Fight against organised crime, judicial cooperation: unit Eurojust. Initiative Portugal, France, Sweden, Belgium

2000/0817(CNS) - 20/07/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : To establish a judicial coordination unit known as "Eurojust". CONTENT : This is an initiative of Portugal, France, Sweden and Belgium, based on the conclusions of the Tampere European Council in October 1999 and on the urgent need to improve judicial cooperation between Member States in combating forms of serious crime often perpetrated by transnational organisations. These include, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, computer crime, forgery, and money laundering. Eurojust will be composed of one national member per Member State, who will be a prosecutor, magistrate or police officer of equivalent competence. Each State may appoint one or more national correspondent to Eurojust. Intervention by Eurojust will take place when a case affects several Member States and when it requires coordinated action. In addition, Eurojust also has the general task of facilitating coordination between the investigating and prosecuting bodies. it is a coordination and cooperation body based on consensus for the purposes of prosecutions and investigations. The main tasks of the organisation are: -to facilitate the proper coordination of national prosecuting authorities; -to support criminal investigations in organised crime cases, on the basis, in particular, of Europol analysis; -to cooperate closely with the European Judicial Network; -to simplify the execution of letters rogatory.