



# Combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The assistance of Eurojust

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# Eurojust

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- European *Judicial* Cooperation Unit coordinates actions concerning investigations and prosecutions. Serious cross-border crimes, especially organised.
- Facilitates the cooperation between judicial authorities in the MS and third States. Centre of expertise in international judicial matters.
- Contact Point for Child Protection established in November 2007 upon initiative from the informal JHA in Lisbon October 2007.



# New draft Directive on Combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.

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Eurojust welcomes the proposed draft Directive:

- **Serious forms of child abuse** and exploitation which are not covered by the present EU legislation **will be criminalised**.
- **Follows the developments** in the IT environment.
- **Better approximation** of sexual crimes against children than the FD from 2004.
- Refers to the FD on **settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction** in criminal proceedings - The role of Eurojust as facilitator.



# New Directive

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- Addresses the importance of having available **effective investigative tools** (e.g. covert operations);
- Investigations **will not be** dependent on a report/accusation being made by the victim;
- **Clarifies the definition** of crimes against children, in particular “child pornography” and “sexual abuse”;
- Requires MS to take the necessary measures to **encourage the reporting** of crimes against children;
- **Extended jurisdiction** described in Art 16 will have a big impact, especially concerning travelling sex offenders.

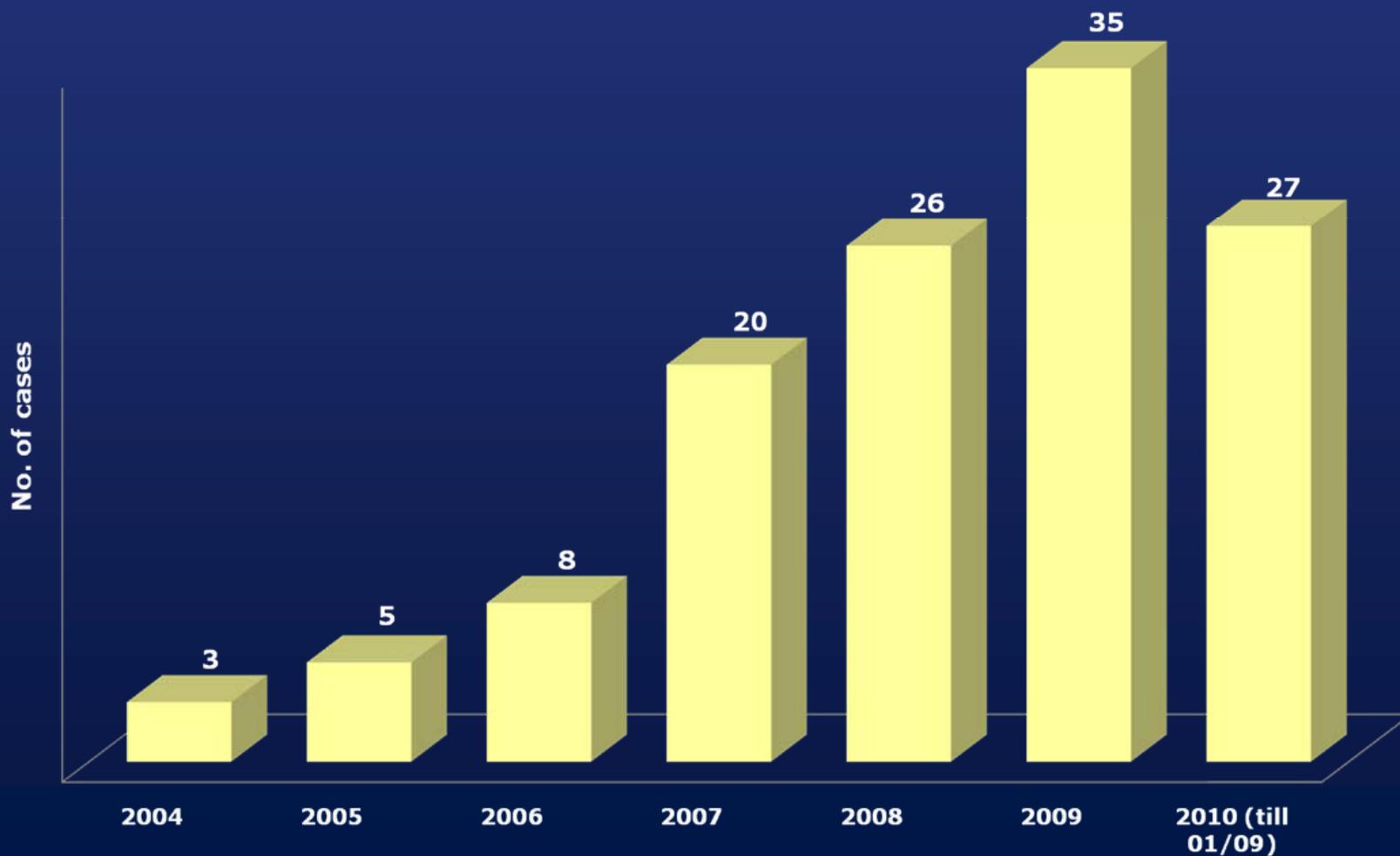


# Cases concerning children

## Cases 2004 - 01 September 2010

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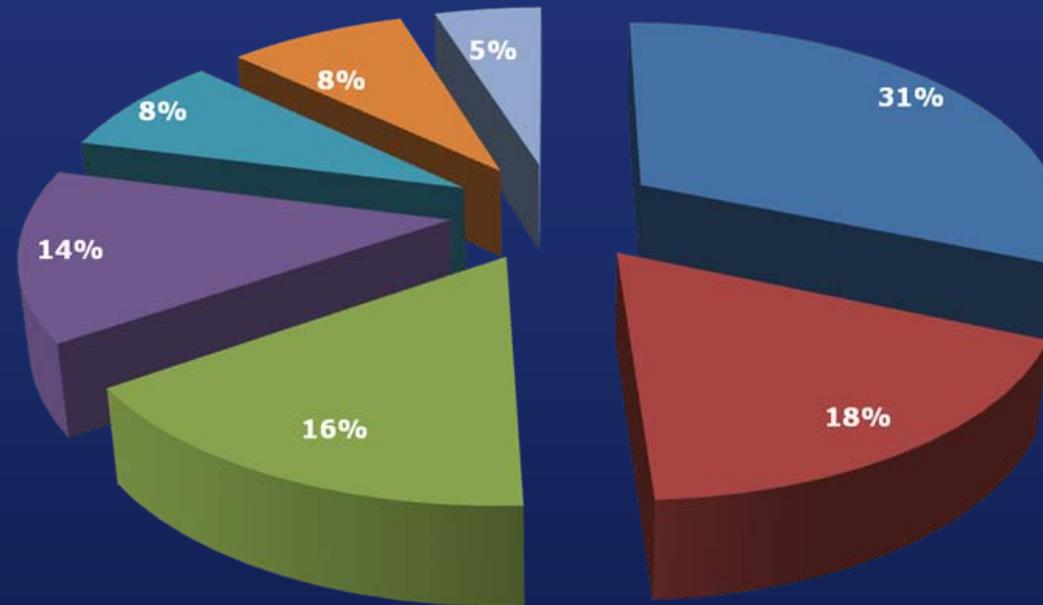
Number of cases per year



# Cases concerning children

## Crime types

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- Sexual abuse of children, incl. rape and sexual exploitation of children (39)
- Child Pornography - sexual abuse images (22)
- Trafficking in human beings (20)
- Crime against life, limb and personal freedom\* (17)
- Parental abduction (10)
- Abduction of minors (Kidnapping) (10)
- Other\*\* (6)

\* "Crime against life, limb and personal freedom" includes murder (9 cases), grievous bodily harm (6 cases), manslaughter (1 case) and slander (1 case).

\*\* "Other" includes child alimony (3 cases), incest (1 case), theft (1 case) and other criminal activities (1 case).



Eurojust case example

## The Lost Boy case



# World-Wide Criminal (Pedophile) Network





# The Lost Boy case

- Sexual offences against minors and production and distribution of several millions of child abuse pictures and of thousands of movies;
- A major network (Lost Boy) is operating as a business setup for the production and distribution of child abuse materials, as well as exploiting children themselves
- Use of internet to communicate and exchange child abuse materials:
  - ✓ Internet child pornography message board/trading club;
  - ✓ The network: based on free software, moved periodically for security reasons, sophisticated security protocols used;
  - ✓ The users: residing in US, BE, BR, CA, FR, DE, MEX, NL, NZ, UK - 35 identified;
  - ✓ The victims: worldwide.



# The Lost Boy case

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## Norway

- 1 offender convicted, 10-year of preventive detention
- Child pornography and sexual offences committed in NO, RO and BR;
- Thousands of child pornographic pictures and movies seized;
- 17 victims identified;
- RO victims brought to testify at trial.

## Italy

- 1 offender arrested;
- Child pornography and sexual offences committed;
- More than one million child pornographic pictures and movies seized;
- 7 victims and 2 intermediaries in RO identified;
- Materials regarding victims sent to Interpol.



# The Lost Boy case

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## Romania

- 8 recruiters identified;
- 27 victims in images identified;
- 3 suspects under prosecution.

## USA

- 15 board members identified in the USA;
- 7 terabytes of paedophile pornographic materials seized;
- 14 suspects detained, charged, face minimum 20-year sentences;
- 35 victims identified and rescued.

**UK:** 1 offender convicted, 4-year sentence.

**France:** 1 suspect arrested and charged.

**Brazil:** 4 suspects arrested, victims identified.

**Belgium:** 1 suspect identified and arrested



# The Lost Boy case

## The added value of Eurojust

- Attempts to cooperate and coordinate via ordinary judicial or law enforcement channels failed. Urgent need for action.
- Eurojust held five coordination meetings in which the involved countries shared evidence and coordinated requests for mutual legal assistance and other actions against the network. One meeting was held via video conference.
- As an example, one prosecutor personally brought back evidence from a coordination meeting to her country and initiated an investigation which proved to be crucial for the disclosure of this worldwide paedophile criminal network.
- The very successful cooperation between 13 countries would not have been possible without the facilitation of Eurojust.



# Information and contact

- Team Trafficking and Related Crimes:  
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Thank you for  
your attention