

Pericles 2020 programme: exchange, assistance and training for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (2014-2020)

2011/0449(COD) - 27/06/2016 - Follow-up document

The Commission presents a report concerning the implementation and the results of the Pericles 2020 programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting in 2015.

The main conclusion of the report is that the "Pericles 2020" programme continues to be an important and **effective tool** in the fight against counterfeiting.

Implementation of the programme and results of committed actions: the annual budget for the implementation of the programme for the year 2015 was set at EUR 1 024 800. A total of EUR 967 739.33 was committed in 2015. Discussions of the multi-annual strategy at the meetings of the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG) made it possible to commit 94.4% of the overall budget in 2015.

The Commission's assessment is that, in comparison to the previous year, **more projects were co-financed under the programme**. In 2015, the programme **funded 12 projects in total**. 2 actions were implemented in 2015, while 10 actions will be implemented in 2016.

- **Applicants** to the programme represented five Member States, namely Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Croatia, which reflects the fact that the countries most affected by euro counterfeiting are more frequent users of Pericles funds.
- **Specific focus areas** in 2015 were Latin America (two actions organised by Spain), South-East Europe (actions organised by Croatia, Italy and the Commission), the Mediterranean region (an action organised by Italy) and China (actions organised by France, Italy and the Commission).
- **Participants come from 59 countries**. The majority (65%) are European participants. Of special note is the increase in participants from Asia, representing 4% with all participants coming from China.
- **With respect to the professional background of participants**, members from police forces represent 53% of the total. A continuing trend of differentiation among the various other categories of participants (47%) should be highlighted. There was high participation from Central Banks (19%), and a growing participation of judicial staff (10%) [5](#) and customs (4%).

Overview of actions in 2015: the programme forms the basis for the support of studies, **maintaining and developing cooperation**, and exchanging best practices among all actors involved in the fight against euro counterfeiting:

- the programme has succeeded in maintaining and further strengthening strong regional and international cooperation, with several actions taking place in Latin America, the Mediterranean area and the Balkans region, as well as three actions that involve representatives from China;
- in January 2016, the Pericles-funded 'Sino European Cooperation in Combatting Counterfeiting of the Euro' conference was held in Paris. The 'Pericles EU-China Workshop on the protection of currencies' will be held in Brussels with participation of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security;
- the Commission continues the sequence of Euro South East Conferences with the 12th Euro South East conference that will be held in October 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia;

- lastly, the programme shows a high degree of complementarity and consistency with other relevant EU programmes, such as OLAF's [Hercule III](#) programme, which protects the financial interests of the Union.

Priorities for 2016: based on the results of the implementation of the programme and the continuous analysis of emerging threats discussed in the ECEG, the priorities for 2016 are the following:

- supporting activities aimed at **improving cooperation among those Member States** which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits;
- fostering cooperation with **authorities of those third countries** where there is suspicion of or evidence for counterfeit euro production;
- maintaining an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in **South-East Europe**;
- **introducing new developments:** security features or authentication methods, the distribution of counterfeits and raw materials on the internet and the involvement of Member States' customs authorities in the fight against currency counterfeiting.