

## RECOVER (GA 101091375)

### Online Interview with Mr Sjoerd Nijs – May 17st, 2024

*The Netherlands, Specialist International Asset Tracing, ARO Police*

**1. Can you explain the functions of your AROs? What is the kind of requests that you receive? What are the subjects that send you a request? Which is the content of these requests? How do you proceed with the activities, in particular with tracing.**

We are a Police ARO, and we receive requests from law enforcement agencies in the Netherlands, and we relay them to other AROs in Europe. Similarly, AROs in Europe send us requests about tracing assets in the Netherlands for suspects they have. Then, we look in our banking system, our population database, the police records, the chamber of commerce, and real estate databases. This is what we do at this moment to trace assets or money. We can find bank accounts, other mobiles, or fast boats and houses for real estate. The information we find, we send to the country that requested it, and then that country follows up with the European confiscation order, which is handled by our judicial ARO. We never get involved with confiscating assets, and the Regulation doesn't affect our work. It is not a directive that we, as Police ARO, use. The judicial ARO is involved with the regulation.

**2. You participate in the investigative part, than there is another truck for the judicial and the confiscation. Could you estimate how many cases, how many requests come in from abroad and which are under the regulation?**

We know that of the thousand requests we handle every year, about 600 are outgoing, and 400 come from other countries to the Netherlands. European confiscation orders make up 120 of them, but we know they match with the ARO requests done previously.

**3. About the requests coming from abroad, they are all about tracing assets or are about something else? For which crime are about?**

For money laundering. The requests are for tracing assets; one or two cases are just for information to know how does it country work. Sometimes, a little bit of abuse of the system.

**4. Do you think that the means that you have are sufficient for your work?**

We don't have enough capabilities. When the new directive comes into effect, we are going to have more possibilities for tracing assets.

**5. Do you have in Netherlands an agency for managing assets? If the assets is sized, where does it go?**

There is the AMO in the Netherlands.

**6. About the international cooperation, I believe you establish often joint investigative teams under Eurjust, is this true? Is there a main tool used for investigation in Europe, there is a bilateral agreements, other instruments or strategies? How are you involved with international cooperations?**

Europol contacts countries that are investigating a subject and they ask countries that are interested to cooperate, to get more information from each other. 95% is individual cases.

**7. Do you use private softwares and/or public registers?**

At the moment, we use only national programs and databases, but in the future, we are going to have more processes. The Cybercrime board can ask other countries for bank accounts, but we don't have that capability yet.

**8. What are the main difficulties that you face in tracing assets?**

computer problems, at the moment the main difficulty is not enough information. If you have an asset, they can find that is you assets. They don't have enough possibilities to find money. They should in the future would be a database with all the information on bank accounts together.

**9. Do you deal with international sanctions?**

No, we don't.