Combating organized transboundary crime: establishment of the unity Eurojust. Initiative Germany

2000/0808(CNS) - 19/06/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: the establishment of a judicial cooperation unit (EUROJUST) with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious organised crime. CONTENT: Following on from the conclusions of the European Summit in Tampere (Finland), it was proposed, on Germany's initiative, to establish a European judicial cooperation unit (EUROJUST) which would be composed of national prosecutors, magistrates or police officers of equivalent competence seconded by the Member States with a view to fighting serious transborder organised crime. EUROJUST would become invoved in inquiries regarding particularly serious cases where mutual judicial assistance is required and would focus in particular on cases where the financial interests of the EU are threatened. Provisions lay down the tasks of EUROJUST liaison officials (duties to provide information on the status of Member States' penal procedures and sentences, assistance in EUROPOL's analysis activities, etc.). Further provisions specify how EUROJUST officials would work in cooperation with those who belong to the European Judicial Network (see Joint Action 96/277/JHA), the European Commission or EUROPOL. Furthermore, EUROJUST would be required to gather information on police records and cases registers in the framework of the network to be established. EUROJUST would in its turn have to redistribute this information to those who are entitled to it. Lastly, it is stipulated that EUROJUST should be involved in the subsequent creation of a centralised European register of cases. It should be noted that EUROJUST would be able to cooperate with third countries, in the framework of agreements concluded between the Council and those countries, with a view undertaking specific inquiries.