

The dismantling of an encrypted phone solution used by organised crime groups



Interception and analysis of millions of messages exchanged between criminals planning serious criminal acts

This intensive operation informed hundreds of ongoing investigations, providing insights and access to new evidence to tackle international criminal networks involved in drug smuggling, money laundering and other forms of serious and violent crime, including murder, extortion, robbery, grievous assault and hostage taking.

Intensive analysis was undertaken by Europol.



Five coordination meetings were held at Eurojust, with the active participation of national police forces and Europol to ensure smooth communication and coordination between all parties to the JIT. Two of these meetings also involved other countries, including Spain, Sweden, the UK and Norway. Daily coordination meetings between involved law enforcement partners were held at Europol.



A joint investigation team (JIT) agreement was signed between the national police and judicial authorities of France and the Netherlands in April 2020, supported by the French and Dutch Desks at Eurojust and by Europol.

The case was opened by the French Desk and brought to the Dutch Desk at Eurojust in April 2019.



In 2017, French police and judicial authorities began investigating phones using the secured communication tool *EncroChat*, an encrypted phone solution widely used by criminal networks across the globe.

