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FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME RELATED TO ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE INTERPOL SYSTEM

European Union policy seeks to combat organised crime. Whilst operational activities such as prosecuting criminals remain the responsibility of EU Member States, the EU's objective is to assist in fighting organised crime more effectively.

EU action is based on various tools, such as gathering reliable crime statistics and establishing networks for exchanging information and best practices. The EU is assisted by its specialised agencies, such as the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training.

In April 2021, the European Commission presented the EU strategy to tackle organised crime. This focuses on:

- boosting law enforcement and judicial cooperation;
- enhancing effective investigations to disrupt organised crime structures and high-priority crimes;
- removing criminal profits ('follow the money' approach);
- ensuring a modern response to technological developments.

The Internal Security Fund for the 2021-2027 period builds on its predecessor and adapts it to new developments, such as the need to intensify the fight against terrorism, serious and organised crime and cybercrime. The programme will support measures to:

- improve the sharing of information;
- intensify cross-border cooperation, including joint operations on terrorism and organised crime;
- strengthen capabilities to prevent and combat crime.[1]

Supporting global collaboration to tackle widescale drug trafficking INTERPOL assists national, regional, and international law enforcement

bodies in countering the illicit production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs in the following ways:

- Global operations against drug trafficking and assistance to ongoing investigations;
- Criminal analysis of intelligence on drug trafficking routes, modus operandi, and the criminal networks involved;
- Comprehensive training for police worldwide to better tackle drug trafficking.

International cooperation is vital for combating the illicit drug trade. As international borders become increasingly porous, global drug abuse and availability are becoming more widespread. The illicit drug trade poses a global threat, providing a constant source of funding for other criminal activities and even threats such as terrorism.

INTERPOL believes that international cooperation, as well as improving knowledge about criminal concealment methods and modus operandi, is crucial to enable police and customs officers worldwide to protect borders and safeguard communities. INTERPOL assists member countries by providing investigative and analytical support, as well as facilitating access to its secure police information exchange network, I-24/7. INTERPOL's projects also strengthen the capacity of national authorities to combat drug trafficking networks. [2]

References:

1. EUR-LeX official EU website. URL: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/fight-against-organised-crime.html.

2. INTERPOL website. URL: https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/ Drug-trafficking/Drugs-projects.