

NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE



**Status Report on Organised
Crime in Denmark in 2001**

COPENHAGEN – JUNE 2002

Contents

<u>Summary</u>	3
<u>1. Introduction</u>	5
<u>2. Method</u>	6
<u>3. Organised crime</u>	7
<u>3.1 GROUPS OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN ORGANISED CRIME</u>	7
<u>3.1.1 EUROPE</u>	7
<u>3.1.2 ASIA</u>	10
<u>3.1.3 AFRICA</u>	10
<u>3.1.4 AMERICA</u>	10
<u>3.2 Criminal offences committed by groups of persons</u>	11
<u>3.2.1 NARCOTICS</u>	11
<u>3.2.2 FRAUD</u>	16
<u>3.2.3 COUNTERFEITING</u>	17
<u>3.2.4 ARMED ROBBERY</u>	17
<u>3.2.5 KIDNAPPING</u>	17
<u>3.2.7 EXTORTION</u>	18
<u>3.2.7 VEHICLE THEFTS</u>	18
<u>3.2.8 “HIT-AND-RUN” THEFTS</u>	18
<u>3.2.10 OTHER FORMS OF THEFT/HANDLING OF STOLEN GOODS</u>	18
<u>3.2.10 ILLEGAL TRADE IN FIREARMS</u>	18
<u>3.2.11 SMUGGLING OF HUMAN BEINGS</u>	18
<u>3.2.12 TRAFFIC IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROSTITUTION</u>	19
<u>3.2.13 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY</u>	19
<u>3.2.14 IT CRIME</u>	20
<u>3.2.15 ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES</u>	20
<u>3.2.16 CIGARETTE SMUGGLING</u>	20
<u>3.3 Resources</u>	21
<u>3.4 The use of violence</u>	21
<u>3.5 Undue influence</u>	21
<u>3.6 Money laundering</u>	21
<u>4. Places and areas associated with criminal activity</u>	22
<u>5. Law enforcement</u>	23
<u>5.1 DOMESTIC</u>	23
<u>5.2 INTERNATIONAL</u>	23
<u>6. Conclusions</u>	24
<u>6.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT FROM ORGANISED CRIME</u>	24
<u>6.2 TRENDS</u>	24
<u>6.3 FORECASTS</u>	24
<u>Annex 1: Characteristics of organised crime</u>	25

Summary

This report has been drawn up as the Danish contribution to the combined EU status report on organised crime for 2001.

The report aims to present an objective picture of the crime situation, but is subject to some uncertainty.

The conclusions reached in the report and the status at the end of 2001/beginning of 2002 with regard to crime meeting the EU criteria for organised crime or bordering on these are as follows:

Although organised crime was committed in Denmark in 2001, it was at a relatively modest level, and – if biker crime is disregarded – there is little to suggest that internationally known criminal organisations have gained a real foothold in Denmark.

Biker crime, which is particularly widespread and serious in extent and nature, poses a major social problem. Biker crime in Denmark in 2001 continued to be dominated by people with links to the Hells Angels and Bandidos. The involvement of biker groups in wide-ranging crime is emphasised by the fact that a significant number of biker-related people were either held on remand or serving sentences during 2001.

The biker culture is subject to routine police monitoring, and the police therefore have detailed knowledge of the groups responsible. It is otherwise difficult, however, to estimate the number of people or groups involved in crime that comes within the definition of or borders on organised crime.

There is a clear trend towards more serious crime becoming increasingly complicated to investigate, as it is increasingly committed after careful planning and by several perpetrators (including by “stand-ins” who are coerced into crime by threats etc.), and crime is often cross-border in nature and committed using IT.

Street gangs in 2001 were primarily observed in the larger Danish cities and towns, while groupings similar to street gangs were also observed in smaller towns. The members of the street gangs are typically boys/youths of non-Danish ethnic background. People with links to street gangs and groupings similar to street gangs are involved to an ever increasing extent for instance in cannabis dealing, but more serious crime has also been committed by people from the street gangs in recent years.

The actual production of narcotics only takes place on an extremely limited scale in Denmark, but the smuggling of and dealing in narcotics represented a significant crime problem in 2001, as in previous years. Organised, cross-border crime is committed in connection with cannabis, heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs, including in particular amphetamines and ecstasy. A significant rise in the number of what are known as “hash clubs” has been noted in recent years, particularly in Copenhagen, controlled to a great extent by people with links to the street-gang culture, but the police have been given new powers to take action against “hash clubs” under new legislation.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Financial crime, including evasion of duties in relation to the EU, continued to pose a serious social problem in 2001.

Equipment for forging passports and other identity papers has been found in several places. Computers and other equipment such as scanners and laminating machines are used in this work.

A large proportion of the asylum-seekers who came to Denmark in 2001 arrived illegally and with the assistance of criminal networks.

The police effort to combat traffic in human beings in connection with exploitation for prostitution was accorded increased priority in 2001, 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 men behind the trafficking.

The majority of cases of child pornography in 2001 again related to possession of child pornography material, where images had been downloaded from the Internet. New child pornography again emerged in 2001, particularly on the Internet, and the content of the images appeared increasingly obscene and violent. Increased police priority has been allocated to this area and, together with the fact that international police collaboration is considered to have become well developed, means that the risk of detection is assumed to have increased.

Information Technology in 2001 was seen to an increasing extent to be a major element in a large number of cases of serious crime. This trend is expected to continue.

The smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax and duty, particularly cigarettes, is largely undertaken by Danes, but also by Lithuanians, who to some extent collaborate with Polish 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 2001. 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.

There was again no sign in 2001 that organised crime is in any way connected with undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or the police.

By far the majority of organised crime in Denmark was carried out in the larger urban areas in 2001. As previously, 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.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

1. Introduction

This status report has been drawn up by the National Police in collaboration with the Danish police districts on the basis of the current EU guidelines on organised crime. The report represents the Danish contribution to the combined EU status report on organised crime in 2001.

The report 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 international, as narcotics are only produced to an extremely limited extent in Denmark.

The account given describes the situation in 2001, identifies trends in crime and indicates the level of threat at the end of 2001/beginning of 2002. 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 standards, in particular 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.

The EU criteria for organised crime have been applied in delineating the groups of persons and types of crime covered by this report. These criteria are to be found in Appendix 1 to the report.

Against this background, the report deals firstly with a range of 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 2002.

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 by its nature difficult to assess, but there has been thorough qualitative evaluation of non-verifiable information. The inclusion of such 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 persons 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 – their ethnic background 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 in 2001 were involved in a broad and varied range of organised crime, for example narcotics crime, financial crime and the smuggling of highly-taxed goods. Biker groups and – to some extent – street gangs attracted particular attention in relation to organised crime and crime bordering on the criteria for organised crime, cf. below.

Biker groups

Biker crime is one of the forms of crime subject to routine police monitoring, and is one of the areas where monitoring is most well established. Routine police monitoring means that all relevant information is gathered and analysed by the police. The police consequently have extensive knowledge of biker culture in Denmark.

Denmark's biker culture is dominated by two groups: the Hells Angels and the Bandidos. There is evidence that the Hells Angels and Bandidos have in some way divided up the country between the groups.

Both groupings have support groups. The Hells Angels' support groups are organised under the name of the Red & White Support Crew, while the Bandidos' support groups are organised under the name of the Support X Team.

The number of members of the two "parent" organisations has remained relatively constant over recent years and is at a level that means that the groups are more or less equal in size. It is clear, at the same time, that the support groups have increased in size and membership in recent years.

The support groups can generally be described as consisting of young men who typically wish to attain permanent affiliation to the Hells Angels or Bandidos. To attain this status, they lend a hand, for instance by acting as guards at various events, but also to a significant extent by attending to the practical committing of criminal acts.

Following a Danish initiative, a report was prepared in the mid-1990s by the Europol Drugs Unit (the then 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" are a source of organised crime. In the view of the Danish police, this also applies to biker culture in Denmark.

People with links to biker culture in Denmark are involved in all forms of crime for

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

profit, including narcotics crime, the smuggling of contraband, theft, fraud and extortion. Crime is committed to a large extent with deliberate exploitation of the aura of violence that surrounds the biker culture. The latest trend in biker crime shows a steady increase in the use of "representative crime", where people who are not affiliated to or only have a peripheral affiliation to the biker culture are forced to commit crime and hand over the proceeds or most of the proceeds to biker-related people. In this connection, there are increasingly common examples of robbery, credit fraud, burglaries etc. committed on behalf of people affiliated to the biker culture.

In 2001 a very large and growing number of people affiliated to the Hells Angels and Bandidos were on remand or serving sentences. This may be regarded firstly as a clear and objective sign of the criminal activity of the biker culture and secondly as the result of a targeted police effort.

The routine monitoring of the biker culture provides a good basis for forward-looking investigation of biker crime. Biker-related people who are on remand or serving sentences include several who are considered to belong to the circles that set the tone.

It is generally agreed among the police that the police effort in future will have to be made even more consistent and targeted, partly so that action is taken as consistently as possible to deal with less serious contraventions of the law.

Consistent intervention to deal with less serious offences partly serves the aim of maintaining security and law and order, as the actions of the biker culture often cause a great sense of insecurity in local communities.

In very recent times (early 2002) several steps have been taken to intensify collaboration between the police, the Central Customs and Tax Administration and the local authorities. This collaboration appears very promising, and the fact that a number of local authorities and local communities have decided to take part in the effort to combat biker crime is also a very useful contribution.

The police are continuing to focus on the mutual relationships between the groups, including whether these are affected by power struggles such as are developing between the chapters of these groups in other countries around the world. The situation in other countries is not found have been significant for developments in Denmark. Killings and episodes of violence in the Danish biker culture over the course of the year led to intensified monitoring, but no evidence has been seen of these episodes having exacerbated the relationship between the groups. This may be partly due to a killing supposedly being part of the internal settling of a score, while the background to another death was apparently a fight that arose suddenly between people from the Hells Angels and a person with links to the Bandidos.

The effort to tackle biker crime provides a model for the police effort against other organised crime that emerges from special groupings. It should be mentioned in this connection that individual gangs that are not part of the traditional organised biker culture in relation to structure, leadership, criminal behaviour and collaboration with other criminal groupings appear to be developing in a direction that can be compared to the biker culture.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Street gangs

Street gangs in 2001 were primarily observed in the larger cities and towns in the country, but groupings similar to street gangs were also observed in smaller towns. The members of the street gangs are typically boys/youths with an immigrant background.

The members of street gangs were previously often involved in relatively less serious crime and other behaviour creating insecurity. In recent years, however, the crime committed by some street-gang members has become more serious and more organised. People from the street-gang culture in 2001 were involved for instance in attempted killings, violence, threats (debt collection and protection rackets), robberies from banks and shops, handling of stolen goods, narcotics crime and contraventions of weapon law.

People directly affiliated to or with links to the street-gang culture have in the past allegedly undertaken some distribution of cannabis through the 'hash clubs', but the police effort against the clubs has meant that this trade appears to have declined or moved elsewhere.

Contacts between biker groups and street gangs are of particular interest to the police. Both collaboration on criminal activities and confrontations between the groupings were observed in 2001.

People from EU countries

People from a number of EU countries were responsible for EU duty evasion in 2001 by the avoidance of VAT through "carousel fraud".

Citizens of EU countries have also been involved in organised crime through such activities as smuggling, dealing in narcotics, bank robberies and counterfeiting money.

Baltic peoples

Lithuanians in 2001 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.

Estonian criminals were linked among other things to serious robberies against banks.

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

Poles

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

Russians

Russians were rarely actually visible in the more organised criminal activities in Denmark, but in some cases Russians have been assumed to have been involved in the planning of criminal activities targeted at or encompassing Denmark.

Albanians

Ethnic Albanians – as has been the case in recent years – played an extremely important part in the organisation of the smuggling of heroin into the country in 2001. It is suspected, as was the case last year, that Albanians are behind a large proportion of the heroin smuggled into the Nordic countries.

Albanian groups have established themselves at strategic points along the smuggling routes from the Balkans via the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland in particular to Scandinavia. The link between Albanian groups in the Czech Republic and Scandinavia appears to be weakening, however. This trend has to be viewed in relation to the favourable results of investigations in 1999-2001. These investigations are being carried out primarily in co-operation between the Scandinavian countries and the Czech Republic.

Turks

Turkish criminal groupings are often under the control of clans, but autonomously established groups also exist. Turks are involved among other things in narcotics-related crime.

3.1.2 Asia

A significant proportion 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 are recruited in Thailand – often through other Thai women with links to the world of prostitution.

3.1.3 Africa

As in previous years, persons of Moroccan ethnic origin in 2001 were responsible for cannabis-related crime.

Somalis have been found to be involved in smuggling the euphoric substance khat. The quantities smuggled suggest that they are intended for distribution.

There is evidence in a number of cases that West Africans are involved to some extent in the smuggling of cocaine.

3.1.4 America

North Americans

Denmark is not considered to be a target for North American individual criminals or

criminal groups to any great degree. 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

Though 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 2001.

3.2 Criminal offences committed by groups of persons

3.2.1 Narcotics

General

The law-enforcement effort in the area of narcotics is primarily directed towards limiting the supply of narcotics. The law-enforcement 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.

Synthetic narcotics are made from various chemicals, which the chemical industry sells on and off licence sells both to other businesses and to private individuals. Control of these chemicals is therefore necessary in the effort mounted against the production of and dealing in synthetic narcotics. Detailed control of chemicals typically used in the production of synthetic narcotics (known as precursors) is exercised in co-operation between the Central Customs and Tax Administration and the police. The control rules are based on an EU Directive.

Performance-enhancing drugs, like precursors, are not narcotics, but the smuggling of performance-enhancing drugs into the country and dealing in them may show some similarities to the area of narcotics, and for this reason crime involving performance-enhancing drugs is included in this description. Performance-enhancing drug crime is regulated in a law prohibiting certain performance-enhancing drugs.

Cannabis

Morocco is thought (still) to be the most important supplier of cannabis to Denmark.

In 2001, a total of 1,762.7 kg of cannabis was seized in Denmark, divided between 5,788 seizures, representing a decrease in quantity in comparison with 2000, when 2,914.4 kg was seized, divided between 5,682 seizures.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

The decrease in the quantity of cannabis seized may be partly attributed to the fact that in several investigations there has been close international police co-operation, with investigations abroad taking place alongside the Danish investigation. In several of these cases cannabis thought to have been destined for Denmark has been seized abroad. A total of 1,011 kg cannabis thought to have been intended for Denmark was seized abroad. In 2000, only 88 kg where the cannabis is thought to have been intended for Denmark was seized.

Spain and the Netherlands remain the most important transit countries for the smuggling of cannabis into Denmark. It has been found in connection with several investigations that Danish citizens have been resident or spent time in these countries, where they have had close links with international criminal organisations responsible for smuggling cannabis.

It is thought that Denmark continues to play an important role in the smuggling of cannabis to the other Scandinavian countries.

Lorries are often used for the smuggling of larger quantities (over 100 kg), while cars, trains, aircraft and postal services are often used to smuggle smaller quantities of cannabis (less than 100 kg).

Cannabis is also known to be smuggled into Denmark from the East, often using 'suitcase couriers' or by using postal services, in which case the quantities involved are relatively smaller. Despite the smaller quantities and greater transport expenditure, this smuggling is a profitable business. This is because the quality (higher THC value) is generally better, so that a higher price is obtained than for cannabis from Morocco.

In the summer of 2001, the Danish Parliament (Folketing) passed a law prohibiting visiting particular premises, and an increased effort against the "hash clubs" is being mounted with the special instruments of this law. The number of known hash clubs was successfully reduced.

The "street price" of cannabis is typically between DKK 40 and 80 per gram. The wholesale price is estimated to be typically between DKK 12,000 and 15,000 per kilogram, depending on quantity and quality.

Heroin

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

The previous traditional routes through Iran and Turkey to the Balkan states appear to be undergoing change, and in this connection the trend noted in recent years appears to be continuing, so that more northerly routes through the central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan primarily to Minsk in Belarus and St Petersburg in Russia are now being used to a greater extent than previously. From here the heroin is smuggled into the countries of Western Europe. The new routes do not, however, appear to be used in connection with smuggling into Denmark on the same scale as in connection with smuggling into other Western European countries.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Criminal networks consisting of ethnic Albanians are considered, on the basis of police information, to be among those that set the tone in relation to the smuggling of heroin into the Danish heroin market. There is evidence, however, that other groupings are also involved in the smuggling of heroin into Denmark. People of Pakistani background in particular appear to be behind the smuggling particularly of white heroin into Denmark.

A total of 25.1 kg heroin was seized in Denmark in 2001. This represents a sharp decrease in comparison with 2000, when a total of 32.08 kg was seized. In addition, one of the seizures in 2001 itself amounted to 14.6 kg heroin, which was seized in Copenhagen.

A decrease in the number of seizures can also be observed, with 1304 seizures in 2001 compared with 1499 in 2000.

Since the terrorist attack in the United States on 11 September 2001 and subsequent developments in Afghanistan, there has been much speculation as to how prices will develop in the heroin market. In the first few months after the terrorist attack, prices seemed to be unaffected. Subsequently there has, however, been a sharp rise in the price of heroin. At the beginning of 2002, prices for brown heroin imported into Denmark had risen by up to 40%.

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

Cocaine

It is believed that the Colombian drugs cartels continue to account for most world production (approx. 80 %) of cocaine. The American authorities in recent years have launched a massive effort to counter cocaine smuggling into the United States, and it is felt that this has contributed towards Colombian producers having given greater priority to the European market.

Cocaine is sent in very large quantities (sometimes up to between 3 and 10 tonnes) by ship from South America to Europe. Significant quantities of cocaine are also smuggled from South America and the Caribbean to Europe using couriers travelling by air. The couriers carry the substance on their bodies, in prefabricated luggage or internally, and often use very elaborate routes to make it more difficult for the authorities to detect them.

The customs authorities at Copenhagen's international airport in Kastrup, in co-operation with the Swedish customs authorities, in 2001 undertook a number of analyses (profiles) of travellers on what are referred to as "risk flights" – primarily flights from or connecting with flights from South America. This led to a total of nine seizures of between 400 grams and 1.6 kilograms of cocaine.

In 2001, a total of 25.6 kilograms of cocaine was seized in 815 seizures in Denmark. In the previous year a total of around 35.9 kg was seized in 780 seizures.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Approximately 14 kilograms was seized during the course of 2001 at Copenhagen's international airport in Kastrup.

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 backed up by the rise in the number of seizures and of cases reaching the courts in 2001, in which primarily criminal networks consisting of people with links to the biker culture and foreigners resident here have organised the smuggling of cocaine into Denmark. Court cases likewise indicate that significant quantities of cocaine are also sold and consumed in the provinces.

The rise in travel activity among the population together with technological development in the world of communication has additionally led to closer contact and easier access to the purchasing and subsequent smuggling of cocaine. In several cases in 2001 smaller distributors have even had direct contact with men behind the trade in South America, after which several kilograms have been sent to Denmark by air courier.

Criminal networks of ethnic Albanians, who previously were responsible solely for the smuggling of brown heroin, have in some cases been involved in the smuggling of cocaine into Denmark and several other Nordic countries.

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 have also been seized, however.

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

In 2001, a total of 160.6 kg of amphetamines was seized, divided between 954 seizures. In 2000, a total of 57.1 kg of amphetamines was seized, divided between 1152 seizures. The sharp difference in the total quantity seized in 2000 and 2001 is partly related to several large cases in 2001 involving seizures of 62 kg, 39 kg, 20 kg and 10 kg of amphetamines. The 160.6 kg of amphetamines represents the largest annual seizure ever in Denmark. The previous highest seizure was 119 kg in 1999. Over a ten-year period, the quantity seized has typically been around 25 kg a year.

The 62 kg of seized amphetamines is thought to have been destined for the Norwegian narcotics market. The other large seizures are thought mainly to have been intended for the Danish narcotics market.

The investigation of cases relating to dealing in and smuggling amphetamines shows that people with links to the biker culture are involved to a significant extent.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Seizures of amphetamines are made in all areas of the country, and it is considered, on the basis of information from the country's police forces, that sales of amphetamines are now also taking place outside the large cities.

The quality and price of amphetamines varied over the course of the year. The amphetamines are generally seen to be of "good quality" and therefore devoid of "toxic" substances. The price of amphetamines depends partly on quantity and partly on the strength of amphetamine sulphate. The average strength of amphetamines is found, according to the "street surveys" of the institutes of forensic chemistry, to vary from year to year.

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 primarily produced in the Netherlands.

In 2001, 150,080 seized tablets were registered, divided between 331 seizures. This is the largest annual seizure of ecstasy to date in Denmark. 107,753 tablets were seized in May at Copenhagen Airport. The investigation showed that the tablets were destined for the American market and were only intended to have passed through Denmark. By comparison, 21,608 tablets divided between 444 seizures were seized in 2000.

To strengthen the national surveillance of ecstasy, the National Police and the National Board of Health decided in the summer of 2000 to launch a project, partly with the aim of acquiring knowledge of the ingredients and the concentration of active substance in ecstasy tablets and any changes in these over time. The police are using the project to identify patterns and relationships in crime, so that targeted investigations can be launched against the criminal networks and organisations behind the smuggling of ecstasy and dealing in ecstasy.

The situation in the Danish ecstasy market in 2001, despite a smaller number of seizures than in 2000, featured substantially larger ecstasy seizures in terms of quantity than previously. The smuggling and distribution of ecstasy to and on the Danish market is therefore estimated in 2001 to have increased in comparison with previous years. The estimate conceals geographical differences, as demand for ecstasy in some police districts appears to be influenced in a downward direction by the ecstasy-related deaths that occurred in 2000.

It is generally judged that the Danish ecstasy market to a significant degree is dominated by different groups of people than those traditionally focused on in connection with narcotics. A relatively large number of those charged with and suspected of ecstasy-related offences are found to be unknown to the police. Dealing in ecstasy may, however, also be related to a large extent to people with links to the biker culture.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

Prices for ecstasy are tending to fall. The “street” price per tablet is DKK 50-125, compared with DKK 100-150 in 2000. The lowest prices are in North and South Jutland.

Other types of synthetic narcotics

The market for synthetic narcotics is dominated by amphetamines and ecstasy, but other products also seem to some extent to be making inroads into the Danish drugs scene.

Chemical surveillance

The Central Customs and Tax Administration and the police co-operate successfully on checks and co-operate 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 narcotics.

Partly on the basis of this co-operation, investigations were undertaken leading to the discovery of some illegal laboratories in Denmark.

Performance-enhancing drugs

The international situation in the area of performance-enhancing drugs is developing as the market for these products steadily grows. Dealing in and abuse of performance-enhancing drugs take place both among sports professionals and in amateur sport and at health and fitness centres.

In all, 260 seizures of a total of 254,638 units of performance-enhancing drugs were made in 2001. In 2000, 325 seizures of a total of 133,874 units were reported to the National Police. The largest number of seizures of performance-inducing drugs were made by the customs service in connection with checks on people entering the country and on parcels sent by post.

Smuggling and dealing in these preparations in many cases is undertaken by people who are associated with dealing in narcotics, including people with links to the biker culture.

In addition to increased smuggling of these preparations, growth hormone is increasingly the object of theft and illegal dealing.

3.2.2 Fraud

Investment fraud

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

EU duty evasion

There have been several cases in which various types of financial crime have led to losses in relation to the financial interests of the Community. Co-operation takes place

with OLAF to clear up these cases.

Insurance fraud

An investigation took place in 2001 into a case of large-scale insurance fraud in connection with the theft in Denmark of expensive cars which were driven to Germany and registered on forged Latvian papers. The cars were then sold on to other European countries. It is suspected that the cars were used as payment for narcotics.

3.2.3 Counterfeiting

A total of 1,000 cases involving counterfeit money were registered in 2001, compared with 845 cases in 2000. 763 cases related to Danish currency (including two cases involving coins) with a total face value of around DKK 1,900,000, while 237 cases related to foreign currencies, including 109 involving US dollars.

As well as Denmark, several European countries have been involved in cases of money counterfeiting relating to US dollars, in co-operation with Europol. The quality of the counterfeit dollar bills, as well as intelligence and investigation, painted a picture of production being related to organised crime, committed among others by Eastern Europeans. In a number of cases of counterfeit dollar bills it has been people from Lithuania who have attempted to change the notes.

In a biker-related case of dealing in narcotics, very lifelike counterfeit Danish notes were found, produced by a technique not previously observed.

Equipment for forging passports and other identity papers has been found in several places. The work is carried out using computers and other equipment such as scanners and laminating machines and has mainly provided people from non-EU countries with these documents. In some cases it has been found that people holding these documents have tried to enter countries such as the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

3.2.4 Armed robbery

Figures charting the development in the number of particularly dangerous robberies in 2001 show that, in comparison with previous years, there was a marked increase in the number of particularly dangerous robberies primarily targeting public offices, filling stations and valuables in transit.

It has become clear in several court cases that people from the biker culture have induced other people (criminals) to commit armed robbery by threatening them. At the same time, foreign organised networks have been involved in robberies on banks, with French and Estonian citizens, among others, having carried out armed robberies.

3.2.5 Kidnapping

The number of reports of persons being illegally deprived of their liberty rose from 13 in 1999 to 25 in 2000, but fell in 2001 to 20. None of the cases could, however, be regarded as kidnapping that formed part of organised crime.

3.2.7 Extortion

As part of the general monitoring of crime committed by persons connected with the biker groups, it has been established that extortion is among these crimes. The number of reported cases rose from 115 in 2000 to 145 in 2001.

3.2.7 Vehicle thefts

It is not possible to establish with certainty the number of vehicles stolen in connection with organised crime. It has previously been estimated that around 500 vehicles a year are stolen and then shipped abroad, but an unspecified number of these are involved in non-organised insurance fraud. The police did not come into possession of information causing them to revise this view in 2001.

The thefts relate particularly to more expensive cars, which are shipped abroad, for example to Eastern Europe.

3.2.8 "Hit-and-run" thefts

These thefts are known in Denmark as "ram-raids". Many thefts of this kind took place in eastern and northern Jutland in 2001.

There is a great deal of evidence to suggest that the perpetrators are to be found among people with links to the Danish biker culture and in Polish criminal circles.

3.2.10 Other forms of theft/handling of stolen goods

In a number of cases a Russian citizen committed large-scale thefts from cash dispensers, using copied credit cards to withdraw cash. The person concerned had close links with right-wing extremist groups in Denmark.

There were also a large number of well-planned burglaries in Zealand in 2001, in which expensive television/HiFi equipment and other valuable objects were stolen. Investigations suggest that the perpetrators had links with the biker culture.

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 Appendix 1 for organised crime. Nevertheless, it continued to be found that biker groups and certain street gangs were in possession of weapons to a considerable extent.

3.2.11 Smuggling of human beings

Most organised smuggling of human beings into Denmark in 2001 took place overland 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 number of cases that human smuggling networks have had equipment for the production of forged passports, driving licences, credit cards etc. at their disposal.

Some human smuggling networks were also involved in the smuggling of narcotics.

There is evidence that groups from the former Yugoslavia in particular are well organised and operate in networks in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Denmark. Chinese groups have also been observed, using Denmark as a transit country for the onward journey to North America.

3.2.12 Traffic in human beings and prostitution

A special monitoring effort to combat trafficking in human beings in connection with exploitation for prostitution was launched in 2001.

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

3.2.13 Child pornography

In 2001, charges were brought against 90 people in connection with child pornography material. 32 of these were charged with distribution and 58 with possession.

New child pornography material emerged in 2001, particularly on the Internet, and the pictures appeared increasingly obscene.

It is assumed that the actual organised production of child pornography material takes place primarily in Eastern Europe and Asia. There appears to be an increase in the abuse of children of European appearance. Some of the images have been found to have been produced in the Baltic countries, Russia and the United States.

In some cases child pornographic material has been produced in Denmark which is distributed via the Internet to people in several countries. The images have not, however, been found to be available on a Danish server (with *.dk domain).

It has not been possible to make reliable estimates of the number of members of paedophile networks in Denmark, because the networks are very closed. The perception of the networks being closed was backed up in 2001 by a case showing that it is only possible for people to enter paedophile circles if they can supply material themselves. Recent cases have shown that the networks have a hierarchical structure, with a form of "promotion" taking place in the network in the distribution of new and "different" image material.

The exchange of child pornography material typically took place in international networks of relatively autonomous participants. These networks again used highly sophisticated technology in 2001, for example making use of video technology (webcams). The criminal acts must therefore be characterised as well planned and technically advanced.

STATUS REPORT ON ORGANISED CRIME IN DENMARK IN 2001

It can generally be said that paedophiles who use the Internet have a great insight into the medium and continuously guide each other on new anonymity software and on actions that are taken by the authorities against the paedophile networks and revealed during court cases.

Greater priority has been given to the police effort in this area. International co-operation has also undergone further development. The risk of detection is consequently considered to have risen. This effect is boosted by the fact that the child pornography networks are often connected, so that investigating one network often provides a basis for investigating other networks.

3.2.14 IT crime

The use of IT is an important element in a wide range of cases of serious crime.

As in previous years, there were a large number of examples of illegal copying and sale of programs, games and music in 2001, together with other multimedia products. In addition, there have been cases of criminal Swedish networks using forged credit cards to buy goods from Danish e-commerce firms with a view to delivery to fictitious addresses in Sweden.

IT-related crime is expected to follow general developments in the electronic communication and production industries, and will therefore probably increase substantially over the next few years. It should be added that IT, for example mobile phones and the Internet, plays an ever greater role as an instrument for organising many different types of crime. This trend is expected to continue.

3.2.15 Environmental offences

The number of reports of contraventions of the Environment Act is on the increase again after a period of decline. An increase in contraventions of the provisions of the Washington Convention has been noted in particular.

It does not appear possible to classify environmental offences in Denmark in 2001 as actual organised crime, as defined by the EU criteria in Appendix 1.

3.2.16 Cigarette smuggling

The smuggling of goods subject to high levels of tax and duty, particularly cigarettes, in 2001 was largely undertaken by Danes, but also by Lithuanians, who to some extent collaborated with Poles.

The cigarettes were mainly smuggled into Denmark concealed in ordinary cargo on lorries. In some cases the cigarettes were carried by coaster from Lithuania to Denmark.

The cigarettes were generally concealed in pallets, but it was also found that attempts had been made to smuggle cigarettes among the transported goods. The number of smuggled cigarettes varied, but the quantities involved were usually between 700,000 and 2,000,000.

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 2001. 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 culture 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 practice 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 from the biker culture.

3.5 Undue influence

There was again no sign in 2001 that organised crime is in any way connected with undue influence on public administration, the law enforcement authorities or the police.

3.6 Money laundering

There were a total of 319 reports in 2001 from the credit and finance sector of suspected money laundering, compared with 249 in 2000, 337 in 1999, 357 in 1998 and 309 in 1997. As in previous years, there was no evidence of the cases in 2001 being related to organised crime.

4. Places and areas associated with criminal activity

By far the majority of organised crime in Denmark was carried out in the larger urban areas in 2001.

As previously, 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.

Reference should otherwise be made to the descriptions in the report.

5. Law enforcement

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

5.1 Domestic

The work begun in the Steering Group established in 2000 relating to the investigation support centres and cross-border organised crime continued throughout 2001. The Steering Group therefore continued its work of discussing topics, for example strategies, in relation to the law-enforcement effort against biker crime and other serious crime.

The preparatory work on starting systematic police monitoring of traffic in women was completed in the spring of 2001 with a status report on the area. The report showed that there was a need to prioritise a police effort to combat the traffic in women.

5.2 International

Denmark acceded to the practical Schengen co-operation on 25 March 2001. No changes have been noted in the pattern of crime that can be attributed to Danish accession to the practical Schengen co-operation.

The Danish police in 2001 continued to contribute actively to close and targeted international co-operation to combat organised crime, including within the framework of the intensive Nordic police and customs co-operation, known as the PTN Co-operation, as well as the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region. Denmark chaired the Task Force in 2001. This chairmanship continues until the end of 2004. Co-operation in the Task Force has led to the initiation of systematic co-operation to combat Baltic and Polish gangs, among others, who are involved in organised crime in a number of the participating countries.

The topic of traffic in women was also accorded priority under the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region, and this has resulted in an agreement on the ad hoc posting of Baltic liaison officers to Denmark, which was of significant benefit at both the strategic and operational levels.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Assessment of the threat from organised crime

Organised crime continued to be committed in Denmark in 2001, but organised crime again appeared to be at a relatively modest level during this year. In some areas, however, organised crime in Denmark was on a par with the level seen in other countries.

There is still nothing to suggest that internationally known criminal organisations have gained a real foothold in Denmark, if the biker groups are disregarded. It was noted in particular that Denmark is one of several targets for the organised crime perpetrated and mediated by Eastern European and Central European groups, including Baltic and Polish groups.

People with links to the biker culture are heavily involved in crime of an organised nature.

6.2 Trends

Organised crime in Denmark has been affected by trends towards co-operation in networks, and flexibility and co-operation across national frontiers seems to be a characteristic feature of modern organised crime. It is often found, for example, that people in smuggling networks deliver to many different customers in several countries and work together in varying constellations.

There is a clear trend towards more serious crime becoming increasingly complicated to investigate, as it is increasingly committed after careful planning and by several perpetrators (including by “stand-ins” who are coerced into crime by threats etc.), and crime is often cross-border in nature and committed using IT.

6.3 Forecasts

Network organisation, internationalisation and increased use of technology, including IT, is expected to be further strengthened in the future.

The trends seen in the development of crime to date point to increasingly sophisticated professional organisation of crime in Denmark. It has also been shown that groups that can be linked to organised crime focus primarily on the profits of crime, and operate within a restricted area of crime less often than in the past. Criminals are therefore highly adaptable within the existing criminal market, both domestic and international.

The use and exploitation of other people from criminal groupings by the biker culture, for example to commit serious crime, may be expected to continue in the future.

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. 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