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ORGANISED
CRIME
IN
DENMARK
IN 2005

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Summary

Background

The purpose of this report, which has been drawn up on the basis of the information held by the police, is to present development trends in organised crime in Denmark.

Conclusion

The overall conclusion of the report is that organised crime is continuously committed in Denmark, particularly crimes rooted in the biker environment and crime committed by certain other criminal groups and networks that consist primarily of young men of a non-Danish ethnic background.

Organised crime in Denmark was, however, also in 2005 generally committed at a relatively low level compared to other countries.

Status

The biker environment, which requires substantial law enforcement measures, is still massively involved in crime that may be characterised as organised, including offences against life and body, robberies, drug crimes, smuggling of heavily taxed goods, threats and various forms of financial crime. Similarly, certain companies and associations affiliated with the biker groups are believed to be involved in organised financial crimes.

Several other criminal groups and networks involved in serious crime had been established in several Danish towns in 2005. These criminal groups and networks, consisting primarily of young men of a different ethnic origin than Danish, are to a certain extent involved in activity in the nature of organised crime.

Real production of controlled drugs is only seen to a highly limited extent in Denmark, whereas drug smuggling and trafficking constituted a significant criminal problem also in 2005. Organised, cross-border drugs crime involved, for example, cannabis, heroin, cocaine and synthetic controlled drugs, including amphetamines and ecstasy in particular. The dissemination of drugs in small towns and local communities has grown, and drug prices show a falling trend, apparently indicating a rising supply of controlled drugs.

Crimes involving credit cards are a rising problem, particularly related to skimming. In several cases, organised criminal groups have provided the credit card terminals of retail shops with special electronic devices designed to read

credit card data and pin codes, by means of which it has been possible to misuse the data of the shoppers' credit cards.

The number of especially dangerous robberies showed a declining trend in 2005 as well. However, available information is still indicating that people affiliated with the biker groups have threatened other persons to commit robberies.

The reinforced police activity to combat human trafficking, including exploitation of women for prostitution (procuring etc.), produced several cases in 2005 in which women from Central and East Europe (particularly the Czech Republic and Hungary), from Asia (mainly Thailand), and to a rising extent from Africa (primarily West African countries) were exploited in connection with prostitution.

Smuggling of heavily taxed goods, cigarettes primarily, seems to be internationally organised to a high extent.

The volume of turnover and profits generated from organised crime is generally very difficult to assess. However, profits are estimated to be high, since the proceeds are usually created in areas in which lawful activity is subject to not insignificant taxes and duties or areas in which the activity cannot be completed lawfully.

In 2005, there were also no signs of organised crime concerned with undue influence on public administration, law enforcement agencies or the political environment.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present developments in organised crime in Denmark in 2005 based on the information held by the police.

The report was drawn up by the Office of the National Commissioner, mainly on the basis of contributions from the police districts and the information that is collected, processed and analysed by NEC, the National Commissioner's National Investigative Support Centre, as part of its nationwide systematic police monitoring of cross-border and organised crime.

The definition of organised crime is based on the common criteria applied by the EU states.

The report describes conditions in Denmark primarily. To some extent the information is presented in an international context.

The report was prepared for publication and therefore does not include information relating to identifiable persons or other sensitive disclosures.

2. Methods

The report has been prepared and structured, to the widest possible extent, in conformity with the principles established as part of international police collaboration, including the crime analysis principles applied by Europol.

Danish criminal legislation does not include any separate provisions that define organised crime. However, the Danish Criminal code includes certain provisions concerned with perpetrators acting in association, for example.

In defining the groups of criminals and types of crime comprised by this report, the common criteria applied by the EU states have been taken into account. These criteria are shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

Against this background, the report describes criminal groups and networks as well as a number of crime forms that are in the nature of being organised.

The report was prepared predominantly on the basis of information received from the country's police districts, including information collected as part of the nationwide, systematic monitoring of cross-border and organised crime conducted by the National Police, and from foreign collaboration partners. Data were collected continuously through 2005 and the collection ended in the spring of 2006.

The report is aimed to give an overview of the crime situation. Assessments and conclusions are as far as possible based on objective data, including completed criminal trials. However, the objective of the report has made it necessary to use information of a non-verifiable nature to a certain extent, including assessments made by police officers who are or have been involved in the investigation of relevant criminal cases. The validity of non-verifiable information is difficult to assess, but all such information has been subjected to thorough qualitative evaluation. The incorporation of non-verifiable information means, however, that the assessments and conclusions of the report are subject to a certain degree of uncertainty.

The scope and nature of the systematic collection of relevant information by the police may vary across various areas of crime. The basis of information, including the proportion between objective data and information that cannot be documented directly, is therefore also not consistent for all areas of crime.

3. Organised crime

3.1 Groups of individuals

The starting point for the description in this section of individuals or groups who take part in organised crime is – along the guidelines determined in the European Union – the ethnic background and not the citizenship of those involved. In addition, the focus is on the nature and extent of crime, as well as the report describes the groups who were the subject of special police interest in 2005.

3.1.1 Europe

Danish citizens

Individuals and networks with a Danish ethnic background were involved in a broad and varied spectrum of organised crime in 2005 such as drugs crime, financial crime, human trafficking, including exploitation of persons for prostitution, robberies and smuggling of heavily taxed goods.

The biker environment

Through several years, the biker environment has attracted special police interest.

Police investigations in 2005 confirmed that individuals affiliated with the biker groups are still massively involved in crimes against life and body, robberies, drugs crime, commodity smuggling, intimidation and various types of financial crime.

The law enforcement measures against the bikers in the past have had the consequence that several of the full members of the groups were either held in custody or serving detention sentences through 2005. This impaired the groups' activities and, as a result, made individuals affiliated with the biker groups seek to escape law enforcement by taking up residence outside Denmark.

For example, Hells Angels in Denmark have been part of setting up chapters in Northern Ireland and Curacao, while Bandidos in Denmark are expanding their activities in Asia, for example.

The biker support groups have been discontinued or dissolved on an ongoing basis. The leading members of these support groups have subsequently been enrolled in the parent organisations, so in reality it has more been a

reorganisation of the groups. The root cause of this reorganisation has allegedly been the parent organisations' problems with discipline in the support groups. In addition, a number of serious cases of violent crime and robberies committed by members of the support groups were seen as a burden on the biker groups.

Other criminal groups and networks

A number of other criminal groups and networks with no direct association with the bikers had been established in several Danish towns in 2005. The members of these groups and networks are, to a wide extent, young men with a non-Danish ethnic background.

The criminal groups are involved in activities in the nature of organised crime, for which reason intensive police measures are taken against them based on a strategy defined in June 2005 for reinforced action against criminal groups and networks involved in serious crime. This strategy means that the previous biker strike launched on the basis of an action plan from 2002 is adjusted and extended to comprise also the crime groups and networks that are taking over some of the bikers' traditional profit areas.

The reinforced measures are aimed at controlling crime and also represent society's reaction against the criminal groups and networks, primarily in order to constrain recruitment for the groups and networks and ensure general rejection of these environments.

Based on systematic, nationwide collection, processing and analysis of information from relevant sources and national and international collaboration partners etc. the police pinpoint specific targets for intensive and focused criminal investigations.

Criminal investigations are conducted by the police districts, for example by joint investigating teams involving officers from the National Police, using the legislative and investigative options available to the highest possible extent. In that connection, it is sought systematically to track down, seize and confiscate the proceeds of crime.

The positive experience gained from the strike against the bikers, deploying a broad spectrum of measures and involving all relevant authorities, also in order to identify financial and tax conditions that can lead to other penalties than criminal sanctions, is also used in relation to the groups and networks targeted by the reinforced measures.

In addition, the law enforcement agencies initiate systematic control combined with uniformed police activity aimed at the relevant groups and networks, intervening consistently whenever they detect contraventions of the law. The purpose of these systematic initiatives is partly to eliminate the attractiveness of links with these groups and networks and partly to give the police in-depth knowledge of the suspected environments, thus making it possible to identify targets for specific investigation.

It is endeavoured to take law enforcement steps against crime groups and networks with the necessary speed and consistency, through detention and sentence enforcement, for example.

Relations between biker environments and other crime groups and networks attract special police interest. In 2005, as in previous years, the police observed both cooperation on criminal activity and confrontations between the various groups. In several cases, other crime groups and networks, often armed, have taken over the areas of activity of the biker groups in certain criminal contexts, including cannabis trafficking.

The strength position and thus the balance of power between biker groups and other crime groups and networks shifted significantly during 2005. The change was, for example, evident in connection with minor confrontations between biker groups and other criminal groups. In several cases the biker groups remained passive in the face of provocative behaviour from other criminal groups.

Individuals from EU states

In 2005, individuals from several EU states were involved – most frequently in association with Danes – in activities such as drugs crime, smuggling heavily taxed goods, financial crime and human trafficking, including exploitation of women for prostitution (procuring), etc.

Persons from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)

Several persons from the Baltic States were involved in cases concerned with prostitution and human trafficking in 2005.

In connection with the seizure of eight kg of methamphetamine and 87,000 Rohypnol tablets in Denmark, two Lithuanian citizens were arrested.

Lithuanians were also believed to be associated with smuggling counterfeit cigarettes, having Denmark as the country of destination or transit. This smuggling was often organised in collaboration with Lithuanians resident in Denmark.

In addition, Lithuanian crime networks carried through extensive thefts from cars, thefts of luxury cars and expensive trucks and burglary of private homes, and they were involved in robberies against Lithuanians resident in Denmark.

Citizens from Poland

The police detected several cases in which Poles were involved in activity in the nature of organised crime, including ram raids against particularly jeweller's and electronics shops and drugs crime, notably smuggling of amphetamine.

In addition, Polish crime networks were involved in robberies and serial theft.

Russians

Russians are rarely visible in more organised criminal activities in Denmark. However, indications suggest that persons with a Russian background are aiming their criminal activity against Denmark.

Serbs and others

Through 2005, Serbian crime networks were involved in smuggling drugs, heroin in particular. These networks, apparently with connections in the Montenegro area in Ex-Yugoslavia, seem increasingly to be taking a leading role particularly in the smuggling of heroin into Denmark. This trend also seems to be an international one, since similar involvement in other parts of Northern and Western Europe has been reported.

Previously, the police believed that the Serbian crime networks were primarily engaged in the smuggling and distribution of heroin. Developments through the past few years have, however, shown that these networks have gradually changed behaviour and are now involved in other forms of profit oriented crime to a far higher degree.

In addition, the Serbian criminal networks have been proved to have relations with the biker groups.

Albanians

Ethnic Albanians are continuously involved in heroin smuggling and they are also increasingly involved in trafficking other forms of drugs, particularly cocaine.

3.1.2 The Middle East

Lebanese citizens

In 2005, Lebanese citizens were found to be involved in the smuggling and distribution of drugs, cocaine and cannabis primarily.

3.1.3 Asia

A significant number of the women who are part of the Danish prostitution environment have been recruited in Thailand and frequently via other Thai women who are in Denmark already. Several of these Thai women are assumed to have come to Denmark via pro forma marriages to Danish men.

3.1.4 Africa

Somalis

Somalis have in recent years been involved in the smuggling and distribution of khat, a narcotic substance traditionally misused in the Somali culture. 2005 saw several cases concerned with the smuggling of khat to Sweden via Denmark, in which young Swedish nationals were used as couriers.

Nigerians

The information available to the police seems to indicate that Nigerians, and to some extent persons from other West African countries, were the backers behind major cases in 2005 concerned with the smuggling of drugs to Denmark.

In addition, the share of West African women, including Nigerian women, in the prostitution environment in Denmark is rising.

“Nigerian letters” (advance payment fraud that can be traced to Nigeria) and similar forms of attempted fraud continue to be a widespread phenomenon in Denmark.

Moroccans

There were several cases in 2005 concerned with Moroccans involved in smuggling heroin and cannabis into Denmark.

3.1.5 America

North Americans

Denmark is not assessed to be a special target for North American criminals. However, Danish police are aware of the special links between certain criminal groupings due to the international structure of the biker groups.

South Americans

Even though no specific information indicates any direct involvement of South American criminal groups, networks or cartels in organised crime in Denmark,

it is assumed that in 2005, as in previous years, South Americans were behind part of the supply of cocaine to Europe, including the Danish market.

A large number of the couriers arrested in Copenhagen Airport in connection with cocaine smuggling are South American nationals.

Otherwise, several prostitutes in Denmark are of South American origin.

3.2 Criminal acts

3.2.1 Drugs

General

The law enforcement action in the drugs area is aimed primarily to restrict the supply of controlled drugs. The police forces responsible for investigating criminal offences have special focus on action to combat drug smuggling and trafficking. The customs and tax authorities play a significant role in the Danish law enforcement effort in the drugs area, particularly in connection with border control and checking chemicals capable of being used to manufacture synthetic drugs. The international collaboration between law enforcing agencies is also of great importance, since drugs crime is frequently of a cross-border nature. It should be noted in this connection that drugs are only manufactured in Denmark to an extremely limited extent.

Table 1: Survey of the number of seizures and seized quantities of drugs for the full year

	Amphet- amine	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Heroin	Cocaine
Number of seizures 2004	1,388	7,309	505	1,041	1,207
Number of seizures 2005	1,576	10,292	462	1,064	1,617
Quantity seized 2004	63.1 kg	1,385 kg	38,096 tablets	37.5 kg	32.3 kg
Quantity seized 2005	195 kg	1,406 kg	44,195 tablets	27 kg	57 kg

Cannabis

The most important producing country in relation to cannabis smuggled into and distributed in Denmark is continuously estimated to be Morocco – and the distribution still takes place primarily via the Netherlands and Spain.

In 2005, the total volume of cannabis seized in Denmark was approx. 1,406 kg. The number of cannabis seizures was 10,292. In addition, large quantities of cannabis seized abroad had Denmark as the presumed country of destination and, in the Nordic countries, large quantities of cannabis seized had transited Denmark.

The total quantity of cannabis seized rose relative to 2004, due especially to a major campaign by the uniformed police to clamp down on the cannabis environment in and around the free city of Christiania.

Cannabis is typically smuggled into Denmark by means of passenger cars or lorries and to a certain extent on board ships.

The biker groups play a key role in the smuggling and distribution of cannabis in Denmark. They do it using a base in Denmark but also via persons who stay in countries near the areas of production.

In 2005, there were examples of persons with links to other crime groups and networks who tried to set up shop on the cannabis market in Denmark.

The street price of cannabis, which has not changed significantly for many years, is typically around DKK 50 per gram. The wholesale price seems to be moving to a lower level than previously, depending on quantity and quality, and prices as low as approx. DKK 10,000 per kg have been reported.

The action to crack down on cannabis trading in Christiania does not seem to have had any major knock-on effect on the supply, demand or pricing of cannabis in Denmark. This corroborates the assumption of ample supplies of cannabis in Denmark and the consolidated position of the backers. It is also estimated that new actors have entered the cannabis market. They step in when the authorities have stopped known perpetrators.

Heroin

The far greater part of the heroin seized in Denmark is still believed to be from South West Asia.

In 2005, 27 kg of heroin was seized in Denmark, which is a decline relative to 2004. The number of seizures rose marginally from 1,041 in 2004 to 1,064 in 2005.

The police have not detected any significant changes in the modus operandi as regards smuggling methods and perpetrators.

It is still believed that a significant portion of the heroin is smuggled through the Balkan states towards Western and Northern Europe and that criminal groups and networks in and from the Balkans are primarily behind the smuggling activity. Information held by the police also suggests that the “Silk Route” north-east of the Caspian Sea via Russia to Eastern Europe is used to smuggle heroin that has Denmark as its country of destination or transit. It should be noted here that Denmark frequently serves as a transit country for heroin smuggled to Sweden and Norway.

The average street price per gram of heroin is estimated to be between DKK 800 and 1,000 for white heroin and DKK 500 for brown heroin. This is somewhat lower than in 2004 and price levels vary considerably around the country.

Cocaine

In Denmark, 1,617 cases of seizure of cocaine, with a total weight of 57 kg, were registered in 2005. This is a substantial increase relative to the total volume of 32.3 kg in 2004.

Investigations in recent years suggest that the illicit market for cocaine in Denmark (and the Nordic countries) is significantly larger than the quantities suggested by the volumes seized.

Based on investigations through 2005 it is otherwise the assumption that cocaine is the drug in steepest growth among drug abusers in Denmark.

The greater part of the more substantial seizures in Denmark were made in airports with international flight services.

Cocaine smuggling by airplane is still dominated by persons linked with South America. Several cases have shown, however, that West Africans, primarily Nigerians and people from Guinea-Bissau, are also involved in both smuggling and trafficking in cocaine.

Denmark often serves as a transit country for the smuggling of cocaine to Sweden and Norway, and the West African backers, who have their base in Denmark, are in direct contact with criminal groups and networks in Europe and South America.

To a lesser extent, also people from the Lebanon, the Balkan Region and Polish groups are involved in the cocaine market in Denmark.

On several occasions, cocaine mixed with the medical drug atropine has been on the market, leading to several cases of poisoning of drug addicts in Denmark.

The prices of cocaine have shown a falling trend the past few years. The average street price per gram of cocaine is estimated to be approx. DKK 500 - 600 – with considerable variations around the country, however.

Amphetamines

Throughout 2005 there were 1,576 seizures of amphetamine, with a total quantity of 195 kg. This was a marked increase on 2004, when the total quantity seized was 63 kg.

The greater part of the amphetamine that is smuggled into Denmark is estimated to have been manufactured in the Netherlands or Belgium, though it is also believed that amphetamine manufactured in Central and East Europe is channelled into the illicit Danish drugs market. The smuggling into Denmark typically takes place via the land borders. In a substantial case in 2005, in which 125 kg of amphetamine was seized, the perpetrators were seeking to smuggle the amphetamine on from Denmark to Norway using speedboats.

A single large case in Denmark in 2005 resulted in the seizure of 8 kg of methamphetamine, though the misuse of methamphetamine is still estimated to be limited generally.

The average street price per gram of amphetamine in Denmark is estimated to be approx. DKK 250 - however with considerable variations around the country. In certain regions amphetamine is on sale for less than DKK 100 per gram.

Ecstasy

The ecstasy that has been seized in Denmark has been manufactured in the Netherlands primarily.

In 2005, the registered number of tablets seized – in 462 cases of seizure - was 44,195. In comparison, a total of 39,094 tablets were seized in 505 seizures in 2004.

It is not possible precisely to identify criminal groups that are systematically involved in smuggling ecstasy. Frequently the perpetrators are loose groupings or networks also involved in other forms of crime and having international contacts, in the Netherlands in particular. However, the distribution of ecstasy may to some extent be related to persons affiliated with biker groups.

The prices of ecstasy are falling and the retail price in certain areas is less than DKK 50 per tablet.

Other types of synthetic drugs

The synthetic drug market is dominated by amphetamine and ecstasy. However, other forms of synthetic drugs are also distributed in Denmark.

No illicit amphetamine or ecstasy laboratories were detected in Denmark in 2005 and the police found no production of gammabutyro-butane acid (GHB) based on the chemical gammabutyrolacton (GBL).

3.2.2 Money and credit cards

About 600 cases concerned with counterfeit Danish currency notes were reported in 2005, which was less than half the cases reported in 2004.

The Danish currency note that is reproduced falsely most often is the DKK 500 note.

Counterfeit Danish currency notes are typically of a lesser quality and the counterfeiting can often be detected by an immediate visual examination. The greater part of counterfeit notes are put into circulation in the big cities.

The counterfeit notes are mainly produced by the scanning of a genuine note and subsequent printing on an inkjet printer.

The cases reported involving foreign currency are most often concerned with counterfeit US dollar notes, with the 100 dollar note being the preferred denomination. In respect of euro notes, the number of reports of counterfeiting rose by 47% from 2004 to 2005. The counterfeit notes are particularly the EUR 50 and 200 notes.

Credit card crime is a steeply growing problem in Denmark, particularly in connection with misuse of card data, via the internet for example. In recent years it has been detected in several cases that illegal devices fitted to cash dispensers have been used to read magnetic stripes and intercept PIN codes, whereby the perpetrators have subsequently been able to reproduce credit cards and misuse them using the associated PIN codes. The typical sites have been unmanned petrol stations and cash dispensers, but recently also terminals in supermarkets and restaurants have been targeted.

In addition, electronic tapping devices have been detected in credit card terminals in shops, where the perpetrators have gained access to the terminals and - by using the tapping devices - misused the shoppers' credit card data. This type of crime has typically been committed by groups operating in several countries in Europe.

3.2.3 Robberies

The number of dangerous robberies declined marginally from 262 reports in 2004 to 249 reports in 2005, due primarily to fewer dangerous robberies against retail shops.

3.2.4 Unlawful deprivation of liberty

The number of reported cases of unlawful and aggravated deprivation of liberty has been declining since 2000, from 25 cases reported in 2000 to 10 in 2005. None of the cases reported were assumed to have been perpetrated as part of organised crime.

3.2.5 Extortion

Examples of extortion and use of "dummy penalties" continue to occur. They are frequently committed by persons affiliated with biker groups. Such cases are generally given high priority in the police districts, ensuring rapid, vigorous and active response to protect the victims.

188 cases of extortion were registered in 2005, compared to 179 in 2004. A small number of these cases were concerned with "dummy penalties".

3.2.6 Vehicle theft

2005 saw several examples of thefts of especially valuable passenger cars and trucks committed by perpetrators from Eastern Europe.

3.2.7 Other forms of theft/handling stolen goods

Both Polish and Lithuanian criminal networks have committed extensive and typically serial thefts from cars, homes and shops. Even if the stolen objects are not particularly valuable separately, these serial thefts may still be very comprehensive in number and total value of the stolen property. Several of the criminal networks are estimated to collaborate with persons from their own country who are resident in Denmark.

3.2.8 Illegal firearms trading

Also in 2005, the biker groups and certain other crime groups and networks were found in possession of firearms to a considerable extent.

The finding of both semi- and fully-automatic hand guns indicates that the criminal groups are able to get hold of sophisticated firearms that are smuggled into Denmark.

3.2.9 Smuggling of human beings

The number of charges for human smuggling has shown a declining trend over the past four years. It is not possible to determine the extent of the involvement of organised criminal groups in human smuggling into or via Denmark. However the groups involved are frequently also active in counterfeiting, drugs crime and fraud.

3.2.10 Trafficking in human beings and prostitution

Intensive police action to counter human trafficking, including the exploitation of women for prostitution (procuring etc.), produced several investigative results in 2005, particularly in cases concerned with procuring.

It has turned out that women from Central and Eastern Europe (particularly the Czech Republic and Hungary), from Asia (Thailand primarily) and increasingly from Africa and South America are being exploited in connection with prostitution, paying substantial amounts to pimps in both Denmark and their home countries.

Three major actions were launched in 2005 to investigate trafficking in women, including a big coordinated action in Denmark and Latvia that resulted in several arrests in both countries.

The share of West African women in the prostitution environment is rising. A project carried out by the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish police has been initiated with focus on crime committed by persons from West Africa, especially in prostitution.

3.2.11 Smuggling of heavily taxed goods

The smuggling of heavily taxed goods such as cigarettes is to some extent organised internationally.

In 2005, such smuggling, particularly of cigarettes, was carried out by Danes to a great extent, but also by Lithuanians resident in Denmark, who collaborated to a certain extent with other criminals from Eastern Europe.

The cigarettes were mainly smuggled to Denmark hidden among ordinary cargo carried by lorry. In some cases the transport was by sea from Klaipeda in Lithuania to Denmark.

The authorities have noted an increase in the number of cases involving cigarettes smuggled in containers, especially from China and Russia. Persons with contact to biker groups are supposed to be involved.

3.2.12 Artefacts and cultural property

2005 saw several cases of theft of and trafficking in both paintings and other artefacts.

Criminals attempted to sell a painting by Rembrandt stolen from the National Gallery in Stockholm in Copenhagen in 2005. After a major police action the painting was secured and several perpetrators arrested.

3.3 Resources

It is not possible to make any detailed statement of the turnover and profits generated in 2005 from organised crime. The profits are estimated to be huge, however, since the proceeds are usually generated in areas in which legal activity is subject to not insignificant taxes to the state or areas in which the activity cannot be completed lawfully.

The number of front companies is difficult to assess. However, in several cases persons affiliated with the biker groups have set up companies suspected to disguise illegal activity. Some of these companies are stripped of assets, thus resulting in severe losses to their creditors.

3.4 Use of violence

It is impossible more precisely to determine the use of violence related to organised crime, one reason being that violence in criminal circles is rarely reported to the police.

3.5 Undue influence

There were continuously no signs in 2005 that could suggest any direct undue influence by organised crime on public administration, law enforcement agencies or the political environment.

4. Locations and areas of criminal activity

The far greater part of organised crime in Denmark in 2005 was committed in the large urban areas.

Denmark served to some extent as a transit country in connection with cross-border organised crime, including the smuggling of drugs etc. from Germany to Sweden and Norway primarily.

5. Law enforcement

5.1 Domestic enforcement

Danish police are constantly seeking to adjust all initiatives to counter organised crime in light of the current threat picture.

The following areas are targets of systematic police monitoring:

- Groups and networks that commit serious crime, including the biker environment.
- Drugs crime, including drug-related deaths and seizure of drugs.
- Human trafficking, including the exploitation of persons for prostitution (procuring, etc.).
- Smuggling of heavily taxed goods, including cigarette smuggling and distribution of counterfeit cigarettes.
- Counterfeiting (all currencies and both notes and coins)
- Violent assaults on staff of the Prison and Probation Service.

Systematic police monitoring means that all information available to the police is gathered and analysed, allowing the police to take a proactive approach, launching targeted investigation and other police measures in priority areas.

Similar initiatives have been launched in relation to special financial crime, for example money laundering, and organised illegal immigration.

5.2 International enforcement

Danish police take a targeted approach to participation in international collaboration to combat organised crime, for example in the framework of the Nordic police and customs cooperation (the PTN Cooperation), the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region and in the EU (including Europol) and Interpol.

6. The threat from crime in Europe

Europol prepares current threat assessments focused on organised crime in the EU states.

It is Europol's belief that the most serious threat is the current trend towards ethnic-based crime groups and networks of especially Albanian, Turkish and Russian origin playing an increasing role in organised crime. In many cases, for

example in relation to Bulgarian, Chinese, Albanian and Nigerian groups, illicit proceeds from crime committed in the EU states are transferred to countries outside the European Union. This may be an indication that the criminal groupings are intending to influence or infiltrate countries outside the EU.

The two most important types of crime groupings are the changing network constellations that are getting increasingly common and the almost paramilitary and hierarchical groups. Their structures change continuously and the criminal groups and networks target a broader spectrum of crimes.

Transport companies and import/export firms are considered more vulnerable to infiltration by organised crime than other businesses. Considering the practical conditions and the difficulties of regulation and control of these sectors, this trend is not expected to change in the near future.

A rising number of criminal groups and networks have turned specialised services into their core business. They assist other crime groups with such services, which are otherwise not available to them due to high development and investment costs. This development is expected to continue.

The exertion of influence by criminal groups and networks to escape investigation and prosecution constitutes a significant threat and corruption will remain an essential element of organised crime.

Violence or threatened violence will continue to exist in certain areas of crime because it is an integral part of the modus operandi of criminal groups and networks involved in certain types of crime.

Finally, criminal groups and networks tend to make increasing use of modern technology to support their criminal activity and hamper police investigation.

Europol has identified four key categories of criminal groups and networks operating in organised crime:

- Primarily territorial groups in countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain.
- Albanian, Chinese, Russian, Turkish and other ethnic-based groups that are primarily homogeneous groups with their leadership and key activities placed abroad.
- Dynamic networks of perpetrators with international connections and changing structures and cooperative relations.

- Biker groups and other similar groups with carefully defined organisational structures and international connections.

In its analyses, Europol has emphasised a range of factors of importance for developments in organised crime:

- The current development that provides increasing scope for anonymous transactions, making it ever more difficult to determine the true identity of persons. Against this background, crime groups and networks are expected to be using forged documents and false identities to a growing extent.
- Modern information and communication technology is getting increasingly important to both organised crime and the efforts by law enforcement agencies to counter the threats of organised crime. The legislative response to developments in new technology is often too slow.
- The utilisation by organised criminals of particularly the legal transport industry will continue and the most threatening aspect is the prospect that criminal groups will use the possibilities of setting up their own transport companies.
- The most threatening exploitation of the financial sector is the use by criminal groups of credit or financial institutions under cover of legal company structures.
- The greatest threat at EU level is posed by criminal groups and networks established outside the European Union and thus to a certain extent beyond the reach of the law enforcement agencies of the EU states.

Organised crime in the EU states operates to a special extent in the following areas:

- Drug trafficking, particularly in synthetic drugs
- Human trafficking and smuggling
- Fraud
- Counterfeiting the euro
- Money laundering

Developments in organised crime point to the necessity of having focus on the central criminals, their networks and financial conditions and on communications within and across crime groups and networks. Thus, the functional side of organised crime needs to be given greater attention. A focused approach will provide more targeted efforts to counter organised crime and help the law enforcement agencies to stay consistently updated about the

more flexible criminal environment, in which both criminals and their offences are increasingly difficult to combat by isolated measures.

7. Conclusions

7.1 Assessment of the threat from organised crime

Organised crime is continuously committed in Denmark, particularly crime rooted in the biker groups and certain other criminal groups and networks that consist primarily of young men with a non-Danish ethnic background.

However, also in 2005, organised crime in Denmark generally remained at a fairly modest level when compared to other countries. Even so, in certain areas, organised crime in Denmark is on a par with the levels of other countries, primarily the crime emanating from biker groups and certain criminal groups and networks consisting primarily of young men with a non-Danish ethnic background and the crime committed by crime groups and networks from East and Central Europe.

7.2 Trends

Organised crime in Denmark is increasingly characterised by being based on flexible network cooperation. It turns out frequently, for example, that criminals in smuggling networks supply many different buyers in several countries and they collaborate in varying constellations. In addition, the networks are involved in the form of crime that is estimated to yield the greatest proceeds at any given time.

Several Danish nationals, including persons linked with the biker groups, have taken up residence abroad, from where they cooperate with Danish and foreign criminal networks, coordinating criminal activity targeted at several countries including Denmark.

A growing phenomenon is rivalry between biker groups and certain other criminal groups and networks involved in serious crime.

7.3 Forecasts

Internationalisation, globalisation, network organisation and use of modern technology will be of substantial importance for the developments in crime over the next few years.

A rising threat against Denmark may be expected from international, organised crime. This development will require further intensified and targeted law enforcement measures – at both national and international level.

Appendix 1: The characteristics of organised crime

At least six of the mentioned characteristics have to be satisfied to categorise an offence or a criminal group as organised crime. Of the six characteristics, no. 1, 3, 5 and 11 must be satisfied in any circumstance.

1. Cooperation between more than two persons
2. Each having pre-arranged tasks to do
3. For a long or not pre-determined period of time
4. Using some form of discipline or control
5. Suspected of committing serious crimes
6. Carried out at international level
7. Using violent behaviour or other means serving to intimidate
8. Utilising commercial or business structures
9. Involving money laundering
10. Exerting influence at the political level, in relation to media, public administration, justice authorities or economic conditions in society
11. Motivated by profit or power.