongoing nature of the cases, these figures may change after the reporting period. A single JIT can deal with more than one crime type.

JIT evaluation

In 2025, the [Fifth JITs Evaluation Report](#) was published, based on 67 completed JIT evaluations. The findings show that the early involvement of Eurojust and the timely agreement on the scope of the JIT remain key factors for smooth cooperation, particularly in cases involving several parallel national investigations. The evaluation found that challenges related to:

- ▶ the exchange and use of evidence,
- ▶ the coordination of investigative measures, and
- ▶ the alignment of prosecution strategies

become more pronounced in multilateral JITs.

It also shows that seconded members, regular coordination meetings, and early discussions of jurisdictional issues help to mitigate these risks. Throughout 2025, the JITs Network Secretariat continued to contribute to training activities for JIT practitioners at both EU and regional levels, together with Eurojust's Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project.

Work on the [JITs Collaboration Platform](#) also continued throughout 2025.



Key event

Digital workspace for JITs & coordination with customs authorities key themes of 21st Annual Meeting of the JITs Network



Key publications

Fifth JITs Evaluation Report



Understanding complex JIT cases: behind the scenes of a cross-border investigation



Key network

JITs Network

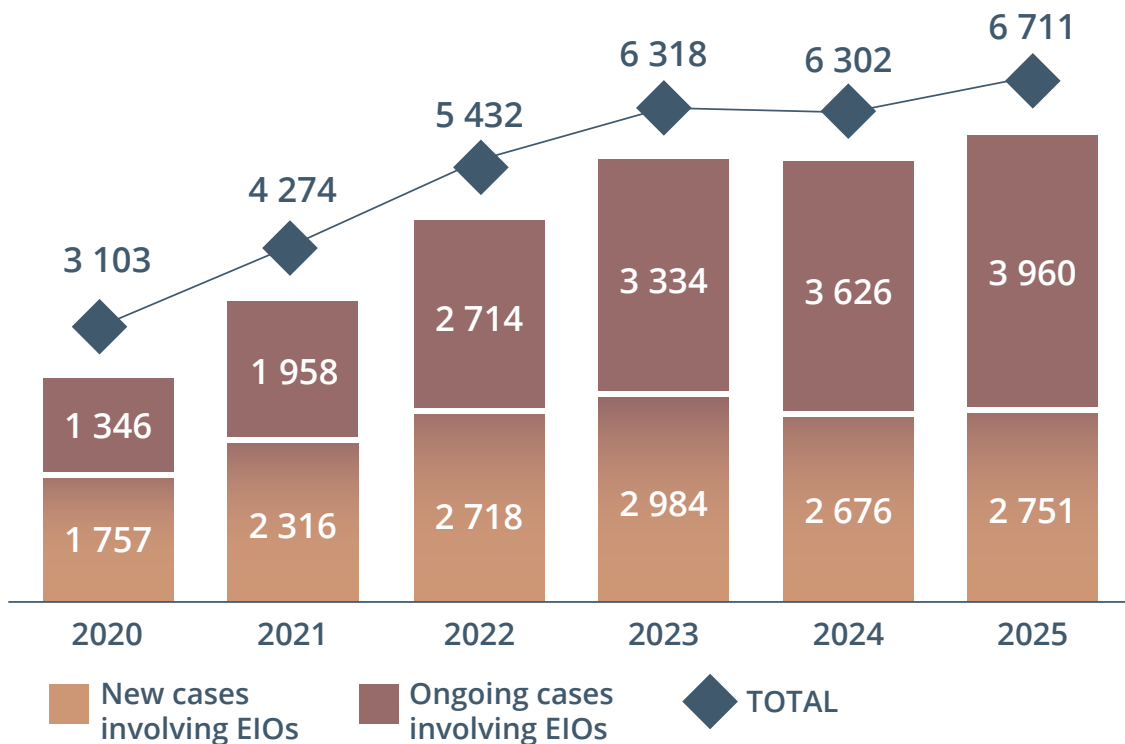


European Investigation Order

During 2025, Eurojust continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EIO, from the drafting to the execution phase. 6 711 Eurojust cases, including 2 751 new cases involved a European Investigation Order, a close to 7% rise from the previous year. While in 2020, a little over one third of Eurojust cases involved an EIO, this ratio rose to close to half by 2025, showing that Eurojust's support is getting increasingly important for this instrument.

Eurojust assisted in obtaining clarifications or additional information prior to the execution of an EIO or, where the information provided was insufficient, even before its transmission to the executing authorities.

Eurojust cases involving EIOs



Eurojust also facilitated the execution of several urgent EIOs, where its role was critical given the need for imminent action. In multilateral cases, the Agency ensured coordinated execution of EIOs in several Member States, alongside other judicial cooperation instruments such as freezing orders and EAWs.

Eurojust supported cases in which legal or practical issues arose, in particular:

- ▶ the **hearing of suspects** and the applicable formalities and procedural guarantees, which may differ across Member States;
- ▶ the **interception of telecommunications**, which is subject to varying conditions and procedures across Member States;
- ▶ the **use of technical devices tracking movements and recording sound and images** (e.g. bugging a car), which are not clearly regulated in the EIO Directive and therefore give rise to practical challenges, especially regarding the possibility of an ex post authorisation.

Key case

Hearing of an accused person by videoconference or temporary transfer



CRIME: A person is being prosecuted in Italy for participating in a criminal organisation and for drug trafficking. He does not appear in court, but he is represented by a lawyer and is found to have been in custody in Belgium.

JUDICIAL ISSUE: The Italian court issues an EIO to hear the accused by videoconference. The Belgian Public Prosecutor's Office refuses to execute the EIO, stating that Belgian law does not permit the hearing of an accused person by videoconference in the course of that person's trial, as it would be contrary to the right to a fair hearing.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: The referring Italian court asks Eurojust for assistance. The Agency suggests a temporary transfer of the accused person to Italy, which the Belgian authorities refuse.

CJEU JUDGMENT: Eurojust further supports the Italian court in referring the case to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling. The CJEU decides with its [judgment of 18 December 2025 \(C 325/24\)](#) on the interpretation of the EIO Directive meaning that Member States' judicial authorities may issue an EIO for the temporary transfer of or the hearing by videoconference of an accused person during his or her trial for evidentiary purposes, and further that such a measure not being available in a domestic case is not a reason for refusal to execute the EIO.

Throughout 2025, Eurojust continued to examine legal issues related to the **interception of telecommunications and other surveillance measures**, providing streamlined information on the fundamental legal requirements applicable in other jurisdictions concerning such measures.

Similarly, Eurojust worked on the **admissibility of evidence transmitted via EIOs**, in particular data obtained from encrypted communication networks (e.g. Sky ECC and EncroChat), by monitoring relevant national case-law and advising national authorities.

As a result of years of monitoring, Eurojust published the **first comprehensive overview of CJEU case-law on the EIO** in 2025, offering a structured and accessible reference tool for legal practitioners and judicial authorities. The report will be regularly updated.

Based on the recommendations in the final report on the 10th round of mutual evaluations on the EIO, the Commission started work on a potential revision of the EIO Directive. Eurojust contributed to this at every step of the process in 2025, participating in expert group meetings and at the High Level Forum on the Future of EU Criminal Justice, both organised by the Commission. Eurojust also contributed a written position to the targeted consultation by the Commission in November.



Key publication

Case-law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Investigation Order



European Arrest Warrant

In 2025, 1 038 Eurojust cases (including 457 new and 581 ongoing ones from previous years) involved European Arrest Warrants. The overall number of cases involving EAWs handled by the Agency in 2025 was approximately 6% higher than in the previous year.

Key case



Rapid surrender of high-profile murder suspect



CRIME: An American citizen is suspected of the murder of an infant girl in Rome.

ACTION: When authorities locate the person in Greece, they must ensure that the suspect is rapidly detained and surrendered to Italy.

RESULT: Rapid issuance and timely execution of an EAW leads to the suspect's arrest and ensures his surrender to Italy.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Close and immediate cooperation between the Italian and Greek Desks at Eurojust ensures the timely and rapid execution of the EAW.

Eurojust continued to provide support and advice to national authorities throughout the life cycle of the EAW.

Eurojust can support or provide advice on:

swift transmission of information

competing EAWs and preventing the issuance of competing EAWs

interpretation of CJEU case-law on the EAW

communication in ongoing criminal proceedings (e.g. postponement or temporary surrender)

application of grounds for refusal and possibility of re-issuing EAWs

choice of judicial instrument

consultation procedure for extradition requests regarding EU citizens to third countries

drafting and transmission of return guarantees, assurances on prison conditions or medical treatments

application of the specialty rule, prior to or after surrender

Practitioners approached the Agency when requests for additional information were urgent (for example in view of upcoming court hearings) or when direct contact with the executing authorities had failed. Eurojust facilitated the swift transmission of the missing information relating to these EAWs.

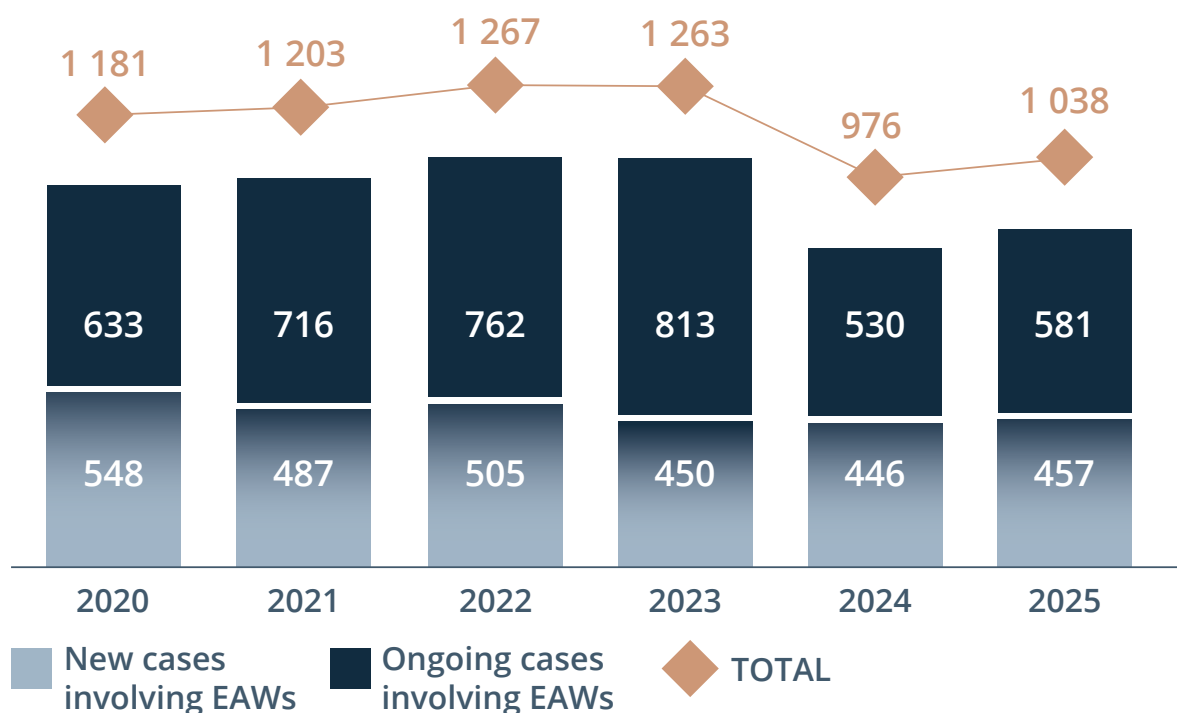
Another important role Eurojust can play is advising on competing EAWs and supporting follow-up questions (e.g. regarding consent to subsequent surrender). In its coordination meetings, the Agency can also prevent the issuance of competing EAWs. In 2025, Eurojust issued seven formal Advices on competing EAWs in accordance with Article 16(2) EAW FD and the Eurojust [Guidelines for deciding competing requests for surrender and extradition](#).

Eurojust continues to assist the national authorities with the correct application of the CJEU’s case-law (e.g. on prison conditions or in absentia). To enable this, the Agency monitors the case-law of the CJEU and publishes a regular report that includes the latest developments.

Two judgments the CJEU delivered in 2025 resulted from cases supported by Eurojust, namely [Sangas](#)¹ on the statute-barred refusal ground and [C.I.](#)² on the relationship between the EAW and the Framework Decision on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The legal questions respectively at stake in these cases reflect recurrent issues that arise in multiple Eurojust cases.

The Agency examined the speciality rule in a questionnaire to all Member States in 2025 to prepare streamlined, accessible and operational information for practitioners on how this principle is being applied in the Member States.

Eurojust cases involving EAWs, 2020-2025

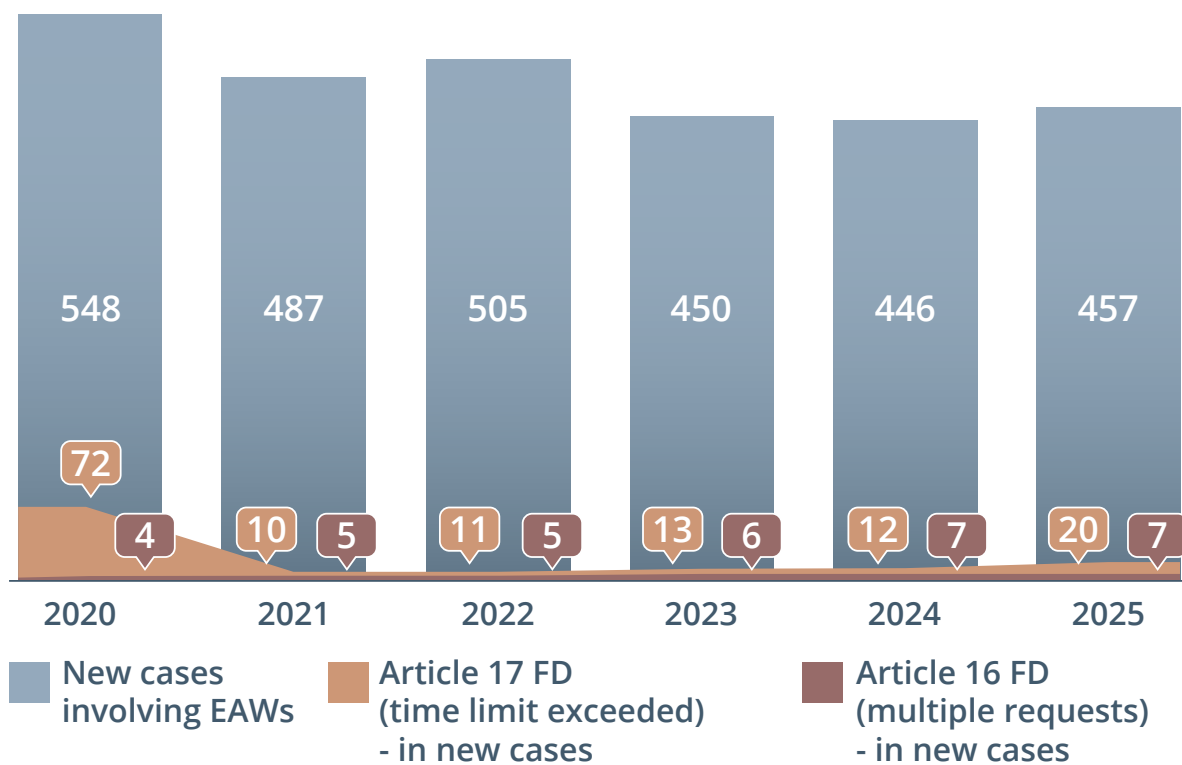


¹ C 481/23

² C-305/22

As in previous years, only a small number of Member States notify Eurojust of cases where they cannot observe the time limits and the reasons for this non-observance (Article 17 EAW Framework Decision). The number of cases concerning competing EAWs for which Eurojust’s support is requested (Article 16(2) EAW Framework Decision) also remains limited.

New Eurojust cases involving EAWs, notifications EAW FD Art 16-17 2020-2025



Key publication

Case-law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Arrest Warrant



The speciality rule under the European Arrest Warrant (EAW)

Asset recovery, freezing and confiscation

As the vast majority of organised crime is profit-driven and the proceeds of crime are often reinvested abroad, recovering these proceeds is a strategic priority in the EU's fight against organised crime. Eurojust plays a key role in the asset recovery process in cross-border cases by providing legal and practical support to judicial authorities throughout **all four stages of asset recovery**.

Eurojust's expertise and experience are essential in assisting practitioners in tracing, freezing, confiscating and disposing of criminal assets.

In 2025, Eurojust supported 723 cases in connection with Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders. The Agency's support to these cases resulted in the seizure or freezing of nearly EUR 1.2 billion in criminal assets.

Eurojust often provided crucial support in cases with the following recurrent issues:

additional information to allow the execution of the freezing/confiscation certificate

coordinate execution of freezing orders on a specific date, jointly with other coercive measures

restitution of frozen assets to victims in another country

cooperation with non-EU Member States

In September 2025, Eurojust published a [Casework Report on Regulation 2018/1805](#) on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders. This report, the first of its kind, offers practical guidance for national authorities, highlighting both the progress made and the remaining challenges in applying the Regulation.

The report's main finding is that the Regulation is widely used in practice and has significantly improved judicial cooperation. However, its application is not yet fully effective, and a number of legal and practical challenges remain, for example due to divergent national rules and the design of the standard forms. Eurojust's support in resolving such issues, especially in complex cases, can be instrumental.

The report was discussed at the formal kick-off meeting of the Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery – read more about the Focus Group in the chapter on economic crimes.



Asset tracing



Asset freezing



Asset confiscation



Asset disposal



Key event

Eurojust meeting tackles emerging trends on money laundering and asset recovery



Key publications

Eurojust Report on Regulation 2018/1805 on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders



Key network

Judicial Focus Group on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery



Resolving conflicts of jurisdiction

As part of its mission to coordinate investigations into serious crime, Eurojust often assists national authorities in the areas of conflicts of jurisdiction and transfer of proceedings, as well as in cases involving potential *ne bis in idem* issues. These issues are likely to arise if parallel investigations take place in two or more Member States, unless there is cross-border coordination. Eurojust facilitates preliminary contacts and consultations between competent authorities, coordinates their actions, encourages and expedites the exchange of information, and advises on which jurisdiction is best placed to prosecute in the interests of justice.

In 2025, the Agency continued to support national authorities in preventing and resolving conflicts of jurisdiction and in preventing *ne bis in idem* issues.

In particular, Eurojust facilitated consultations among national authorities in at least 601 cases of parallel proceedings, in application of, inter alia, Framework Decision 948/2009 on conflicts of jurisdiction, by organising coordination meetings and providing advice to reach consensus on which jurisdiction is best placed to prosecute a specific case. It also facilitated the transfer of criminal proceedings and the transfer of evidence from one jurisdiction to another.

A significant number of these cases involved investment fraud, perpetrated online by organised criminal groups active in several countries, with thousands of victims worldwide. Eurojust assistance can be essential in cases like this to coordinate the judicial response.

Eurojust also worked on preparing for the entry into force of the 2024 [Regulation on transfer of proceedings](#), enabling the Agency to better assist national authorities once the Regulation becomes applicable in 2027. This exercise will continue in 2026.

Key case



Arson terrorist group taken to court



CRIME: A terrorist group is suspected of carrying out arson attacks across Europe. They attempt to set fire to commercial, transport and factory facilities. The group is suspected of having links to a foreign intelligence service.

ACTION: Czech, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian authorities identify links between the attacks and find the group and the organisers connecting the suspects.

RESULT: Two suspects are convicted following trials in the Czech Republic and Romania. In Lithuania, the trial of six suspects is expected to start later in 2026. Proceedings are ongoing in Poland against a suspect and his principals.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: Eurojust sets up a JIT between the authorities and coordinates the prosecution of suspects to avoid *bis in idem*.



Key case



19 individuals detained, suspected of trafficking and pimping Romanian women



CRIME: A criminal group gains over EUR 1.7 million by exploiting over 30 Romanian women for prostitution on the streets of Italy. Victims are lured into the network using the lover boy method and are convinced that prostitution is a necessary sacrifice to contribute to the financial well-being of the group.

ACTION: Through a JIT, authorities uncover the pyramid-type structure behind the human trafficking network and plan an action day in Italy and Romania to arrest members of the group and bring their victims to safety.

RESULT: The action day leads to the detention of 19 suspects and judicial control for two individuals. During searches executed in 25 places, authorities seize firearms, cash and luxury vehicles.

EUROJUST'S ROLE: To coordinate the investigation, Eurojust sets up a JIT and organises several coordination meetings in The Hague and abroad. Eurojust supports national authorities in identifying which suspects are investigated for the same facts, to avoid infringement of the *ne bis in idem* principle. On the basis of Eurojust's advice, the authorities agree to concentrate the proceedings in Romania, which is considered best placed to prosecute the case.



E-Evidence

E-evidence is increasingly important in all criminal investigations; at least 55% of investigations involve a cross-border request for e-evidence. Its acquisition is governed by an evolving set of legal frameworks, including the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention). Where appropriate, voluntary cooperation may also be used in accordance with national law. In 2026, the EU [e-evidence package](#) will enter into application, establishing a comprehensive legal framework in the EU for obtaining cross-border access to e-evidence in criminal proceedings.

The ground-breaking legislation introduces two new legal instruments, the European Production Order and the European Preservation Order, which enable competent authorities to order the preservation and the production of e-evidence directly from service providers offering services in the EU, regardless of their place of establishment or the location of the data. The obligation for service providers to respond within 10 days, and within 8 hours in cases of emergency, will improve authorities' ability to rely on volatile e-evidence in criminal proceedings.

Eurojust stands ready to support the work of national authorities when using the new judicial cooperation instruments.

In 2025, Eurojust hosted a [meeting of key stakeholders on the EU e evidence package](#) and mapped the [roles of different entities](#) (Eurojust, SIRIUS project, EJM, EJCEN) regarding the new legal tools, and the [type of operational support](#) they can provide to practitioners. Eurojust will continue to provide strategic support to national authorities in the practical application of the EU e-evidence package.

Eurojust's support in the use of European Production and Preservation Orders includes:



In 2025, Eurojust and Europol launched Phase 3 of the SIRIUS project, marking its expansion to non-EU countries. As the central hub for knowledge sharing on cross-border access to e-evidence, the project developed several [knowledge products and practical tools](#) and maintained its structured dialogue with service providers, enabling direct contact with Eurojust via SIRIUS.

Eurojust also contributed to the [Impact Assessment on Retention of data by service providers for criminal proceedings](#) launched by the Commission with a view to updating EU rules on data retention.



Key events

E-Evidence in focus at Eurojust and Council of Europe joint cybercrime workshop



Eurojust brings key stakeholders together for exchange on EU e-Evidence Package

Europol and Eurojust launch phase 3 of SIRIUS project to enhance cross-border access to electronic evidence



Key publications

European Production and Preservation Orders: key actors offering support



European Production and Preservation Orders: support at a glance

Service providers under key legal frameworks on e-evidence



Case studies: Extraterritorial production orders



Key networks and projects

EJCN



SIRIUS



This report contains extracts from the Eurojust Annual Report 2025.

You can find the full report [here on Eurojust's website.](#)



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PDF: Catalogue number: QP-01-26-017-EN-N • ISBN: 978-92-9404-572-0 • DOI: 10.2812/5836325



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