

THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE



**Status report on organised crime  
in Denmark in 2000**

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## Summary

This report has been written as the Danish contribution to a comprehensive report on organised crime in the EU in 2000.

The report aims at providing an objective picture of the crime situation, but since it is partially based on subjective conclusions, etc, the objectivity of the report is subject to some uncertainty.

Status at the end of 2000/early 2001 in terms of crime complying with or bordering on the EU criteria for organised crime is as follows:

In 2000, organised crime was committed in Denmark, however on a relatively modest level.

It is difficult to provide an estimate on the number of individuals or groups involved in the crime in question. The fact that international crime organisations have gained a foothold in Denmark still remains undocumented, although Albanian, Russian and Baltic groups have been found to be active in terms of perpetrating organised crime in Denmark in 2000.

Biker crime in Denmark was also dominated in 2000 by individuals related to Hell's Angels and Bandidos. These group's involvement into organised crime is supported by the fact that a considerable number of biker group related people were either remanded in custody or serving sentences throughout 2000.

In 2000, street gangs were observed primarily in the larger cities of Denmark, but street gang-resembling groups were also observed in the smaller towns. The street gang members are typically boys/young men of an ethnic background other than Danish. In terms of crime, the street gangs and the street gang-resembling groups are associated to a wide extent with petty crime and street disorder, however more serious criminal activ-

ity among this group of people has also been observed during the past few years.

Actual drugs production is only carried out to a very limited extent in Denmark, whereas drugs smuggling and trafficking in 2000 constituted – as in previous years – a considerable crime problem. Organised, trans-national crime was committed in connection with cannabis, heroin, cocaine, and synthetic drugs, including in particular amphetamine and ecstasy. The latter substance was particularly in focus in 2000 due to several deaths among young people.

Danish private individuals and enterprises were also in 2000 involved in tax evasion in relation to the EU, primarily in the so-called "roundabout tax fraud". Furthermore, Denmark continued to be the target of trafficking of Danish cigarettes (illegal re-import) or forged "Danish" cigarette brands from especially Lithuania.

Attempts to exchange counterfeit bank notes were made in Denmark, but only a few notes could be described as being professionally made.

Lorries as well as personal vehicles were stolen – or reported stolen (insurance fraud) – and then resold as spare parts, re-registered or used as payment to foreign criminal groups in exchange of drugs.

In a large number of burglaries, equipment such as expensive radios and TV sets were stolen. Police investigations revealed that among the primary perpetrators were non-residents.

A very large share of the asylum seekers arriving in Denmark in 2000 entered the country illegally. Some of them arrived by plane, but most of them were transported across land. This type of trafficking was often organised by fellow countrymen of the illegal immigrants. Typically, the smuggling was organised in ethnical international networks.

Police efforts to combat trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation in prostitution was given high priority in 2000. A special status report (June 2001) describing the Danish police efforts to combat trafficking in women is attached to this report.

A majority of the child pornography cases in Denmark were also in 2000 related to possession of child pornographic material, with the perpetrators downloading pictures from the Internet.

In 2000, information technology was seen to make up a significant element in a large number of cases involving serious crime. This tendency is expected to continue.

The most serious environmental crimes committed in 2000 were to some extent related to organised crime. These cases primarily involve corporate handling of waste products, pollution of the marine environment and trading in endangered species.

It is not possible to estimate more precisely the turnover of profits generated as a consequence of organised crime in 2000. Profits, however, are estimated to be of a considerable size given the earnings as a rule were made within areas where legal activity is encumbered with considerable taxes and duties payable to the State, or within areas which are directly illegal.

In 2000, there still were no signs of organised crime having infiltrated public administration, law enforcement authorities or political circles.

In 2000, a considerable share of organised crime in Denmark was committed in the major urban areas. To some extent, Denmark was used a transit country in connection with criminal activity, including the trafficking in human beings, drugs etc primarily to Sweden and Norway.

## **1. Introduction**

This status report was prepared by the National Commissioner of Police and based on the EU guidelines stipulated. The report is the Danish contribution to the EU status report on organised crime in 2000.

The report thus primarily describes the conditions in Denmark. To a limited extent, the information is seen in an international perspective. This applies in particular to drugs crime which is inherently international since drugs are only produced to a limited extent in Denmark.

The report accounts for the situation in 2000 and identifies the trends in crime as well as indicates the threats posed at the end of 2000/early 2001. Furthermore, the report includes a forecast on the likely development of crime.

The aim of this report is thus to describe the actual crime scenario as it is viewed from a police perspective.

## 2. Method

To the widest extent possible, this report has been drawn up and structured in compliance with international norms, including in particular the principles applied by Europol on crime analysis and the EU guidelines set out for the preparation of annual reports on organised crime.

The concept of "organised crime" is not defined by Danish law. However, the Danish Criminal Code contains provisions on perpetrators acting jointly.

The groups and individuals as well as types of crime included in this report are identified in accordance with the EU criteria laid down for organised crime. The criteria are listed in appendix 1 of this report.

Against this background, the report describes a number of criminal groups and a number of crime types which together make up the actually organised crime in Denmark. This report also describes the crime that borders on the EU criteria laid down for organised crime.

The report is primarily prepared on the basis of information received by Denmark's police districts and the operative units of the National Commissioner of Police. The collection of data ended during the spring of 2001.

The aim of the report is to provide an objective image of the crime situation. Analyses and conclusions are to the widest extent possible based on objective data - primarily criminal cases that have been settled in court. In general, however, the objective data available on organised crime are limited in numbers. The purpose of this report has therefore rendered it necessary to use information of a non-verifiable nature, including the assessments made by police officers who are or have been involved in the investigation of cases within the types of crime mentioned. The validity of the non-verifiable information is inher-

ently difficult to assess, for which reason qualitative and restrictive assessments have been made thereon. The inclusion of non-verifiable information means that the findings and conclusions of the report are provided with some uncertainty.

The preparation of this report has also been made difficult due to the varying crime monitoring procedures adopted by Danish police within the different crime areas. As a result, the data provided, including the objective data in proportion to the non-verifiable information, are therefore not the same within all crime areas.

### **3. Organised crime**

#### **3.1 Groups and individuals involved in organised crime**

The basis for the description of the individuals or groups participating in organised crime is – as laid down in the EU guidelines governing the preparation of the report – the ethnical background of the persons in question and not their citizenship. Furthermore, the report focuses on the nature and scope of the crime.

##### **3.1.1 Europe**

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

In 2000, persons with an ethnical Danish background were involved in a wide spectrum of organised crimes, such as drugs crime, economic crime and contraband smuggling. The bikers and – to a certain extent – the street gangs attracted a great deal of attention in relation to organised crime and crime bordering on the criteria for organised crime.

###### **Biker crime**

The biker environment was dominated by Hell's Angels and Bandidos in 2000 as well.

The police are still aware of the inter-relationship between the groups and observe whether they are under the influence of struggles for power among their branches around the world.

The number of members in the two organisations has remained relatively stable throughout the past years and lies on a level which implies that the groups are (constantly) equal in size. According to police information, the bikers agreed on a kind of geographical breakdown of Denmark into territories in 1999. The police believe that this division was consolidated during 2000.

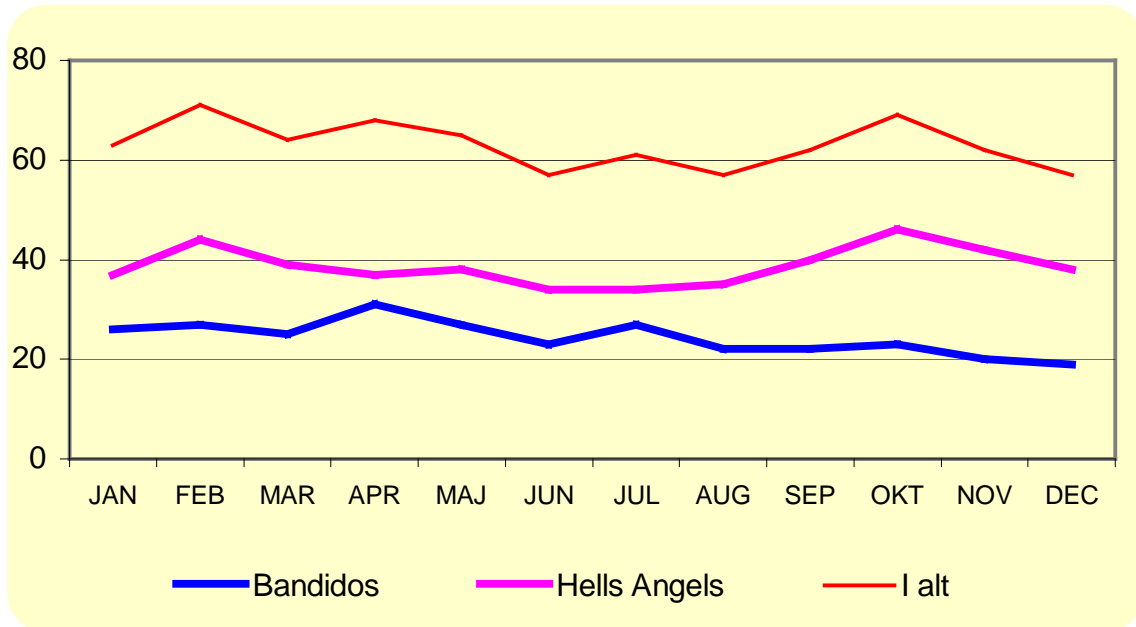
Already at the so-called peace agreement in 1997, following which the Hell's Angels and Bandidos stopped an internal violent showdown which had been going on during the mid-1990s in the Nordic countries, Bandidos set up the support group with the name Support X Team. Similarly, at the beginning of 1999, Hell's Angels set up a support group called Red & White Support Crew. Apparently, there is no agreement that the support groups must be equal in size, which might pose a risk in relation to the potential violent conflicts that may emerge in the biker environment.

In general, the support groups are described as consisting of young men who typically wish to form close bonds to either Hell's Angels or Bandidos. In order to gain such a status they act as helpers, ie working as guards at various functions, but also to a considerable extent, by being instrumental in committing specific criminal activities.

Individuals from Hell's Angels and Bandidos or with affiliations to these biker groups were also proven to be directly involved in serious crime in 2000.

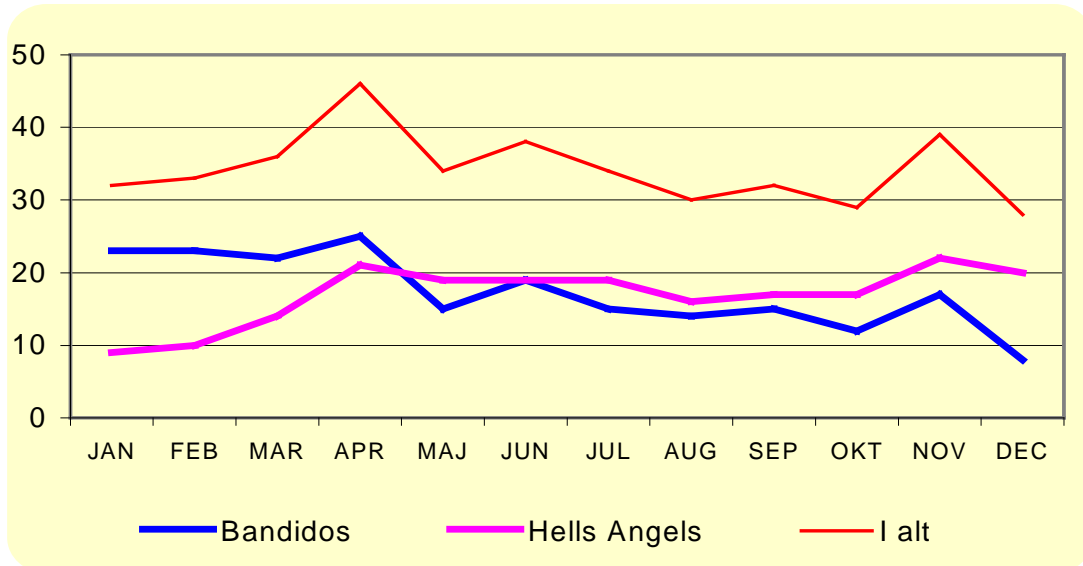
In 2000, approximately 40 persons with affiliations to Hell's Angels were serving a sentence, the equivalent figure for Bandidos-affiliated individuals being a little over 20 persons.

*Figure 1: Number of biker-affiliated individuals serving a sentence in 2000*



The number of Hell's Angels-affiliated individuals serving sentences in remand custody rose during the first quarter of the year following which it stabilised at approximately 20 persons. The number of Bandidos-affiliated persons, however, dropped from a little over 20 persons at the beginning of the year to approximately 15 at the end of the year.

Figure 2: Number of biker-affiliated persons in remand custody in 2000



The biker-related crime in 2000 included a broad spectrum of activities.

In general, persons with biker affiliations in 2000 committed all types of crime which could generate an economic gain.

As it turned out, biker-affiliated persons entered into collaboration with other criminal groups and individuals. For instance, it was observed that contacts were made to persons within the Copenhagen street gangs in particular. Some particularly criminal persons with street gang affiliations were members of support groups.

### Street gang crime

In 2000, street gangs were primarily observed in the major cities in Denmark, whereas street gang-resembling groups were seen in the small towns. The members of the street gangs are typi-

cally boys/younger men of ethnic origin.

The street gang members are often involved in relatively less serious crime and other deterrent behaviour. However, during the past few years, the crimes committed by some street gang members have become more serious and more organised. In 2000, street gang members were thus involved in attempted murder, violence, threats (collection and protective business), robbery from banks and shops, handling of stolen goods, sexual offences, drugs crime and violations of the firearms and explosives act. In addition, a few street gang members deliberately sought confrontation with the police, whereby routine police business all of a sudden developed into serious clashes.

The involvement of certain street gangs in serious crime means that it is crucial, also in the future, to keep an eye on the spreading of street gangs and street gang resembling groups. The fact is that the street gang network structure renders it easy for the petty criminal follower to get into contact with the core members and other criminal individuals which may involve them in more sophisticated criminal activity.

The police are focusing in particular on the contacts between the biker groups and the street gangs. In 2000, it appeared that the groups were cooperating on criminal activity, but that they also met in confrontations.

### ***Persons from the EU countries***

In 2000, persons from a number of EU countries cooperated with Danes on tax evasion in an EU-context in the form of VAT fraud, also known as "roundabout tax fraud". This type of fraud is carried out when a product is bought in one country under the pretext of the VAT being paid in another. The product is then traded through a number of companies in different countries until it is finally sold in one specific country. VAT was not paid because the companies involved had all been wound up before payment to the Danish customs and tax authorities (Told•Skat) could

be effected.

Other crimes involving EU citizens were smuggling, drugs crime and counterfeit money.

### ***Balts***

In 2000, Lithuanians were also connected to smuggling of vast quantities of cigarettes with Denmark being either the final destination of sale or the transit destination. Furthermore, it was observed that the Lithuanians exerted very serious crime in Denmark.

### ***Poles***

In several cases, it was observed that the Poles had been involved in drugs or smuggling cases which could either be referred to as organised crime or bordering on such.

### ***Russians***

The Russians were very seldom visible in the more organised criminal activity in Denmark, but in some cases they have been identified as the "kingpins" behind different types of criminal activity. Furthermore, Russian asylum seekers carried out a considerable number of shopliftings with the purpose of sending the stolen goods to Russia.

### ***Albanians***

Ethnic Albanians played – as has been the case during recent years – a very crucial role in the organisation of comprehensive smuggling of heroin in 2000. It is assumed that Albanians are the ones behind a vast majority of the heroin smuggled into the Nordic countries.

The Albanian groups have established themselves strategically along the smuggling routes from the Balkans via especially the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland to Scandinavia.

### ***Turks***

The Turkish criminal groups are often controlled by clans, however there are also autonomous groups involved. The Turks were involved in all levels related to drugs crime.

### ***Armenians***

During the summer of 2000, two groups of Armenians were involved in a shoot-out, in which machine guns were used. The extent and nature of the case indicated that this was a showdown between two groups who fell under the criteria for organised crime.

### **3.1.2 Asia**

A significant share of the child pornographic material found by the police in connection with their investigations is believed to have its roots in the Far East.

### **3.1.3 Africa**

As has been the case in previous years, individuals of a Moroccan origin were involved in cannabis crime in 2000.

### **3.1.4 America**

#### ***North Americans***

Denmark is not believed to be the target of North American criminals or groups as such. Danish police, however, are aware of the bonds tied to organised criminal groups by virtue of the international structure of the biker groups.

#### ***South Americans***

Although there is no specific information that South Americans, groups or cartels are directly active in organised crime in Denmark, it is assumed that also in 2000, South Americans were behind a great deal of the cocaine supply shipped to the Danish market.

## 3.2 Criminal actions committed by groups and individuals

### 3.2.1 Drugs

#### *General*

Combating drugs crime is highly prioritised by Danish police, and cooperation between the police and other authorities, including the Danish Customs and Tax authorities (Told•Skat), has been set up on a national scale.

Furthermore, there is very close international cooperation with foreign law enforcement authorities. This applies in particular to the cooperation between the police and customs authorities in the Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The Police and Customs Cooperation in the Nordic countries, the PTN-cooperation, has resulted in an uncovering of smuggling patterns as well as groups involved although both the smuggling routes and the methods continue to change. Based on this, a number of targeted initiatives have been launched.

Actual drugs production in Denmark only takes place on a very modest scale due to, among other things, the cultivation, and in particular the climatic, conditions. In this connection it should be mentioned that the international rules on control with chemicals (precursors) that can be applied on illegal production of drugs and psychotropic substances have been set out in the Danish Act no. 429 of 30 June 1993 and the daily tasks of company registration, issuing of licenses and export/import permits are handled by the Danish Tax and Customs Authorities. The National Commissioner of Police has entered into close cooperation with the Danish Customs and Tax Authorities on the control of companies licensed to handle the chemicals set out in the law.

### ***Cannabis***

The most significant producing country of the cannabis available in Denmark is believed to be Morocco.

Smuggling of cannabis from Morocco to the European continent is most often carried out by sea to, primarily, Spain and Portugal, Italy, France and the UK, from which countries it is transhipped to the other European countries, including Denmark.

In 2000, a total of 2,914 kg of cannabis was confiscated in Denmark in 5,561 cases, of which approximately 90% was confiscated in connection with 6 major investigations. Out of these investigations, 5 involved smuggling cannabis to Denmark, whereas the 6th involved smuggling of cannabis via Denmark to Norway.

The smuggling of cannabis to Denmark via the Danish-German land frontier is often done by lorry, in which the substance is hidden inside or near an otherwise legal load.

Spain and Holland are still the most significant transit countries for smuggling of cannabis into Denmark. In several of the cases now closed as well as the ongoing investigations it has been observed that there have been close connections between the various kingpins, and a great deal of the information received indicates that there has been direct cooperation between the kingpins. The fact is that they have used the same contacts abroad, including, among others, Danish citizens residing in Spain which have established good contacts to international organisations in charge of smuggling cannabis to the rest of Europe. There is every indication that the Danish kingpins in several cases have picked up the cannabis in Holland, but that the contacts to the international organisation has been established in Spain, from which country these organisations have controlled the transports to Holland.

Denmark is still believed to be the main entry route for smuggling cannabis to both Norway and Sweden. Sweden has had two seizures across the PTN border (5 kg) totalling 185 kg in connection with smuggling across the Oresund Fixed Link.

Street level cannabis prices in Denmark in 2000 amounted to approximately DKK 40-50 per gram, but according to information it appears that the wholesale price for cannabis is taking a downward trend as individual cases have shown that major distributors could sell cannabis at a price between approximately DKK 12,000 and 15,000 per kilo depending on the quantity, quality and personal relations between distributors and receivers.

Throughout recent years, the police have observed a significant rise in the number of the so-called "cannabis clubs", particularly in Copenhagen and a few other cities. The police have regularly intensified their actions against the clubs, primarily with a view to establishing neighbourhood security. As part of their efforts, a number of police actions and raids have been launched against the "cannabis clubs". In this connection, the typical seizure has merely involved small quantities of cannabis, one of the reasons being that the clubs to a wide extent appear to use remote stocks and in other instances have apparently installed video surveillance cameras at the entrance. In 2001, a new law was passed which is targeted against cannabis clubs and similar locations.

In 2000, Danish police did not have any cases with smuggling of major quantities of cannabis by boat, but according to information received it appears that smuggling operations have in fact taken place by boat to Denmark in 2000. There has thus been an increase in the reporting of cannabis fished out of the sea by trawlers in the North Sea and the Skagerrak. In 1999, the police reported one seizure of 28 kg of cannabis in the North Sea, whereas in 2000, there were 6 reported seizures totalling 84 kg of cannabis.

## *Heroin*

A vast majority of the confiscated quantity of heroin in Denmark is still believed to originate from South West Asia.

The previous traditional routes through the Balkans appear to be undergoing changes to the effect that the more northbound routes via the Central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Tadsjikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to, primarily, Minsk in Belarus are being used to a greater extent than previously. From these areas heroin is smuggled to the West European countries.

The Albanian organisations appear to have large depots in Macedonia and Bulgaria. A very large share of the heroin smuggled into the Nordic countries is believed to originate from these depots. The heroin is primarily smuggled via Germany to the Nordic countries.

In Denmark, a total of 32 kg of heroin was seized in 2000 in 1,499 cases, of which the majority was brown heroin. The quantity of heroin seized dropped drastically in comparison with 1999, during which year total seizures amounted to 96 kg in 1,230 cases. Included in the 1999 figures is, however, one seizure of approximately 64 kg. In 2000, only two seizures were made in connection with entry into Denmark, ie 807 grammes of heroin in Frøslev near the Danish/German land frontier and 5.7 kg of heroin in Copenhagen Airport, Kastrup.

The Albanian organisations continue to be the most dominant on the Danish heroin market. The smuggling is still carried out in personal vehicles (often BMWs and Mercedes) and by using younger non-Albanian couriers. Fractions of the Albanian groups based in the Czech Republic have repatriated to Kosova and other parts of ex Yugoslavia and to Bulgaria. This has made investigation more difficult, because the Czech authorities for some time have launched intensive investigations against the groups mentioned.

In 2000, it appeared that Africans, in particular west Africans, were becoming increasingly active in relation to heroin crime targeted at Scandinavia.

Similarly to previous years, the heroin market in the Odense area in 2000 – being the only area in Denmark – was dominated by white heroin.

Street level heroin prices in 2000 amounted to approximately DKK 600-1000 per gram for brown heroin and approximately DKK 1000-1500 for white heroin.

### *Cocaine*

The total production of cocaine on a worldwide basis appears relatively unchanged. The US Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that the Colombian cartels supply approximately 80% of world production of cocaine. During the past few years, the US authorities have launched massive efforts to combat cocaine smuggling into the US, which is believed having lead the Columbian drug lords to focus more on the European market.

Ships are sent from South America carrying huge quantities of cocaine onboard – sometimes up to between 3 and 10 tonnes – with a view to smuggling into Europe. Smuggling is also carried out by airplane couriers who carry the drugs either concealed in their body or in prefabricated luggage. The air line couriers often choose labyrinthine travelling routes in order to render it difficult for the authorities to assess the risk which is based on the tickets and the route. Often, an entry point is used as a “bridgehead” to Europe, following which the trip is continued by train, bus or a rented vehicle.

During the summer of 2000, seizures were made onboard large cruisers upon arrival in ports in, among others, the US, England Finland and Sweden. The cruisers typically sail during the winter in the Caribbean and during the summer through British, Scandinavian or Baltic waters. During the winter, the cocaine is

hidden onboard the ship, and the crew members - when calling at a European port in the summer - find the drugs and carry them ashore. In 2000, Finnish police confiscated approximately 38 kg of cocaine onboard a cruiser, following which the ship sailed via Oslo to Stockholm, where yet another approximately 3.9 kg were found hidden onboard. Cruisers of this type also call at the port of Copenhagen, and in one instance a search was conducted of a cruiser without, however, any drugs being found onboard.

In 2000, a total of 35.9 kg of cocaine was confiscated in Denmark in 780 cases, which is an increase in comparison with 1999 when 24.2 kg of cocaine was confiscated in 744 cases. Almost 70% of the cocaine confiscated in 2000, was seized in Denmark's international airports (Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup and Billund Airport in Jutland) and near the borders towards the south.

When smuggling via the Danish-German land frontier, the drugs are often hidden in items or bags transported in cars. In two instances in 2000, couriers had been smuggling cocaine from Holland to Denmark via the land frontier, and each courier has probably been taking between 8 and 10 trips with up to 5 kg of cocaine per trip.

Furthermore, it has been established that cocaine is smuggled to Denmark via goods transport. The cocaine is hidden in an otherwise legal load, either in the load itself, for instance in coffee, bananas, olives and pineapples - or hidden in the container.

The typical street level cocaine price in 2000 amounted to between DKK 600 and DKK 1000.

### ***Amphetamine***

The European amphetamine is produced primarily in Holland and in Belgium as well as in the East European countries. Several large amphetamine laboratories have been discovered in Lithuania, and

the number of quantity and seizures made in Norway, Sweden and Finland of amphetamine originating from the Baltics has increased.

The smugglings in Europe are usually carried out via land, with the amphetamine being hidden in personal vehicles, lorries, trains and buses.

Seizures are made in almost all the police districts in Denmark. In 2000, a total of 57.1 kg of amphetamine was confiscated in 1,152 cases as compared to 31.6 kg in 1250 cases in 1999. The marked increase, however, is primarily attributable to one smuggling, when approximately 30 kg of amphetamine intended for the Norwegian market was seized.

Seizure of amphetamine tablets has only taken place in 4 cases of 29 tablets in all.

Similarly to previous years, investigations conducted in several police districts in Denmark uncover that the bikers, including in particular the support groups of the leading organisations, are involved in amphetamine smuggling as well as trafficking.

Investigations within forensic chemistry have shown that the seized amphetamine primarily originates from illegal laboratories in Holland and Belgium. However, some seizures have also turned out amphetamine from Poland and the Czech Republic.

In Denmark in 2000, one combined amphetamine and ecstasy laboratory was confiscated, in which the preliminary investigations reveal so far that not less than approximately 5 kg of amphetamine and 12,000 ecstasy tables had been produced.

The street level amphetamine prices in 2000 amounted to approximately DKK 250 per gram.

### ***Ecstasy***

The European ecstasy is primarily produced in Holland. However, considerable quantities are also produced in Belgium, Germany and Spain. According to information it appears that production is on the increase throughout Eastern Europe as well.

International reports are filed on seizures all around the world, and the spreading of ecstasy is thus becoming a global problem.

As is the case with other drugs, the internal smuggling within Europe is most often carried out via land in personal vehicles, lorries, buses and trains. Large quantities are being transported in each smuggling operation, which could be an indication of large markets with major selling potential and gross profits.

Additional focus was placed on abuse in 2000 when 5 ecstasy related deaths occurred in Denmark. A majority of the ecstasy tablets confiscated in Denmark originate from Holland and Belgium. In a few cases, however, the tablets originate from Poland.

In 2000, the Danish police confiscated 21,608 ecstasy tablets in 444 cases compared to 26,117 tablets in 197 cases in 1999. A large share of the tablets confiscated in 2000 were the so-called "MITSUBISHI" tablets.

A total of 21,159 ecstasy tablets were confiscated in Germany while being smuggled into Denmark. Furthermore, 248,000 ecstasy tablets were confiscated in Norway and Sweden after the tablets had been smuggled through Denmark.

In 2000, ecstasy was confiscated in 46 of Denmark's 54 police districts. In general, most confiscations are made in the major cities among the users, whereas near the Danish/German land frontier only few, but relatively large confiscations have been made among the smugglers

As mentioned above, a combined amphetamine and ecstasy laboratory was seized in 2000 and the investigations so far reveal

that not less than approximately 5 kg of amphetamine and 12,000 ecstasy tablets have most likely been produced.

Street level ecstasy prices in Denmark in 2000 varied typically between DKK 100 and DKK 150 for one single tablet. There seems to be a tendency towards falling prices.

### ***Doping***

Smuggling and trafficking in doping substances have increased heavily in the European countries throughout recent years, also in Denmark. The doping substances are no longer just a problem among professional sportsmen, since such substances are also available to amateur sportsmen and in fitness centres. The use of these substances in amateur sports etc often constitute a risk hazard since they are normally administered without the necessary expert assistance. The users thus subject themselves to dangerous experiments since they are incognisant of the side-effects after administration of the substances.

In Denmark, a total of 133,874 units of doping agents were confiscated in 325 cases in 2000. This is a drastic increase compared to 1999 when a total of 69,077 units were confiscated in 249 cases.

Approximately 60% of this year's seizures were made at the international mail centre of Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup. Mail packages often contain large quantities of doping agent which have often been ordered via the Internet. Furthermore, doping agents are also seized in connection with investigation of other criminal activity (often drugs crime), where the persons involved to a large extent are known as users and/or dealers in drugs and illicit pharmaceuticals.

### ***Drug-related deaths***

The National Commissioner of Police collects and coordinates, in cooperation with the institutes of forensic chemistry, information provided by the police districts on drugs-related deaths

with a view to gaining optimum central insight into the problems. In connection with the drugs-related deaths, medico-legal post mortems and analyses of forensic chemistry are made with a view to establishing the cause of death. The cases are dealt with by the police in the police district, in which the death took place.

A total of 247 drug-related deaths were registered in Denmark in 2000. The average age was 37.8 years, which is a mild increase compared to 1999. The reports from the police districts indicate that 50 of the deceased were women and 197 were men. The most frequent cause of death was still toxification brought on by heroin/morphine. Ecstasy accounted for 5 of the registered deaths. These are, however, preliminary figures in that not all figures from forensic analyses are available. Minor adjustments in the figures are thus likely to occur. After all forensic analyses had been finalised for 1999 it has finally been established that there were 239 drugs-related deaths that year.

### ***Violation of the drugs legislation***

In 2000, the police dealt with a total of 904 reports concerning the violation of Section 191 of the Danish Criminal Code which provides for serious drug crime. In comparison it should be mentioned that a total of 817 reports were filed in 1999.

Furthermore, 38 reports were filed in 2000 concerning Section 191a on persons receiving or providing for themselves or others a part of a profit obtained by contravention of section 191 compared to 14 in 1999.

The number of reports filed concerning the violation of the law on euphoriant was 12,325 in 2000 against 12,180 in 1999.

Finally, a total of 469 reports were filed in 2000 concerning the act on prohibition against certain doping agents.

### 3.2.2 Fraud

#### *Investment fraud*

In 1999 and in 2000, the courts handed down sentences in six cases involving investment fraud committed by so-called "securities fraudsters". These cases ran into more than DKK 257 million.

#### *Tax evasion in relation to the EU*

Organised EU fraud was observed in nine cases in 2000. Out of these cases, seven were VAT evasion associated with deals in mobile phones between companies in European countries via Danish enterprises and sold to Danish telecommunications operators.

The cases of EU fraud fall under the definition of organised crime given that there was an international cooperation between several individuals to complete commercial goods and money transactions by unlawfully changing the basis for calculating taxes.

To a large extent these cases fell under the definition of "roundabout fraud" in connection with trafficking in goods between Danish and foreign companies in France, Norway, Liechtenstein, Sweden and Germany. The fraud was performed by buying a product in one country under the pretext of paying VAT in another. The products were since traded through a number of companies in different countries until it was finally sold in one particular country. VAT was never paid, because the companies were ordered to be wound up before payment to the customs authorities could be effected.

Denmark was also in 2000 a target for smuggling Danish cigarettes (illegal re-import) as well as forged "Danish" cigarette brands, especially from Lithuania.

### **3.2.3 Counterfeiting**

In 2000, a total of 561 cases were reported on counterfeit Danish bank notes. The number of cases was a moderate drop compared to 1999, when 589 cases were reported. The counterfeit cases concerned in essence 100, 200 and 500 kroner notes.

No records were made on professionally produced counterfeit Danish notes.

The number of cases concerning counterfeit foreign bank notes rose to 208 in 2000 compared to 120 in 1999. The number of cases concerning US dollars remained almost the same compared to 1999, with the cases, however, involving in total almost twice as many bank notes as in 1999. In 2000 there was, as in the rest of Europe, an increase in the prevalence of professionally produced Italian 100,000 and 50,000 lire bank notes.

The quality of the counterfeit dollar and lire bank notes as well as the intelligence operations conducted and investigations made illustrated that production was related to organised crime.

Other frequently appearing counterfeit bank notes in Denmark were Norwegian and Swedish banknotes.

### **3.2.4 Armed robbery**

Statistics on the development in the number of particularly aggravating robberies in 2000 show that compared to last year there was marked growth in the number of particularly dangerous robberies against shops and banks, whereas the number of particularly dangerous robberies against petrol stations, public offices and value transport vehicles remained almost the same.

The growth in number of particularly dangerous robberies against banks is interesting from a police perspective, since according to information provided in 2000, a number of individuals from (primarily) the biker environment in a number of instances threatened other (criminal) individuals to commit armed robbery,

especially against banks.

### **3.2.5 Kidnapping**

The number of reports filed on illegal and qualified deprivation of liberty dropped from 26 in 1998 to 13 in 1999, but rose again to 25 in 2000. None of them could, however, be considered as kidnapping under organised crime.

### **3.2.6 Extortion**

In connection with the overall monitoring of crimes committed by persons affiliated with the bikers it was established that extortion is an integral part of biker crime.

### **3.2.7 Car thefts**

It is not possible to provide a safe estimate on the number of vehicles stolen in connection with organised crime. Previously, it has been estimated that approximately 500 vehicles are stolen each year and then taken abroad, but a non-identified share of this number is included in the non-organised insurance fraud. The police have not received information in 2000 that have given rise to change this estimate.

A large number of cars were, however, found abroad, some in Eastern Europe, others in France.

According to intelligence it appears that both lorries and vehicles are being stolen - or reported stolen (insurance fraud) - and then used as payment for drugs, etc. Furthermore, vehicles that had been stolen or unlawfully reported as being stolen, re-sold as spare parts or re-registered on false or forged papers.

### **3.2.8 "Hit-and-run"-thefts**

"Hit-and-run"-thefts are in Denmark also referred to as "ram raidings". In 2000, many such thefts took place in eastern and northern Jutland.

### **3.2.9 Thefts of art objects and antiques**

In 2000, two paintings by P.S. Krøyer worth DKK 4 million were stolen from an auction house. The pictures have, however, resurfaced.

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

In a number of instances, Russian asylum seekers committed extensive shoplifting. Furthermore groups carrying the Interpol designation of "Traditionally Itinerant Groups" were involved in extensive and organised trick thefts in both shops and private dwellings. The trick thefts were primarily targeted at the weak and elderly and of such serious nature that it often borders on illegal coercion and robbery.

In a large number of qualified burglaries in Zealand, TVs and HiFi sets, jewellery, liquor and other valuable items were stolen. The thieves were organised by a group consisting of at least 5 people - four ethnic Danes and a Yugoslav-born Dane - however, the investigations of the police indicate that the actual perpetrators in a number of instances were non-residents who took the stolen goods out of the country.

### **3.2.11 Illegal trading in firearms**

There is no information that illegal trading in firearms in Denmark has been included in the criteria mentioned in appendix 1 on organised crime. However, biker groups and certain street gangs were in possession of firearms to a considerable extent.

### **3.2.12 Trafficking in human beings**

In 2000, there were two important routes for human smuggling to Denmark. One by plane to Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup and Billund (Jutland). The other and the primary route across land via Germany. In Germany, the illegal immigrants were dropped off

just before the Danish border. From Germany they were transported to Denmark either via the ferry routes Puttgarden-Rødby and Rostock-Gedser or across the border of Jutland. The transport to Denmark was carried out in small groups, which most often were driven in cars. In several instances, the "sluicers" dropped them off close to the border, following which they had to cross the green border by foot.

Entry was most often made possible via forged papers which were had been handed out to the immigrants and then seized by the "sluicer" accompanying the asylum seekers. The papers could then be used again.

The organisation of human smuggling is extremely profitable. In this connection it was revealed that the price for a transport from Germany to Denmark was approximately USD 1,100 whereas transport from Germany to Norway or Sweden was offered at a price of USD 1,600-1,800. There is, however, no conclusive evidence that the only motive for human smuggling is profit. The smuggling was thus in several instances organised by persons related to the smuggled persons.

It is not possible to establish the smugglers' organisation more precisely, but apparently groups from Kosova and Russia in particular are well-organised and operate in an effective network.

### **3.2.13 Human trafficking and prostitution**

Special efforts to combat trafficking in human beings with the purpose of exploiting them for prostitution were launched in 2000.

A report prepared in June 2001 and describing the status of the Danish police efforts to combat trafficking in women is attached to this report as appendix 2.

### **3.2.14 Child pornography**

Throughout the year, new child pornographic material continued to surface, especially on the Internet, and the pictures had become even more rough.

The actual organised production of child pornographic material is assumed to have emerged primarily in Eastern Europe, Russia and Asia.

It was not possible to provide a safe estimate on the number of members of paedophile networks in Denmark, because these networks operate in closed circles. This was substantiated in 2000 when during a case it was revealed that it is only possible to enter into the paedophile circles if you can deliver the material yourself.

Generally speaking, the exchange of child pornographic material was made in international networks consisting of relatively autonomous actors. These networks also applied state-of-the-art technology and their criminal actions thus characterised as being qualified and technically advanced.

### **3.2.15 IT crime**

The term IT crime ("computer crime") has not been clearly defined, neither nationally nor internationally. However, IT is an essential element in a large number of cases involving serious crime.

In 2000, as in the previous years, there were a number of examples of illegal copying and selling of programs, games and music as well as other multimedia products.

IT related crime is expected to follow the general trend within the electronic communication and production industries and will therefore most likely increase considerably throughout the coming years. Another factor is that IT in the form of mobile

phones and the Internet plays an increasing role as an instrument in the organisation of many different types of crime. This trend is expected to continue.

### **3.2.16 Environmental crimes**

The number of reported violations of the environmental act have dropped through the past few years. In 1997, a total of 578 reports were filed, whereas the number had decreased to 409 in 2000. This drop corresponds to a drop in the number of charges, which in 1997 were 132 and 99 in 2000.

The most serious environmental crimes were primarily related to commercial enterprises' handling of waste products, pollution of the marine environment and trading in endangered species.

### **3.3 Resources**

It is not possible to provide a more precise estimate of the turnover or profit generated in the wake of organised crime in 2000. The profit, however, is estimated to be considerable, given that the profits are normally gained within areas where legal activity leads to high taxes paid to the state, or within areas that are directly illegal.

The extent of front companies is unknown. However, there are a number of examples indicating that the biker environment in particular have established legitimate businesses on the face of it, but where the circumstances seem somewhat suspicious.

### **3.4 Use of violence**

It is not possible to identify precisely the use of violence in connection with organised crime, one of the reasons being that crime within the criminal environment is rarely reported to the police.

According to information, which the police very seldom are able to document, there is, however, a clear indication that persons from the biker environment threaten particularly exposed individuals (criminals) to work for them.

### **3.5 Use of influence**

There were no signs in 2000 that organised crime has infiltrated public administration, law enforcement authorities or political circles.

### **3.6 Money laundering**

In 2000, a total of 249 reports were received from the financial sector, etc on the suspicion of money laundering against 337 cases in 1999, 357 in 1998 and 309 in 1997.

There was no proof that the cases from 2000 were related to organised crime.

#### **4. Locations and areas for criminal activity**

Most of the organised crime in Denmark was perpetrated in the major urban areas in 2000. Of course this does not mean that no criminal activities were observed in the less densely populated areas, but rather that crime moves to areas with a maximum potential of financial gain.

Denmark was, to some extent, used as a transit country in connection with crime, in particular in connection with trafficking in human beings, drugs, etc, primarily to Sweden and Norway.

Reference is made to the descriptions provided above in the report.

## 5. Law enforcement

Danish police are still seeking to adjust their efforts in proportion to the threat scenario.

### 5.1 National level

In 2000, the Steering Group for investigative support and transnational, organised crime was established.

The National Commissioner of Police is chairman of the steering group which also consists of representatives from the Association of Chief Constables, the Association of Chiefs of Police, the regional chiefs of police (the Copenhagen Commissioner of Police), the public prosecution and the departments under the National Commissioner. Other representatives may participate on an ad hoc basis, such as the Danish Customs and Tax authorities (Told•Skat).

This steering group continues the work which was previously done by the special steering group appointed in 1996 to deal with biker crime. The objective of the new steering group is, among other things, that the experience gained from the efforts to combat biker crime is exploited in general in the efforts to combat crime related to the individual police districts or across boundaries or which otherwise may be characterised as organised or complex from an investigative perspective. The steering group must thus discuss issues, for instance strategies in relation to the law enforcement efforts to combat crime as well as any other serious crime.

The establishment of the steering group coincides with the decision to establish regional investigative support centres (RECs) as well and should be seen as a further development and extension of the existing police investigative support centres (PSE centres) set up in Aalborg, Aarhus, Kolding, Odense and Copenhagen. The decision means that an investigative support centre

will be established in Slagelse in 2001. An investigative support centre is also to be established on Bornholm concurrently with Project Bornholm, in which the police will participate. Similar to what the National Centre of Investigative Support under the National Commissioner does on a national level, the regional investigative support centres must monitor and analyse on a regional level. The new steering group will operate as a support group in relation to the activities of the investigative support centres.

As a result of the new structure within the regional investigative support centres and the national investigative support centre, it is planned to set up an interlinked IT structure for the regional and the national investigative support activities.

The work of the steering group has, among other things, resulted in decisions concerning intensive supervision of socially inadequate young people and police efforts to combat ecstasy.

As agreed with the Danish Ministry of Justice, the steering group has decided that trafficking in women must be subjected to systematic police monitoring within the auspices of the REC/NEC. Reference is made to the special report on status as at June 2001 on the police efforts to combat trafficking in women, which has been attached to this report as appendix 2.

## **5.2 International level**

In 2000, Denmark was getting prepared for entering into the *Schengenland*. (Denmark joined the Schengen Agreement on 25 March 2001).

Furthermore, it should be emphasised that Danish police in 2000 continued to contribute to an active and close international cooperation in the struggle against organised crime within the framework of the intensive Nordic police and customs cooperation, also referred to as the PTN-cooperation, as well as the

"Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region" (Denmark holds the chairmanship of the Task Force in 2001 and 2002).

## **6. Conclusions**

### **6.1 Assessment of the threat posed by organised crime**

Organised crime continued to be committed in Denmark in 2000, but the organised crime rates in Denmark appeared, also this year at a relatively modest level. In certain areas, however, the organised crime rates in Denmark equalled the levels seen in other countries.

With the exception of the bikers, there is still nothing to indicate that internationally well-known criminal organisations have gained an actual foothold in Denmark. In this connection it should be noted that Denmark is one of several targets for organised crime perpetrated and arranged by Eastern European groups, but in 2000 Denmark seemed to be much less affected by this than her southern and eastern neighbouring countries.

### **6.2 Tendencies**

Flexibility and trans-national cooperation seem to be the identification mark of modern organised crime. For instance, it often appears that persons within a smuggling network supply to many buyers in several countries and work together in a variety of constellations.

Organised crime in Denmark has turned out to extend far beyond her borders. For instance, trafficking in women is typically organised in networks consisting of both Danish and foreign kingpins, and human trafficking appears as organised in ethnically controlled networks of groups in different countries.

Internationalisation has, to a considerable extent, spread parallelly with the proliferation of information technology. The majority of the Danish population and the Danish enterprises thus have access to the Internet, which renders it possible for them to communicate with individuals and businesses in other

countries. Criminal networks have indeed exploited this potential.

### **6.3 Prognoses**

The trends governing network organisation, internationalisation and increased use of technology, including information technology, are expected to become more significant in the future. Criminal individuals and groups will use IT tools to an increasing extent to commit their crimes directly, and as a means to cover up their actions or criminal proceeds.

The tendencies noted in crime development up until now point towards an increasing organisation of professional crime in Denmark. It has also been established that groups associated with organised crime focus primarily on the criminal proceeds and operate to a lesser extent than previously within a limited crime area. The criminals are thus extremely clever at adjusting themselves to the existing criminal market - nationally as well as internationally.

### **Appendix 1: Characteristics of organised crime**

At least six of the characteristics mentioned below must be present in order for a crime or a criminal group to be characterised as organised crime. Out of the six characteristics, nos 1, 3, 5 and 11 must in any event be fulfilled.

1. Collaboration of more than two persons,
2. Each with own appointed tasks,
3. For a prolonged or indefinite period or time,
4. Using some form of discipline and control,
5. Suspected of the commission of serious criminal offences,
6. Operating on an international level,
7. Using violence or other means suitable for intimidation,
8. Using commercial or businesslike structures,
9. Engaged in money laundering,
10. Exerting influence on politics, the media, public administration, the judicial authorities or the economy,
11. Determined by the pursuit of profit and/or power.