

# Successful Operation against Sexual Exploitation of Women

[ES](#)

15 December 2017

□Eurojust and Europol have supported coordinated judicial investigations in Spain (Investigative Court no 34 and Prosecution Office in Madrid) and Romania (DIICOT Prosecution Office) to dismantle an organised criminal group (OCG) involved in trafficking women for sexual exploitation in Madrid. On the law enforcement side, the Spanish Guardia Civil and the Romanian Police have joined forces, supported by Europol.

The investigation began in 2016, when the Spanish Guardia Civil received a report from a Romanian woman. She had been recruited months ago in her country of origin by the Loverboy method, a man who made her fall in love with him under false promises of a better life in Spain. Once in Madrid, she was forced into prostitution. Investigations revealed the existence of an OCG, and identified other victims.

Police officers carried out five house searches in Madrid and eight in Romania. As a result, a large amount of documents, cash, guns and mobile telephones and twelve high-value vehicles were seized. In total, nine Romanian women were safeguarded. Proceedings were initiated against eleven suspects in both Member States, and, among those, nine were arrested, including the OCG leader.

Europol supported the investigation by facilitating information exchange and providing analytical support. On the action day, two Europol analysts were deployed to Spain for on-the-spot support including real-time data exchange and cross checks against Europol databases.

Eurojust organised two coordination meetings, with the participation of judicial and police authorities and Europol. To further facilitate coordination, a joint investigation team, which brought together the competent authorities from Spain and Romania, was established in February of this year, with funding from Eurojust, and with the participation of Eurojust and Europol.

To help determine the best-placed jurisdiction and to avoid the risk of a conflict of jurisdiction, a Joint Recommendation was issued on 13 November by the National Members of Romania and Spain and sent to the respective national competent authorities.

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# Remarks by President Jean-Claude Juncker following the European Council meetings of 14 and 15 December 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I first met Jüri, I said to myself that this is the beginning of a great friendship. That is exactly what happened, and like our President I wanted to pay tribute to the Prime Minister, to the Estonian Ministers, to all those involved: excellent job, excellent work. You were preserving unity where others wanted to impose division and so we will always remember with the best feelings possible this first Estonian Presidency, which was an impressive one.

Nous avons discuté au cours de ce sommet un certain nombre d'éléments de politique concrète, dont notamment la mise en pratique du Socle des droits sociaux. Je me félicite du fait que le Conseil européen, dans ses conclusions, exprime l'idée que les ministres et que les membres du Conseil européen vont travailler sur base du programme de travail de la Commission. Nous aurons un premier rendez-vous en mars avec la perspective d'avoir un deuxième en juin, pour conclure tous les éléments relevant du paquet social. Pour nous permettre de faire cela, la Commission va adopter en date du 7 mars un texte sur l'Autorité européenne du travail. Cela est reflété également dans la Déclaration conjointe des trois Présidents des institutions sur les initiatives législatives à prendre en 2018 et 2019. Il s'agit en tout et pour tout de 31 initiatives dont la plupart d'ailleurs ont été déposées par la Commission sur la table du Conseil et du Parlement européen. C'est la deuxième fois que nous nous consacrons à cet exercice après avoir réussi l'année passée avec le Président Schulz; nous avons fait de même avec le Président Tajani. Cela donne de la prédictibilité aux travaux du Conseil, du Parlement et de la Commission; c'est donc notre roadmap pour 2018 et 2019.

Je suis particulièrement satisfait du fait que nous avons, sous Présidence estonienne, fait de très notables progrès pour ce qui est de l'Europe de la défense. J'avais dit en me présentant devant le Parlement européen en juillet 2014 que l'Europe de la défense serait une des grandes priorités de la Commission que j'ai l'honneur de présider. A l'époque – vous vous en souvenez, probablement vous ne vous en souvenez pas – ceux qui ont commenté cette proposition ont dit que j'étais naïf, que j'étais très peu réaliste. Or je constate, après les premières propositions initiales de la Commission, que nous avons fait des progrès qui vont autrement plus loin que les pas que nous avons su faire au cours des 20 dernières années. Je crois donc que sur ce point, nous avons fait du bon travail, notamment en ce qui concerne la coopération structurée permanente qui non seulement voit se réunir dans une même ambition 25 Etats membres, mais qui jusqu'à ce jour ont su se mettre d'accord sur 17 projets concrets. Donc l'Union de la défense ce n'est pas du bavardage, c'est du concret. Et pour ce qui est de la Commission, nous allons faire des propositions qui s'occuperont notamment de la mobilité militaire.

On vous expliquera un jour de quoi il s'agit exactement. Le Fonds européen de la défense, qui verra des capacités communes de défense se mettre en place, va voir le jour. Nous avons fait la proposition en novembre 2016 et je suis content de voir le Conseil européen s'arrimer lui aussi à cette tâche importante.

Göteborg, socle social, n'a pas donné lieu à des entretiens qui auraient été controversés. Mais là encore, comme il ne s'agit pas d'un poème mais d'un ordre du jour qu'il s'agira de mettre en application, nous le ferons avec engagement.

Pour ce qui est de la migration, tout dépend du point de vue. Je prétends que la relocalisation fut un succès. Pourquoi est-ce que je le dis ? Parce que sur 35 245 réfugiés éligibles, 32 683 c'est-à-dire 93% ont su être relocalisés. C'est un petit nombre, dit Donald, et il a raison. Mais c'est exactement ce que nous avons promis lorsque nous avons lancé le projet de la relocalisation. Je ne comprends d'ailleurs pas pourquoi cela peut donner lieu à tant d'émoi. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on croit que la relocalisation mettrait en cause les systèmes sociaux et de civilisation en Europe ? Il s'agit de 35 000 personnes. L'Europe est plus forte, ainsi que le sont ses pays membres, pour pouvoir digérer, absorber 35 000 personnes. Et donc je voudrais que sur ce point on se calme un peu et qu'on s'excite moins.

Je voudrais que les Etats membres contribuent plus à l'African Trust Fund qu'ils ne l'ont fait jusqu'à présent. Je suis d'accord avec tous ceux qui exigent au quotidien la mise en place de la protection extérieure de nos frontières – elle est en place. Il nous manque d'ici janvier 92 officiers, policiers et douaniers en Grèce. Comme tout le monde est d'accord pour dire que la protection des frontières extérieures doit être renforcée, je m'attends à ce que jusqu'en janvier on ait mis à notre disposition ce personnel. Tout comme les 114 officiers, soldats, douaniers dont nous avons besoin en Bulgarie. Il ne suffit pas de dire "il faut faire"; l'essentiel est de nous permettre de pouvoir faire ce qu'on devrait avoir fait depuis quelques mois.

Sur l'Union économique et monétaire, je voudrais d'abord rendre ici un hommage à Jeroen Dijsselbloem, qui va quitter ses fonctions sous peu, tout comme à Thomas Wieser, qui était depuis mon temps la cheville ouvrière de l'Eurogroupe et sans lequel beaucoup n'aurait pas été possible, et beaucoup fut possible grâce à lui. C'est un grand serviteur de l'Europe qui quitte ses fonctions.

Nous verrons en mars et puis en juin quels auront été les progrès nous avons pu accumuler sous le chapitre Union économique et monétaire. Le Président a fait référence aux différents segments d'examen qui sont sous nos yeux et nous y reviendrons le moment venu. Non sans avoir dit que ceux qui nous parlent de la réduction des risques, risk reduction, feraient mieux de consulter les chiffres parce qu'ils verraient que le capital propre des banques a été considérablement augmenté, tout comme les bad loans ont diminué rien que cette année-ci de 16%, ce qui ne nous mène pas à une situation où nous pourrions dire que le problème est résolu, mais qui montre qu'il y a des progrès notables qui ont été faits.

Sur le Brexit je ne dirai rien. J'ai passé ensemble avec Michel Barnier beaucoup de jours et beaucoup de nuits à élucider tous les problèmes qui se posaient dans ce contexte. Vous vous rappelleriez sans doute que vendredi passé nous nous sommes vu, Theresa May et moi-même, à 7 heures du matin – 7 o'clock in the morning, 6 o'clock in London, that was the sanction I imposed on the British Prime Minister. She was a tough, smart, polite and friendly negotiator. We had had a meeting with the group of the European Parliamentarians being involved in this, so we were able to conclude that sufficient progress has been made. Now it is up to us to draft the withdrawal agreement together with our British friends and I hope that this withdrawal treaty will be approved by the European Parliament and by the House in London. Thank you.

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## **Press release: MHRA awarded over £980,000 for collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation**

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation that aims to extensively improve the safety monitoring of medicines in low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

New medicines and vaccines, for diseases such as malaria and HIV, may be introduced for the first time in LMIC's where there are weak or no regulatory systems in place for effective safety monitoring. These new treatments have been developed with urgent public health needs in mind and therefore the need to gather and analyse information quickly on their safety and effectiveness is important. The healthcare and regulatory systems in these settings may often lack the tools, training and capacity to operate a robust safety monitoring system. Whilst great progress has been made with many of LMIC's now involved as members of the World Health Organization Program for International Drug Monitoring, the experience in collecting, assessing and acting on adverse reaction data, and risk management planning is limited.

Without an effective system, public health programs are at risk and patients may be affected, should they suffer from adverse drug reactions (ADRs) which are not promptly identified and treated. This can consequently undermine the program and result in a loss of trust in the product or a vaccine. Ultimately, this may lead to lower uptake and therefore, the disease not being effectively treated.

WHO and the Gates Foundation have launched 'Project Smart Safety Surveillance' (also known as Project 3-S) to help LMIC's identify, assess,

and adequately manage the risks associated with new products. MHRA will be joining this initiative to bring regulatory expertise to the project. This will be for a 3-year period where it is intended to run three pilot exercises in different LMIC settings.

Dr Ian Hudson, Chief Executive Officer at MHRA said:

We are delighted to be involved in such an important global initiative. New drugs and vaccines are being brought to the market for the first time in public health programmes in settings where the safety monitoring and regulatory systems need strengthening. The expertise we can bring to the project will help national safety monitoring centres identify risks and benefits early and take appropriate regulatory action to support global health.

Dr Dan Hartman of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said:

The Triple S project is vitally important to the success of public health programmes to combat some of the world's major diseases. When a new medicine or vaccine is being used it is critical that potential risks are identified early and well understood. The involvement of MHRA in this project will ensure scientific and regulatory expertise are developed within the national centres.

[Dr Ian Hudson discusses a new partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation](#)

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## [Press release: Ipswich Tidal Flood Barrier Gate a step closer](#)

Huge hydraulic arms that will operate Ipswich's new tidal flood gate have been installed, taking the vital £70 million project 1 step closer to completion.

VIPs, including the Environment Agency chief executive Sir James Bevan, attended an open day to see the latest work on the flood defence scheme, which will significantly reduce the risk of flooding for 2,000 homes and businesses in the town.

The 200 tonne tidal gate was manufactured in the Netherlands and arrived in Suffolk in October, a significant milestone in the 4 year project. The gate is 22 metres wide and will stand 9 metres tall when in its "closed position". It is finished with 5 tonnes of special paint that will help protect it, as it spends most of its life under water.

It was lowered into place by a specially constructed 1,000 tonne crane and the operating mechanism and control building are now being installed.

The project is being undertaken by Environment Agency contractor VBA – a joint venture between VolkerStevin, Boskalis Westminster and Atkins – and is due to be completed next year.

Sir James Bevan, chief executive at the Environment Agency, said:

Its been fantastic to visit the Ipswich tidal barrier gate and see this incredible feat of engineering. The £70 million barrier will not only help reduce the threat of flooding for 2,000 homes and businesses but also be a boost for the area's economy. Working with partners has been key to the scheme's success and I look forward to seeing the finished scheme.

Floods Minister, Thérèse Coffey, said:

Suffolk is no stranger to flooding and the devastating impacts it can have. That is why I am really pleased that we have made progress with this scheme which is a key part of the regeneration

of our county town.

This new £70 million barrier is brilliant news for Ipswich and is just 1 example of our investment across Suffolk to better protect communities across the county from flooding.

The Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy (IFDMS) will increase the standard of protection and takes into account current climate change predictions.

The final element of the scheme involves building a tidal barrier across the New Cut River in Ipswich with associated works to tie it into the new east and west bank walls and gates.

The flood defence scheme, which will reduce the risk of flooding to 1,608 homes and 422 businesses and support key infrastructure, has been partnership funded by: the Environment Agency, Ipswich Borough Council, Department for Communities and Local Government, the Haven Gateway Partnership, and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

The barrier gate is expected to be operational in the spring of 2018.

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## **Press release: Milestone at Shoreham flood defence project**

A major flood defence scheme that will significantly reduce flood risk to over 2,300 properties in Shoreham-by-Sea and Lancing has taken a step towards completion.

Work at Reach E3 of the Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls Scheme is now complete, and the northern section of the Downs Links and Lower Beach Road re-opened on Friday 8 December. Also, as a result of updated modelling for the project, part of the initial plan has been adapted and removed the need for major road works on the A283.

The scheme is made up of 10 individual reaches, and work has now started on 8. Construction on Reach E3, which includes raised walls and embankments, started in 2016. Steel piling has been installed along the landward side of the path, and has been clad with brick. The Downs Link path was diverted while the work was completed.

Before the advanced modelling took place, the A283 in Shoreham-by-Sea would have been closed for 12 weeks during construction in spring 2018. As a result of the work that has already taken place, only a very small number of properties would benefit from the road raising work. Instead, these

properties will be protected with an alternative solution to ensure they also receive a high level of protection, and the road closures will not take place.

Elsewhere in the scheme, work on the slipway at Emerald Quay and Sussex Wharf is advancing and the first panes of glass of the riverside flood defence have been installed. The majority of the new wall at Ferry Bridge is complete, and vegetation clearance at Riverbank in preparation for construction to start in the new year is finished. Work at Emerald Quay, Shoreham Harbour Club and Shoreham Fort is progressing well. Much of the work behind the High Street in Shoreham has been completed and is open to the public.

Phil Prydderch, Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls Manager at the Environment Agency, said:

It's great news for Shoreham-by-Sea residents that we will be able to enhance their flood protection without the planned road closures. We are committed to protecting all members of the community, and will continue to work with local residents to make them more resilient against flooding.

When complete, the Shoreham scheme will reduce the tidal flood risk to thousands of homes and a significant number of commercial properties in the area, as well as protecting important local infrastructure such as the road network, railway line and Shoreham Airport. This is one part of the Environment Agency's national effort to reduce the risk of flooding for at least 300,000 homes by 2020/21.

The Shoreham scheme's dedicated project visitor centre is at Beach Green Car Park, Shoreham-by-Sea, and is open between midday and 5:00pm on weekdays. Further information on the scheme is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling 03708 506506.

You can also request information by emailing [shorehamwestbank@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:shorehamwestbank@environment-agency.gov.uk) or by writing to SSD Enquiries, Environment Agency, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, BN11 1LD.

### **Notes to editors**

The visitor centre may be closed during scheduled visits from schools and interest groups.

Flood impact maps showing the detailed modelling outcomes are available upon request.

All media enquiries: 0800 141 2743. Or email [southeastpressoffice1@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:southeastpressoffice1@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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