

DANISH NATIONAL POLICE



Report on organised
crime in Denmark
2002

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Annex A: Characteristics of organised crime

Annex B: Plan of 25 September 2002 for intensified efforts to combat crime and problems of law and order etc. originating in the biker community.

Annex C: Report of 11 April 2003 on the status at the beginning of April 2003 of efforts to combat crime and problems of law and order etc. originating in the biker community.

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Summary

Background etc.

This report has been drawn up as the Danish contribution to a combined EU status report on organised crime for 2002.

It is a specialist police report, which aims to present an objective picture of the crime situation, but the assessments and conclusions contained in the report may be subject to some uncertainty.

Conclusions

The overall conclusion drawn in the report is that it is judged that organised crime is committed (or continues to be committed) in Denmark, including in particular crime originating in the biker community. However, organised crime was generally again at a relatively modest level in 2002.

There are relations and co-operation between the biker community and other (in some cases) international groups, for example in smuggling and dealing in narcotics.

Foreign – particularly European – networks have identified Denmark as a target for their often high-level crime, but there is still nothing to suggest that international criminal organisations have gained a real foothold in Denmark.

Status

The status at the end of 2002 and beginning of 2003 with regard to crime meeting the EU criteria for organised crime or bordering on these are as follows:

With regard to the biker community, see Annexes B and C to the report.

Smuggling and dealing in narcotics, as in previous years, constituted a significant crime problem in 2002. Organised, cross-border crime is committed in connection with cannabis, heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs, including in particular amphetamines and ecstasy.

Financial crime, including evasion of duties in relation to the EU, continued to pose a serious problem in 2002.

Equipment for forging passports and other identity papers as well as credit cards has been found in several cases.

There has been a significant rise in the number of particularly dangerous robberies.

The police effort to combat traffic in human beings in connection with exploitation for prostitution was also accorded priority in 2002, and the strengthened Danish police effort against trafficking in women resulted in several court cases, where it was shown that women, either from the Baltic countries (particularly Latvia) or from Asia (particularly Thailand), were being exploited in connection with prostitution and had to pay substantial sums to the pimps.

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The majority of court cases relating to child pornography in Denmark in 2002 relates to possession of material featuring child pornography, where offenders had downloaded pictures from the Internet. New obscene material featuring child pornography again emerged in 2002, particularly on the Internet.

Information technology was used to an ever increasing extent in 2002 as an element in the committing of serious, organised crime. This trend is expected to continue.

The smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax and duty, particularly cigarettes, can be largely attributed to Lithuanians, who to some extent co-operated with other foreign and Danish criminals.

It is not possible to be more precise in estimating the turnover or profits generated as a consequence of organised crime in 2002. The profits are thought to be large, however, as the earnings are generally made in areas in which legal activity is subject to substantial taxes and duties, or in areas which are illegal as such, for example the smuggling of narcotics.

There was again no sign in 2002 that organised crime is in any way connected with undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or political circles.

A significant proportion of the more organised crime in Denmark took place in the larger urban areas, as in previous years. As has been the case in previous years, Denmark also acted as a transit country in connection with crime, including in connection with the smuggling of human beings and narcotics, primarily to Sweden and Norway.

1. Introduction

This report has been drawn up by the National Police in co-operation with Danish police districts and the Prosecution Service. The report, which is based on current EU guidelines on organised crime, is the Danish contribution to the combined EU status report on organised crime in 2002.

It therefore primarily describes the situation in Denmark. The information is put in an international context to some extent. This applies in particular to narcotics crime, where the crime by nature is cross-border, as narcotics are only produced to an extremely limited extent in Denmark.

The account given describes the situation in 2002, identifies trends in crime and indicates the level of threat at the end of 2002 and beginning of 2003. The report also contains a forecast of expected developments in crime.

The aim of the report is therefore to describe the current and future picture of the threat of crime, as seen from the police point of view.

2. Method

As far as possible, this report has been drawn up and constructed in accordance with international (police) standards, including the principles used by Europol in analysing crime and the EU guidelines on the preparation of annual reports dealing with organised crime.

There is no legal definition of the term “organised crime” in Denmark, but the Danish Penal Code does contain provisions dealing with offenders operating in association.

There are several definitions of organised crime, in particular internationally. The EU criteria for organised crime have been applied in delineating the groups of people and types of crime covered by this report. These criteria are contained in Annex A.

Against this background, the report deals firstly with criminal groupings and secondly with a variety of types of crime, which together represent or border on organised crime as such in Denmark.

The report was drawn up mainly from information obtained from Danish police districts and from the operational assistance units of the National Police and co-operating partners abroad. The collection of data was completed in the spring of 2003.

The report aims to present an objective picture of the crime situation. Assessments and conclusions are based as far as possible on objective data, above all on criminal cases dealt with by the courts and now finally concluded. The objectives of the report have therefore made it necessary to a certain extent to make use of information of a non-verifiable nature, including assessments by police officers who are or have been involved in the investigation of cases of this kind of crime. The validity of non-verifiable information is difficult to assess, but a thorough qualitative evaluation has been made in the use of non-verifiable information. The inclusion of non-verifiable information means that the assessments and conclusions of the report are subject to a degree of uncertainty.

The preparation of the report has also been made more difficult by the fact that monitoring of crime by the Danish police varies between the different areas of crime. The basis of information, including the relationship between objective data and information of which evidence is not immediately available, is therefore not alike for all areas of crime.

3. Organised crime

3.1 Groups of people involved in organised crime

The point of departure for describing persons or groups who take part in organised crime is – in accordance with current EU guidelines governing report preparation – the ethnic background of those involved and in principle not their citizenship. Attention is also paid to the character and scope of the crime.

3.1.1 Europe

Danes

People of Danish ethnic background were involved in a broad and varied range of organised crime in 2002. Biker groups and – to some extent – other (in part Danish) gangs attracted particular attention in relation to organised crime and crime bordering on the criteria for organised crime, cf. below.

Biker groups

The biker community has attracted police attention for several years.

Following a Danish initiative, a report was prepared in the mid-1990s by the Europol Drugs Unit (the predecessor of Europol), which showed that biker crime meets the EU criteria for organised crime. It has since emerged from the EU annual reports on organised crime that “Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs” (OMCG) are a source of organised crime. In the view of the Danish police, this also applies to the biker community in Denmark.

A “Plan for intensified efforts to combat crime and problems of law and order etc. originating in the biker community” was issued on 25 September 2002. The plan, which was previously submitted to and endorsed by the Minister of Justice, is attached to this report as Annex B.

A “Report on the status at the beginning of April 2003 of efforts to combat crime and problems of law and order etc. originating in the biker community” is attached to this report as Annex C.

Reference should be made to Annex B and Annex C for a description of biker crime and the strategy adopted to counter this crime.

Street gangs (group-related crime)

A report on a research-based development project concerned with gang crime (group-related crime) in Denmark was published at the beginning of 2003. The report can be downloaded from the police website on the Internet, www.politi.dk.

The report led to an adjustment being made to the police monitoring of the area of street gangs and other police efforts in this area.

Some street gangs, and the crime committed by them, can be equated to biker groups and the criminal activities of these groups. The police effort to deal with these street gangs is in line with the effort to deal with the biker community.

The efforts made in recent years to deal with street gangs and maladjusted young people in general appear to have produced results – despite the fact that there are still significant problems that are attributable to these groupings. A differentiated crime-prevention effort and a problem-oriented police effort will continue to be made in relation to these individuals. Central monitoring of the area by the police will, however, be limited to the extent that is relevant, which will mean that monitoring to a large extent will take place at police-district or regional level, while - as outlined above - systematic national monitoring will only be carried out in relation to the street gangs that can be equated to biker groups.

People from EU countries

People from several different EU Member States were behind narcotics crime in particular in 2002, often together with Danes.

Citizens of EU countries were also involved for instance in smuggling, financial crime and the counterfeiting of money.

Baltic peoples

Lithuanians in 2002 were again linked with the smuggling of large quantities of cigarettes, with Denmark as either the final destination or as a transit country. It was also found that Lithuanians perpetrated other forms of serious criminal activity with the aim of making money in Denmark. There was, for example, a network involved in issuing counterfeit US dollars. Finally, Lithuanian criminal networks have committed large thefts from parked vehicles and burglaries in residential properties.

Estonian criminals were again linked to serious bank robberies in 2002.

People from the Baltic countries were also linked to trafficking in women. Ethnic Russians from the Baltic states often appear to be involved in this type of crime.

Poles

It has been established in a number of cases that Poles have been involved in ram-raiding and narcotics smuggling that could either be described as organised crime or else bordered on this category.

In addition, criminal networks were involved in major robberies.

Polish criminal networks have additionally committed large thefts from parked vehicles, burglaries and ordinary shoplifting.

Russians

Russians were rarely specifically visible in the more organised criminal activities in Denmark. There are, however, examples of networks that are thought to be involved in trafficking in women. In other cases, Russians are suspected of being involved in the

planning of criminal activities directed against or covering Denmark.

Serbs etc.

The latest investigations in relation to narcotics crime have shown that networks emanating from Serbia-Montenegro are prominent in the smuggling of heroin into Denmark. In addition, there is information that the networks concerned supply large consignments of heroin to the rest of Scandinavia, Switzerland and Germany.

It is assumed that these networks to some extent have links to the biker community.

Albanians

As has been the case in recent years, ethnic Albanians played a significant role in the smuggling of heroin in 2002. However, they are apparently facing increasing problems in obtaining supplies of heroin. This trend has to be viewed in the light of favourable results in investigations in recent years. The investigations are primarily carried out in direct co-operation between the authorities in the Scandinavian countries and the Czech Republic.

In addition, there have been several investigations that have demonstrated that Albanians have been involved in the smuggling of cocaine.

3.1.2 Asia

Some of the child pornography material found by the police in the course of their investigations is thought to originate from the Far East.

A substantial proportion of the women found in massage parlours have been recruited in Thailand. The women concerned are often recruited through other Thai women in Denmark, who have links to the world of prostitution.

3.1.3 Africa

As in previous years, individuals of Moroccan ethnic origin were responsible for cannabis-related crime in 2002.

There is evidence in a number of cases that networks with a Nigerian background are involved to some extent in the smuggling of cocaine.

3.1.4 America

North Americans

As in previous years, Denmark was not judged to be a target for North American criminal individuals or groups. However, the Danish police are aware of the special connections that exist with organised criminal groups by virtue of the biker groups' international structure.

South Americans

Although no direct evidence exists to the effect that South American individuals, groups or cartels are directly active in organised crime in Denmark, it is assumed that South Americans were again behind some of the supply of cocaine to the Danish market in 2002.

3.2 Criminal offences committed by groups of individuals

3.2.1 Narcotics and performance-enhancing drugs

General

The law-enforcement effort in the area of narcotics is primarily directed towards limiting the supply of narcotics. The investigative effort is therefore primarily targeted against the smuggling of narcotics into the country and dealing in narcotics. The Central Customs and Tax Administration plays a major role in the Danish law-enforcement effort in the area of narcotics. The international co-operation between the law-enforcement authorities is also of great significance, as narcotics crime by its nature is often international. It should be noted in this connection that narcotics are only produced in Denmark to an extremely limited extent.

Cannabis

Morocco is still thought to be the most important producer of cannabis for distribution to Denmark.

In 2002, a total of approximately 2,600 kg of cannabis was seized, divided between around 5,200 seizures. A total of around 1,700 kg was seized in 2001. In addition, increasing quantities of cannabis with Denmark as the assumed country of destination were seized in 2002, and large quantities of cannabis that had passed through Denmark were seized in the other Nordic countries.

No changes have taken place in relation to the countries of distribution, which continue to be primarily the Netherlands and Spain, but there is evidence that new groups of individuals – Poles and people linked to street gangs – are attempting to enter this lucrative illegal market in Denmark.

Another change in relation to previous years appears to be that the offenders no longer just distribute cannabis but to a greater extent than previously are also involved with other types of narcotics.

The “street price” of cannabis is typically around DKK 50 per gram. The wholesale price on average appears to be at a lower level than previously (depending on quantity and quality), and there are reports of prices as low as around DKK 10,000 per kilogram.

Heroin

The great majority of the quantity of heroin seized in Denmark is thought still to originate from south-west Asia.

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In 2002, around 60 kilograms of heroin was seized in Denmark, which is a sharp rise in comparison with 2001, when a total of around 25 kilograms was seized. In contrast to the rise in the amount seized, a decline can be observed in the number of seizures, which was 965 in 2002 compared with 1,304 in 2001 – continuing a trend that began in 2000.

The forward-looking (pro-active) investigations in particular have made a decisive contribution to the sharp rise in the quantity of drugs seized.

The traditional routes through Iran and Turkey to the Balkans appear to have been frequently used, albeit in different variants. Routes passing through former Soviet republics also appear to be used.

Smuggling networks consisting of a number of different nationalities are a new form of organisation compared with previously, when the networks typically consisted of people of the same ethnic origin. Criminal networks consisting of ethnic Albanians are not considered to play as prominent a role as they did in the past.

The average price per gram of heroin for sale “on the street” is estimated at between DKK 1,200 and 1,400 for white heroin and DKK 600 for brown heroin. There are, however, wide disparities around the country.

Cocaine

Approximately 14 kilograms of cocaine was seized in around 880 seizures in Denmark in 2002. In the previous year 25 kilograms of cocaine was seized in around 810 seizures.

Despite the drop in the total quantity of cocaine seized, the view of the police is that cocaine is a narcotic that is continuing to spread. This view is substantiated by the rise in the number of seizures and of court cases in 2002, in which primarily criminal networks consisting of people with links to the biker community and foreigners resident in the country have organised the smuggling of cocaine into Denmark. Cases reaching court also indicate that large quantities of cocaine are sold and consumed throughout the country.

Prices are stable, with a slight downward trend. The average price per gram for sale “on the street” is estimated at around DKK 700 - although with significant disparities around the country.

Amphetamines

The amphetamines seized in Denmark are primarily produced in the Netherlands and Belgium, from where they are smuggled into Denmark through Germany. Large quantities of amphetamines originating from Poland and the Baltic states have also been seized, however.

No illegal amphetamine laboratories were discovered in Denmark in 2002.

The smuggling of amphetamines within Europe typically takes place over land, with the substance concealed in cars, lorries, trains and buses.

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A total of approximately 35 kilograms of amphetamines was seized in 2002, divided between around 1,100 seizures. A total of approximately 160 kilograms of amphetamines was seized in 2001, divided between around 950 seizures. The wide difference in the quantity seized in 2002 and 2001 is partly related to several major investigations in 2001 involving seizures of 62 kg, 39 kg, 20 kg and 10 kg of amphetamines. Over a ten-year period, the quantity seized has typically been around 25 kilograms a year.

Seizures of amphetamines are made in all areas of the country.

People from the biker community are heavily involved in smuggling and dealing in amphetamines.

The average price per gram of amphetamines for sale "on the street" is estimated at around DKK 250, although with significant disparities around the country.

Ecstasy

European ecstasy continues to be produced in both Western and Eastern Europe. The ecstasy seized in Denmark, as in previous years, is thought to be primarily produced in the Netherlands.

A total seizure of approximately 25,000 tablets was recorded in 2002, divided between around 350 seizures. By comparison, in 2001 approximately 150,000 tablets were seized in around 330 seizures, one seizure alone amounting to approximately 107,000 tablets.

No organisations or criminal networks systematically involved in the *smuggling* of ecstasy can be clearly identified. The trend appears to be towards looser networks of multi-criminal players with good contacts in the Netherlands and possibly in Spain. *Dealing* in ecstasy may, however, also be related to a large extent to people with links to the biker community.

Prices for ecstasy are showing a stable trend, the price "on the street" being DKK 50-125. The lowest prices are in North and South Jutland.

Other types of synthetic narcotics

The illegal market for synthetic narcotics is dominated by amphetamines and ecstasy.

The Central Customs and Tax Administration and the police carry out checks and cooperate with the chemical companies in Denmark in relation to the companies' handling of the chemicals that are relevant in connection with the production and processing of (synthetic) narcotics.

Performance-enhancing drugs

In all, 196 seizures of a total of 31,608 units of performance-enhancing drugs were reported in 2002. In 2001, 260 seizures of a total of 254,638 units were reported to the National Police. The largest numbers of seizures of performance-inducing drugs were made by the customs service in connection with checks on people entering the country and on postal consignments.

It should be noted that the effort to combat misuse of performance-enhancing drugs – particularly the preventive effort – is being made primarily within the ranks of sport.

3.2.2 Fraud

Investment fraud

In recent years there have been trials relating to investment fraud committed by what are known as “backstreet dealers” involving very large sums of money.

EU duty evasion

Several cases have been observed in which various types of financial crime have led to losses in relation to the financial interests of the Community. These have, for example, involved onward sale of imported goods through a network of companies or mobile phone deals. Co-operation takes place with OLAF to clear up these cases.

3.2.3 Counterfeiting

A total of 1,329 cases involving counterfeit money were registered in 2002, compared with 1,000 cases in 2001. 1,106 cases related to Danish currency (including five cases involving coins) with a total face value of around DKK 611,000, while 164 cases related to foreign currencies, including 102 involving US dollars. There were 33 cases involving counterfeit euros.

No counterfeit euros were discovered in the first five months of the year, but in July, August and September 2002 Denmark was the target of organised groups of foreign individuals (Central and Eastern Europeans) who exchanged counterfeit US dollar bills and euro notes. Equivalent counterfeit notes have been in circulation in other European countries.

3.2.4 Armed robbery

Figures charting the development in the number of particularly dangerous robberies in 2002 show that in comparison with previous years there was a marked increase in the number of particularly dangerous robberies primarily targeting shops, filling stations and valuables in transit. The number of robberies on consignments of valuables in transit has almost trebled since 2000.

It has become clear in several court cases that people from the biker community, particularly from supporter clubs, have induced other people (criminals) to commit serious robberies by threatening them.

A number of bank robberies carried out on the island of Zealand, some in Greater Copenhagen and some in western Zealand, appear to be linked to the biker community.

An organised gang from Poland has been robbing goldsmiths' shops in Western Europe for two years. In April 2002 a group of individuals thought to be associated with this gang carried out an armed attack on a jeweller's shop in Copenhagen,

robbing it of wristwatches to a total value of just under DKK 1.6 million. The same group was linked to a similar robbery in a jeweller's shop in Århus. Three men were sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three years and six months and permanent deportation, a term of imprisonment of two years (resident in Denmark) and a term of improvement of one year and three months with deportation for ten years.

3.2.5 Kidnapping

The number of reports of people being illegally deprived of their liberty rose from 13 in 1999 to 25 in 2000, but fell to 20 in 2001 and fell further to 16 in 2002. None of these cases could, however, be regarded kidnapping that formed part of organised crime.

3.2.7 Extortion

As part of the general monitoring of crime committed by people connected with biker groups, it has been established that extortion is among these crimes. The number of reported cases rose from 145 in 2000 to 201 in 2002.

3.2.7 Vehicle thefts

It is not possible to establish with certainty the number of vehicles stolen in connection with organised crime. However, there is information indicating that organised theft of expensive cars takes place.

It is estimated that around 500 vehicles a year are stolen and then taken abroad, but some of this number probably relates to insurance fraud. The thefts relate particularly to more expensive cars, which are shipped abroad.

3.2.8 "Hit-and-run" thefts

"Hit-and-run" thefts, also known as ram-raiding, are mostly committed against goldsmiths, jewellers and clock and photographic shops. The offenders are often to be found in Polish criminal networks and in some cases in the biker community.

3.2.10 Other forms of theft/handling of stolen goods

Thefts of art, designer furniture etc. have been noted, indicating a certain degree of organisation.

Both Polish and Lithuanian criminal networks have carried out thefts from parked vehicles, domestic burglaries and ordinary shoplifting.

3.2.10 Illegal trade in firearms

There is no information to the effect that illegal trade in firearms in Denmark has fallen within the criteria referred to in Annex A for organised crime. It continued to be found in 2002 that biker groups and certain street gangs were in possession of weapons to a significant extent.

3.2.11 Smuggling of human beings

Most organised smuggling of human beings into Denmark in 2002 took place over land through Germany, but aircraft landing at Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup and Billund Airport in Jutland have also been used.

It has been found in a few cases that human smuggling networks have had equipment for the production of forged passports, driving licences, credit cards etc. at their disposal.

There is evidence that groups from Iraq and the Balkans in particular are well organised and operating in networks in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. The networks in several cases also have contacts with Sweden and Norway, as well as other European countries. Asian groups have also been observed, using Denmark as a transit country for the onward journey to the UK and North America.

3.2.12 Traffic in human beings and prostitution

The police monitoring effort to combat traffic in human beings in connection with exploitation for prostitution, which was launched in 2001, continued in 2002.

The increased Danish police effort against trafficking in women resulted in several court cases, where it was found that women from either the Baltic states (particularly Latvia) or from Asia (particularly Thailand) were forced into prostitution and in that connection had to pay substantial sums to the pimps.

Finally there have been several cases that have shown that extortion, assaults etc. targeting people linked to massage parlours is a rising problem.

3.2.13 Child pornography

In 2002, charges were brought against 106 people in connection with material featuring child pornography. 33 people were charged with distributing such material and 73 with possession.

New material featuring child pornography is continuously being discovered worldwide on the Internet.

At the end of 2001 and in the first half of 2002, a Danish branch of an international paedophile network was broken up under an investigation known as "Operation Hamlet". The investigation revealed that a Danish husband and wife were grossly abusing a child and distributing pictures of this abuse via the Internet. The network had links to people in a number of western European countries and the United States. By the spring of 2003, abuse in other countries of more than 90 identified children between two and fourteen years of age had been discovered. Sentences of between two months imprisonment and life imprisonment have been imposed in Denmark and abroad. The perpetrators made use of information technology with great expertise and under constant mutual guidance with a view to concealing their crime from the authorities.

It is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the number of paedophile networks or participants in paedophile networks, as the networks are very much closed. The

authorities believe that a restrictive selection is made before new members are admitted to the networks, requiring the uploading of “new” material. It has also been found that the degree of novelty and obscenity of the material in particular decides the level of “rights” given to new participants in paedophile networks.

3.2.14 IT crime

The use of IT – as described above with regard to child pornography – is a major factor in a large number of cases of serious crime.

With regard to actual IT crime, in 2002 there were court cases relating to hacking, illegal copying and sale of software and music protected by copyright. In addition, there were cases relating to commerce on the Internet in which goods had been ordered and paid for using forged and/or stolen credit cards.

Computer fraud in the form of the reading and copying of the magnetic strip on Visa/Dankort cards was used by a group that filmed users so that the PIN number could be read. Investigations revealed that at least 262 Visa/Dankort cards had been read and that more than 1,500 withdrawals had subsequently been made totalling around DKK 2.5 million. The money was withdrawn from terminals in Denmark, Sweden and Germany. The police found various card readers, portable computers with magnetic strips, terminals and other equipment used in the fraud.

IT crime is expected to increase over the next years, particularly in the area of e-commerce, primarily as a result of the increased use of commerce via the Internet.

The use of information technology in connection with serious and organised crime is also expected to rise over the next few years.

3.2.15 Environmental offences etc.

The number of reports of contraventions of the Environmental Protection Act has been rising over the last few years after a period of decline. In addition, a general rise in contraventions of the provisions of the Washington Convention has been noted.

The environmental offences identified in Denmark in 2002 cannot be classified as actual organised crime, cf. the EU criteria Annex 1.

3.2.16 Cigarette smuggling

The smuggling of cigarettes appears to a large extent to be internationally organised. During the course of 2002, the smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax and duty was largely undertaken by Lithuanians, who co-operated with Danish and foreign criminals. The cigarettes were mainly smuggled into Denmark concealed in ordinary freight.

Ten million cigarettes were seized in Denmark in 2002, compared with a total of 15 million in 2001. The fall is to be seen in the light of large-scale and successful international co-operation, including under the auspices of the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region.

3.3 Resources

It is not possible to be more precise in estimating the turnover or profits generated as a consequence of organised crime in 2002. The profits are thought to be large, however, as the earnings are generally made in areas in which legal activity is subject to substantial taxes and duties, or in areas which are illegal as such.

The scale of the use of “front” businesses is not known. However, there are a number of examples of people with links to the biker community having established businesses that are legitimate as such, but where the circumstances appear suspicious. Some of these businesses are stripped of their assets, resulting in heavy losses for the creditors.

3.4 The use of violence

It is not possible to analyse precisely the use of violence in connection with the committing of organised crime, since crime within criminal circles is seldom reported to the police.

A number of cases have shown, however, that vulnerable (criminal) individuals are coerced into committing crime on behalf of people in the biker community.

There have been cases of attacks on prison officers, assumed to have been arranged with a view to intimidating prison staff. These cases are linked to the biker community.

3.5 Undue influence

There was again no sign in 2002 that organised crime is in any way connected with undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or political circles.

3.6 Money laundering

There were a total of 338 reports in 2002 from the credit and finance sector etc. of suspected money laundering, compared with 319 in 2001. The number of reports has been between 249 and 357 over the last five years. As in previous years, there was no evidence of cases in 2002 being related to organised crime.

4. Places and areas associated with criminal activity

By far the greater part of the more organised crime in Denmark in 2002 was committed in the larger urban areas, albeit spread throughout the country.

Denmark was used to some extent as a transit country in connection with crime, not least in connection with the smuggling of human beings, narcotics etc., primarily to Sweden and Norway.

5. Law enforcement

The Danish police constantly attempt to adapt the effort against organised crime in relation to the threat scenario.

5.1 Domestic

The steering group on investigative support centres and cross-border, organised crime, which was set up in 2000 under the chairmanship of the National Commissioner of Police, continued its work through 2002. The steering work continued with its work to discuss topics such as strategies in relation to the law-enforcement effort against biker crime and other serious crime problems.

Reference should also be made to Annexes B and C regarding the effort to deal with the biker community.

5.2 International

Denmark is participating purposefully in international co-operation relating to the fight against organised crime, for instance as part of the intensive Nordic police and customs co-operation (including what is known as the PTN co-operation between the Nordic police and customs authorities), the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region, the EU (including Europol and the Schengen Agreement) and Interpol.

Denmark also held the chairmanship of the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (and will continue to do so until the end of 2004). In addition, Denmark held the presidency of the EU in the second half of 2002.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Assessment of the threat from organised crime

It is judged (and continues to be judged) that organised crime is committed in Denmark, including in particular crime originating in the biker community. However, organised crime in Denmark was generally again at a relatively modest level in 2002.

There are relations and co-operation between the biker community and other (in some cases international) organised groups, for example in smuggling and dealing in narcotics.

Foreign – particularly European – networks have identified Denmark as a target for their often high-level crime, but there is still nothing to suggest that international criminal organisations have gained a real foothold in Denmark.

6.2 Trends

Organised crime in Denmark is increasingly based on co-operation in networks. Flexibility and co-operation across national borders appears to be a characteristic feature of modern, organised crime. It is often found, for example, that the same networks supply different “criminal products” to varying recipients (in several countries) and co-operate in differing constellations and structures.

6.3 Forecasts

Internationalisation, globalisation, network organisation and the use of technology, including information technology, will be of considerable significance for the development of crime over the next few years.

Increased international organised crime must therefore be expected – including in Denmark. This development will necessitate an intensified and more targeted law-enforcement effort, both nationally and internationally.

With regard to the biker community, exploitation of other individuals from criminal circles, for example to commit serious crimes, is expected to continue.

Annex A: Characteristics of organised crime

At least six of the characteristics referred to must be present for an offence or a criminal group to be classified in terms of organised crime. Of these six characteristics, nos. 1, 3, 5 and 11 are essential under all circumstances.

1. Co-operation between more than two persons
2. Each having prearranged functions
3. For a long or previously unspecified time
4. Subject to the application of some form of discipline or monitoring
5. Suspicion of the commission of serious offences
6. Activity on an international level
7. Use of violent behaviour or other means serving to intimidate
8. Utilisation of commercial or business structures
9. Involvement in money laundering
10. Exercise of influence at a political level over the media, public administration, judicial authorities or economics
11. Motivated by profit or power