

**CIVIL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Polititorvet 14  
DK-1780 Copenhagen V  
Denmark

Telephone: +45 3314 8888  
Fax: +45 3343 0006

E-mail: [rpcha@politi.dk](mailto:rpcha@politi.dk)  
Web: [www.politi.dk](http://www.politi.dk)

ORGANISED  
CRIME  
IN  
DENMARK  
IN  
2004

**Contents:**..... 2

**Summary**..... 4

**1. Introduction**..... 6

**2. Method**..... 7

**3. Organised crime**..... 8

3.1 Groups of people .....8

3.1.1 Europe .....8

3.1.2 The Middle East ..... 10

3.1.3 Asia .....10

3.1.4 Africa.....10

3.1.5 America ..... 11

3.2 Criminal offences..... 12

3.2.1 Narcotics .....12

3.2.2 Fraud .....16

3.2.3 Money and credit cards .....16

3.2.4 Robberies.....17

3.2.5 Illegal deprivation of liberty .....17

3.2.6 Extortion .....17

3.2.7 Vehicle thefts ..... 18

3.2.8 Other forms of theft/handling of stolen goods.....18

3.2.9 Illegal trade in firearms .....18

3.2.10 Smuggling of human beings .....18

3.2.11 Traffic in human beings and prostitution .....18

3.2.12 Smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax ..... 19

3.3 Resources ..... 19

3.4 The use of violence..... 19

3.5 Undue influence..... 20

3.6 Money laundering..... 20

**4. Places and areas associated with criminal activity**..... 20

**5. Law enforcement**..... 20

5.1 Domestic .....20

5.2 International.....21

**6. Conclusions**..... 22



**6.1 Assessment of the threat from organised crime .....22**  
**6.2 Trends.....22**  
**6.3 Forecasts .....22**  
***Annex 1: Characteristics of organised crime..... 23***



## Summary

### *Background*

This report has been drawn up as the Danish contribution to a combined EU status report on organised crime for 2004.

It is a police report that attempts to provide a summary of the situation in respect of crime which can be described as “organised” on the basis of the EU criteria reproduced in Annex 1 to the report.

### *Conclusion*

The overall conclusion drawn in the report is that organised crime continues to be committed in Denmark, including in particular crime originating from the biker culture.

However, in comparison to other countries, the level of organised crime in Denmark was once more relatively modest in 2004.

### *Status*

The biker culture, which is combated by the expenditure of considerable social resources (including those of the police), continues to be deeply involved in crime that must be described as organised.

Persons with links to the biker culture are involved in such crimes as homicide, violence, robbery, narcotics crime, smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax, intimidation and various forms of financial crime. Certain companies and associations with links to the biker culture have been subjected to more detailed inquiries and investigation.

See also the National Police report on its efforts to combat the biker culture of 1 June 2004. This report is available on the police website at [www.politi.dk](http://www.politi.dk).

A series of criminal groups and networks, often consisting of young men of a non-Danish ethnic background, were established in several of the country’s cities in 2004. These groups and networks are to some degree involved in activities which are of the nature of organised crime.

The actual production of narcotics only takes place on an extremely limited scale in Denmark, but smuggling of and dealing in narcotics represented a significant crime problem in 2004, as in previous years. The commission of organised, cross-



border narcotics crime involves cannabis, heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs, especially amphetamines and ecstasy.

Credit card crime constitutes a steadily growing problem, in particular with the abuse of card details, e.g. through the Internet. The illegal erection of card-reading equipment and cameras for use in the reproduction of credit cards and subsequent abuse was also observed in Denmark in 2004.

The number of particularly dangerous robberies showed an overall downward trend in 2004, but the number of robberies targeting shops was for the most part unchanged from 2003. Information continues to emerge that persons with links to the biker culture have intimidated others to induce them to commit serious robberies.

The police effort to combat traffic in human beings continued to receive high priority in 2004, and increased police effort to prevent trafficking in women resulted in several cases in which it was shown that women – some of them from Central and Eastern Europe (particularly the Czech Republic and Hungary) and some from Asia (particularly Thailand) – were being exploited through prostitution.

The smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax, especially cigarettes, seems to be internationally organised to some extent.

Generally speaking, it is extremely difficult to estimate the turnover or profit generated in connection with organised crime. However, profits are thought to be high, since they are usually generated in areas in which legal operations are subject to not inconsiderable taxes and duties, or in areas in which operations cannot lawfully be carried on.

Once again there was no sign in 2004 that organised crime is connected with undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or political circles.



## 1. Introduction

This report has been drawn up by the National Police in collaboration with the Danish police districts. The report, which is based on current EU criteria on organised crime, forms the Danish contribution to the combined EU status report on organised crime in 2004.

It 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 is largely cross-border as far as Denmark is concerned, since narcotics are only produced to an extremely limited extent in Denmark.

The aim of the report is to describe the situation in 2004, to give an account of trends in the development of crime and to indicate the level of threat. It also contains a forecast of expected developments in crime.

The aim of the report is therefore to describe the current and future profile 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 designed in accordance with the principles laid down as part of international police cooperation, including the principles employed by Europol in analysing crime and the EU guidelines on the preparation of annual reports dealing with organised crime.

Danish penal legislation does not contain independent provisions that define organised crime. On the other hand, the Danish Penal Code does include provisions dealing with offenders operating in association.

The EU criteria for organised crime have been applied in differentiating the groups of people and types of crime covered by this report. These criteria may be found in Annex 1 to the report.

On this basis, the report describes both criminal groups and a range of types of crime that are of the nature of organised crime.

The report was drawn up mainly from information obtained from Danish police districts and from the operational assistance units of the National Police and cooperating partners abroad. The collection of data took place throughout 2004 and was completed in spring 2005.

The report attempts to provide a summary of the situation as regards crime. Assessments and conclusions are based chiefly on objective data, including criminal cases ruled on by the courts. However, the objectives of the report have 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 relevant criminal cases. 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. Nevertheless, the inclusion of such information means that the assessments and conclusions of the report are subject to a degree of uncertainty.

The scale and nature of systematic collection of relevant information by the police varies from one area of crime to another. 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**

In accordance with current EU guidelines governing report preparation, the point of departure for describing persons or groups who take part in organised crime is the ethnic background of those involved and not their citizenship. Attention is also paid to the character and scope of the crime. The groups of people who were the subject of particular police attention in 2004 are listed below.

##### **3.1.1 Europe**

###### ***Danes***

People and networks of Danish ethnic background in 2004 were involved in a broad and varied range of organised crime, especially narcotics crime, financial crime, trafficking in women and the smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax.

The biker culture and other criminal groups and networks attracted particular attention in relation to organised crime.

###### *The biker culture*

The biker culture has attracted particular police attention for several years.

Both continued and new investigations in 2004 have confirmed a high degree of involvement on the part of members of biker groups in forms of organised crime such as robbery and narcotics smuggling. In a large number of police districts there have been investigations of individuals linked to the biker culture who are suspected of offences such as homicide, violence, robbery, narcotics crime, smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax, intimidation and various forms of financial crime. Enquiries and investigations have also been put in hand of certain companies and associations etc. with links to the biker culture.

See also the National Police report on its efforts to combat the biker culture of 1 June 2004. This report is available on the police website at [www.politi.dk](http://www.politi.dk).

###### *Other criminal groups and networks*

The report on organised crime in Denmark in 2002 includes a description of a research-based development project that is



intended to indicate the scale and nature of group-related crime in Denmark.

The report prepared by PLS Rambøll Management and the Danish National Institute of Social Research, which is available from the police website [www.politi.dk](http://www.politi.dk), pointed out that groups showing criminal behaviour in Denmark are primarily characterised by their dynamic and changeable nature. People will be involved who typically and often associate in groups, but these groups do not have the character of closed units.

A series of criminal groups and networks, often consisting of young men of a non-Danish ethnic background, were established in several of the country's cities in 2004.

These groups and networks are to some degree involved in activities which are of the nature of organised crime.

Contacts and confrontations between biker groups and criminal groups and networks are of particular interest to the police. As in previous years, both collaboration on criminal activities and confrontations between the groupings were observed in 2004.

### ***People from EU countries***

In 2004, people from several different EU Member States – usually in collaboration with Danes – were involved in activities including narcotics crime, smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax, financial crime and exploitation in connection with prostitution.

### ***Baltic peoples (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)***

Persons from the Baltic countries were involved in cases concerned with exploitation in connection with prostitution.

Lithuanians were linked with the smuggling of cigarettes, with Denmark as either the final destination or as a transit country. Lithuanian criminal networks have also been responsible for extensive theft from cars and burglaries of private property, and have been involved in robberies of Lithuanians living in this country.

### ***Poles***

It has been established in a number of cases that Poles have been involved in crimes that are of the nature of organised crime, including ram-raiding and narcotics crime.

Polish criminal networks are also involved in robberies and serial thefts.



### ***Russians***

Russians are rarely specifically visible in the more organised criminal activities in Denmark. However, there are indications that people of a Russian background have been guilty of criminal activities in countries including Denmark.

### ***Serbs etc.***

During 2004 Serbian criminal networks were involved in the smuggling of narcotics, in particular heroin. These networks, which apparently have links with Montenegro, seem to be playing an increasingly prominent part in smuggling narcotics (in particular heroin) into Denmark. This tendency also seems to be reflected internationally, in that information is also available relating to similar involvement in other Northern and Western European countries.

Serbian criminal networks have previously mainly been involved in the smuggling and distribution of heroin. However, developments in recent years have shown that these networks have gradually altered their behaviour so that they are also now much more involved in other forms of profit-oriented crime.

The Serbian criminal networks have also been shown to have links with the biker culture.

### ***Albanians***

Ethnic Albanians continue to be involved in the smuggling of heroin into Denmark.

## ***3.1.2 The Middle East***

### ***Lebanese***

It was noted in 2004 that Lebanese were involved in smuggling in and distributing narcotics, especially cocaine and cannabis.

## ***3.1.3 Asia***

A substantial proportion of the women involved in prostitution in Denmark are recruited in Thailand, often by other Thai women living in Denmark.

## ***3.1.4 Africa***

### ***Somalians***



In recent years, Somalians have been involved in smuggling khat (chiefly abused in the Somalian community) into Denmark and distributing it.

During 2004 Somalians were also subjects of investigation in connection with organised smuggling of human beings.

***Nigerians***

There is considerable intelligence suggesting that Nigerians – and to some extent citizens of other Western African countries – were behind major narcotics smuggling cases in 2004.

***Moroccans***

There were several cases in 2004 in which Moroccans were involved in smuggling substances such as heroin and cannabis into Denmark.

***3.1.5 America***

***North Americans***

Denmark is not considered to be a specific target for North American criminals, but the Danish police are aware of the special connections between organised criminal groups arising from the international structure of the biker groups.

***South Americans***

Although no direct evidence exists to the effect that South American individuals, networks 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 2004.



## 3.2 Criminal offences

### 3.2.1 Narcotics

#### General

Table 1: Summary of number of seizures and quantities of narcotics seized (annual figures).

|                         | Amphetamines | Cannabis | Ecstasy | Heroin  | Cocaine  |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Number of seizures 2004 | 1,388        | 7,309    | 505     | 1,041   | 1,207    |
| Number of seizures 2004 | 1,264        | 5,942    | 322     | 894     | 1,095    |
| Quantity seized 2004    | 63.1 kg      | 1,385 kg | 38,096  | 37.5 kg | 32.3 kg  |
| Quantity seized 2004    | 65.9 kg      | 3,829 kg | 62,475  | 16.3 kg | 104.0 kg |

The law-enforcement initiative in the area of narcotics is primarily directed towards restricting their supply. The investigative effort in Denmark is the responsibility of the police and is focused primarily on the smuggling of narcotics into the country and narcotics dealing. The Central Customs and Tax Administration plays a major role in Danish law-enforcement as regards narcotics, especially by means of border checks and the monitoring of chemicals that can be used for the production of synthetic narcotics. The international cooperation 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 context that narcotics are produced in Denmark only to an extremely limited extent.

#### Cannabis

Morocco is still thought to be the most important supplier of cannabis smuggled into and distributed in Denmark - and still chiefly distributed via the Netherlands and Spain.



In 2004, a total of approximately 1,385 kg of cannabis was seized in 7,309 incidents. In addition, large quantities of cannabis were seized abroad for which Denmark was the assumed destination, and large quantities of cannabis that had passed through Denmark were seized in the other Nordic countries.

Although the quantity seized has fallen quite considerably compared to 2003, it must still be considered within the normal range. The number of seizures is somewhat increased, but is still within the normal range.

Cannabis is typically smuggled into Denmark by car or lorry. In 2004 a considerable number of seizures took place on vessels in Danish waters, but it is still thought that cannabis is smuggled into the country by sea – often directly from the area of production. Ongoing investigations confirm this assumption.

The biker groups still seem to be playing a central part in planning the smuggling of cannabis into Denmark and its distribution. This activity is based chiefly in Denmark, but persons living in countries close to the production area are also involved. In 2004 there has been further evidence to suggest that other criminal groups and networks have established or are trying to establish themselves in the Danish cannabis market.

The street price of cannabis has not changed significantly over many years and is typically about DKK 50 per gram. The wholesale price trend seems to be a downward one (depending on price and quality) and prices as low as DKK 10,000 per kg have been reported.

A targeted police initiative against the cannabis trade at Christiania in Copenhagen seems not to have had much of a knock-on effect on the availability, demand or price of cannabis in Denmark. This confirms that assumption that there is plenty of cannabis available in Denmark and that those behind the trade are well established. It is further supposed that there is a large number of new players in the cannabis market who are taking the place of known individuals and groups against whom the authorities have taken action.

### ***Heroin***

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

In 2004 37.5 kg of heroin was seized in Denmark, which is a sharp rise in comparison with 2003, when the total figure was



16.3 kg. The number of seizures has risen marginally from 894 in 2003 to 1,041 in 2004.

No changes have been observed as regards methods of smuggling or the individuals and groups responsible.

It is still thought that a substantial proportion of the heroin is smuggled via the Balkan countries to Western and Northern Europe, and that groups in the Balkan region are behind most of this smuggling.

Denmark is often a transit country for the smuggling of heroin to Sweden and Norway.

The average street price per gram of heroin is estimated at between DKK 800 and 1,000 for white heroin and DKK 500 for brown heroin. This is rather lower than one year ago, and there are still substantial variations in different parts of the country.

### **Cocaine**

1,207 seizures were recorded in Denmark in 2004 of a total quantity of 32.3 kg of cocaine, which is a sharp fall in comparison with the total quantity of 104 kg in 2003.

Despite the smaller quantity of cocaine seized, the rising number of seizures and the falling street prices indicate that there is considerable availability and abuse of cocaine in Denmark. This trend is in agreement with reports of rising consumption internationally.

Investigations in 2003 and 2004 indicate that the illegal market for cocaine in Denmark and the Nordic countries is substantially greater than the quantities seized would suggest. There were several investigations that revealed smuggling into Denmark of more than 100 kg of cocaine in both 2003 and 2004. It is partly in view of this that cocaine is considered the form of narcotics that has increased the most among abusers in Denmark.

Most of the major seizures in Denmark have taken place in airports with international connections, but a number of major narcotics investigations in recent years show an increasing tendency for cocaine to be smuggled into Denmark by land.

Cocaine smuggling by air continues to be dominated by West Africans – chiefly Nigerians and persons from Guinea-Bissau. These are thought to be involved in a substantial proportion of cocaine smuggling into Europe, including Denmark and the other Nordic countries.



Denmark often functions as a transit country for cocaine smuggling to Sweden and Norway, and the West African backers who have their bases in Denmark have direct contacts with networks in Europe and South America.

To a lesser extent, Lebanese, persons from the Baltic region and Polish groups have also been observed to be involved in the cocaine market within and cocaine smuggling into Denmark.

Prices have shown a tendency to fall in recent years. The average price per gram of cocaine for sale on the street is estimated at around DKK 500-600 - although with significant variations around the country.

### ***Amphetamines***

During 2004 there were 1,388 seizures of a total quantity of 63.1 kg of amphetamines. This is a slightly smaller quantity divided into rather fewer seizures, though the changes are marginal.

Most of the amphetamines smuggled into Denmark are thought to be produced primarily in the Netherlands or Belgium and – to a lesser extent – Central and Eastern Europe. These drugs are typically smuggled across the land frontier.

The smuggling of amphetamines into Denmark and their distribution is dominated by people linked to the biker culture, but there are other more or less organised players in this area.

No illegal amphetamine laboratories were discovered in Denmark in 2004.

Seizures of metamphetamine in Denmark remain marginal.

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

### ***Ecstasy***

The ecstasy seized in Denmark is produced primarily in the Netherlands.

In 2004 38,096 tablets were reported seized in 505 incidents. By comparison, in 2003 a total of 62,475 tablets were seized in 322 incidents. Though the quantity of tablets seized has fallen, while the number of seizures has risen, the ecstasy market in Denmark is not considered to have changed markedly since 2003.



No criminal groups systematically involved in the smuggling of ecstasy can be identified. It is often a matter of looser groupings and networks that are also involved in other forms of crime and that have international contacts, particularly in the Netherlands. The distribution of ecstasy may, however, also be related to some extent to people with links to the biker culture.

The price of ecstasy shows a stable trend (street price per tablet of DKK 50-125).

### ***Other types of synthetic narcotics***

The market for synthetic narcotics is dominated by amphetamines and ecstasy, but other forms of synthetic narcotics are also distributed in Denmark.

No illegal amphetamine or ecstasy laboratories were discovered in Denmark in 2004, nor has production of gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) from the chemical gammabutyrolactone (GBL) been verified.

The Central Customs and Tax Administration is also responsible for the monitoring of chemicals that are involved in the production and processing of synthetic narcotics.

### ***3.2.2 Fraud***

In 2004 the Public Prosecutor for Serious Economic Crime dealt with three complexes of cases that can be traced to organised crime.

These cases involved two instances of gross VAT fraud of a total approaching DKK 100 million and one case of investment fraud thought to amount to several billion DKK. One of the cases also featured witness intimidation intended to prevent the case being cleared up.

### ***3.2.3 Money and credit cards***

In 2004 1,133 cases involving the counterfeiting of Danish banknotes were reported.

Most of the reports relate to counterfeit DKK 500 notes, but cases have also been reported of counterfeit DKK 1,000, 100, 200 and 50 notes.

These counterfeits are mainly produced by scanning a genuine banknote with a computer and then printing it with an inkjet printer, but in 2004 there were some cases involving the



production of counterfeit DKK 100 notes using the offset method.

As far as foreign currency is concerned, the reported cases most often involve counterfeit USD bills (mostly USD 100 bills), but Euro notes are also being increasingly counterfeited. In one case involving counterfeit €500 notes the land of production was probably Bulgaria.

Credit card crime constitutes a steadily growing problem, in particular with the abuse of card details, e.g. through the Internet.

In 2004 it was observed that equipment to read magnetic strips and cameras to detect PIN codes had been illegally fitted to automated teller machines in Denmark, making it possible for criminals subsequently to reproduce credit cards and abuse them using their associated PIN codes. Typical venues for this were unmanned petrol stations and cash machines. This form of crime is normally committed by groups which operate in various European countries and use up-to-the-minute technology.

#### **3.2.4 Robberies**

Figures indicating the trend in the number of particularly dangerous robberies in 2004 show that in comparison with previous years there was a marked decrease in the number of such robberies, including those primarily targeting financial institutions. However, the number of particularly dangerous robberies targeting shops was more or less unchanged.

In a number of cases, it has become clear that people linked to the biker culture have threatened others to induce them to commit serious robberies.

#### **3.2.5 Illegal deprivation of liberty**

The number of reports of illegal and aggravated deprivation of liberty has been falling since 2000 from 25 reports in 2000 to 12 in 2003 and 11 in 2004. None of the reported deprivations of liberty are thought to have been perpetrated as part of organised crime.

#### **3.2.6 Extortion**

There continue to be examples of extortion and the use of “penalties for being stupid” linked to the biker culture. These cases generally received a high priority from the police districts,



including rapid, active and outreach-oriented response to help the injured parties.

### **3.2.7 Vehicle thefts**

It is not possible reliably to determine the scope of organised crime related to car theft in Denmark.

It has previously been estimated that around 500 vehicles a year are stolen and then shipped abroad, but it is suspected that an unspecified number of these are involved in insurance fraud.

The police did not come into possession of information causing them to revise this view in 2004. It is still thought that such thefts particularly target expensive cars which are shipped abroad, to destinations including Eastern Europe.

### **3.2.8 Other forms of theft/handling of stolen goods**

Both Polish and Lithuanian criminal networks have carried out large-scale and typically serial thefts from vehicles, private houses and shops. Although the articles stolen may not have been particularly valuable individually, such serial thefts may nevertheless be extremely significant both in number and in the overall value of stolen goods.

### **3.2.9 Illegal trade in firearms**

Biker groups and certain other criminal groups and networks were still found to be in possession of firearms to a significant extent in 2004. There is no other evidence to suggest that illegal trade in firearms is widespread as part of organised crime.

### **3.2.10 Smuggling of human beings**

In 2004 the number of charges brought for the smuggling of human beings continued to fall: in 2004 charges were brought against 179 persons as against 270 in 2003. The figures for 2002 and 2001 were 297 and 400 respectively.

Investigations related to the smuggling of human beings were in 2004 aimed primarily at groups from Somalia and China, but persons from Iraq, India, Pakistan and stateless Palestinians were also investigated.

### **3.2.11 Traffic in human beings and prostitution**

Investigations forming part of the intensified police initiative to combat trafficking in women produced a number of results in



2004, particularly as regards the exploitation of women through prostitution.

One of the results of legislative changes in 2003 was that it is now possible to use telephone tapping as part of the investigation of the running of brothels. This technique was subsequently used successfully in several investigations.

It has become evident that women – some of them from Central and Eastern Europe (particularly the Czech Republic and Hungary) and some from Asia (particularly Thailand) – are being exploited through prostitution and are paying considerable sums to pimps in both Denmark and their home countries.

### ***3.2.12 Smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax***

Smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax (including cigarettes) is internationally organised to some extent.

In 2004 the smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax and duty (particularly cigarettes) was largely undertaken by Danes, but also by Lithuanians, who to some extent collaborated with other Eastern European criminals.

Cigarettes are mainly smuggled into Denmark concealed in ordinary cargo on lorries. In some cases the cigarettes were carried by coaster from Klaipeda (in Lithuania) to Denmark.

### **3.3 Resources**

It is not possible to be more precise in estimating the turnover or profits generated in 2004 through organised crime. However, profits are thought to be high, since they are usually generated in areas in which legal operations are subject to not inconsiderable taxes and duties, or in areas in which operations cannot lawfully be carried on.

It is not known how prevalent front businesses are, but there are a number of examples in which people linked to the biker culture have set up businesses suspected of being a front for illegal activities. Some of these businesses are stripped of their assets, resulting in heavy losses to their creditors.

### **3.4 The use of violence**

Precise analysis of the use of violence in connection with organised crime is impossible, partly because crime within criminal circles is seldom reported to the police.



### **3.5 Undue influence**

There was again no sign in 2004 that organised crime is in any way connected with direct undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or political circles.

### **3.6 Money laundering**

In 2004, 366 reports were received from the credit and finance sector etc. of suspected money laundering, compared with 280 reports in 2003.

As in previous years, there was no evidence to indicate that these cases were related to organised crime. In 43 cases, investigation was initiated because of the account holders' lack of links with Denmark.

## **4. Places and areas associated with criminal activity**

The great majority of organised crime in Denmark in 2004 was committed in the larger urban areas, though such crime took place throughout the country to some extent.

Denmark was used to some degree as a transit country in the commission of cross-border organised crime, including the smuggling of human beings, narcotics etc. from Germany, primarily to Sweden and Norway.

## **5. Law enforcement**

### **5.1 Domestic**

The Danish police are constantly trying to adapt their effort to combat organised crime to match the current threat scenario.

At strategic level this work is discussed by a special steering group dealing with investigative support centres and cross-border organised crime. The steering group is headed by the National Commissioner of Police, and its other members are the Director of Public Prosecutions, the regional chief constables, the Head of the Central Police Department of the National Police and representatives of the Association of Chief Constables, the Association of Public Prosecutors and the Danish Association of Senior Police Officers.

The following areas are the subject of systematic police monitoring:

- Narcotics crime
- The biker culture



- Street gang crime\*
- Trafficking in women
- Smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax
- Counterfeiting of money
- Threats against law-enforcement personnel

Under systematic police monitoring, all information available to the police is collected and analysed, which puts the police in a position to be proactive in initiating targeted investigations and other police work in the areas concerned.

Similar schemes have been implemented to deal with serious economic crime (including money laundering) and organised illegal immigration.

## **5.2 International**

The Danish police are participating in a goal-oriented manner in international cooperation concerned with the fight against organised crime, for instance as part of the Nordic police and customs cooperation (known as the PTN cooperation), the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region, the EU (including Europol) and Interpol.

In 2004 Denmark also held the chairmanship of the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region. Further details about this task force may be found on the website [www.balticseatactaskforce.dk](http://www.balticseatactaskforce.dk).

---

\* Street gang crime is only subject to systematic national monitoring to the extent that it concerns gangs that can be placed on a footing with biker groups.



## **6. Conclusions**

### ***6.1 Assessment of the threat from organised crime***

Organised crime is still being committed in Denmark, including in particular crime originating from the biker culture.

However, in comparison to other countries, the level of organised crime in Denmark was once more relatively modest in 2004. In some areas organised crime in Denmark is on a par with the level seen in other countries. This is primarily crime originating from the biker culture, and crime that has links with other criminal groups and networks, including some from Eastern and Central Europe.

### ***6.2 Trends***

To an increasing extent, organised crime in Denmark seems to be based on flexible network cooperation. For example, it is often found that people in smuggler networks supply many different recipients in several countries and cooperate in variable constellations, and that the networks are involved in the form of crime that is currently thought to yield the highest profits.

A number of Danish citizens have taken up residence abroad, where in cooperation with Danish and international criminal networks they coordinate criminal activities in Denmark and elsewhere.

### ***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.

An increased threat to Denmark must be expected from international organised crime. This development will necessitate a more intensified and targeted law-enforcement effort, both nationally and internationally.



## **Annex 1: 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. Cooperation 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

