

[ESMA update on no-deal Brexit preparations](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) wants to inform stakeholders that, following the European Council's [decision](#) on 11 April extending Article 50(3), its published measures and actions, including public statements, issued on the basis of a possible no-deal Brexit scenario on 29 March 2019, subsequently updated to read 12 April 2019, should now be read as referring to the new potential no-deal Brexit date of 31 October 2019, unless the European Council decides otherwise.

ESMA will issue further announcements in relation to the application of this new date in due course.

[Remarks by President Donald Tusk after the special meeting of the European Council \(Art. 50\) on 10 April 2019](#)

Your request will be handled by the Press Office of the General Secretariat of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

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European Council decision taken in agreement with the United Kingdom, extending the period under Article 50 TEU

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European Council (Art. 50) conclusions, 10 April 2019

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Fraud network taken down

Eurojust joint investigation team dismantles organised crime group that caused damages of more than €600 000

The Hague, 10 April 2019

An organised crime group (OCG) involved in cross-border fraud, cybercrime and money laundering was taken down in Romania and Bulgaria with the support of Eurojust, the EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit. A joint investigation team (JIT) between the Romanian and German judicial and law enforcement authorities was set up at Eurojust in June 2018. The JIT, which was logistically and operationally supported by Eurojust, was instrumental in the success of the investigation that led to the identification of 24 suspects. The authorities identified at least 125 victims, all German citizens, who were defrauded of an amount exceeding €600 000. Without Eurojust's assistance, the simultaneous operations would not have delivered the expected results.

On 9 April, the Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism, Vâlcea Territorial Office, Romania, and the Detmold Public Prosecutor's Office in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, conducted the second stage of the joint investigations, with the support of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) and Bulgarian national authorities. Fifteen simultaneous house searches were performed in Bucharest, other Romanian cities and Bulgaria. Numerous computers, telephones and other evidence were seized, and significant amounts of money, cars and other assets were identified. Twelve suspects were heard, three of whom were formally accused and subject to preventive measures.

The OCG, which was composed of Romanian nationals, allegedly initiated its criminal activities in spring 2018 in Vâlcea County. For more than one year, the OCG was selling cars via the Internet to victims in all German-speaking countries. By faking the websites of well-known companies, members of the OCG received payments in accounts opened outside Romania, using false documentation, and never delivered the cars to the victims. To obtain the criminal proceeds, the OCG members converted the amounts received online into cryptocurrency.