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ANALYSIS UNIT**



**Annual Report on Organised Crime in Greece  
for the year 2004**

***OPEN VERSION***

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Organised crime threatens directly national and international security and stability, affects the political and legislative power and constitutes a threat to democracy itself. It disorganizes and puts at stake the social and economic structure, affects economic development and challenges citizens' trust in the effectiveness of the political system and the official control mechanisms.

Organised crime includes a wide range of criminal activities aiming at the profit. It is very quickly adapted to the challenges and opportunities offered by the environment within which it is developed, extending promptly its criminal activities and protecting its interest. The total risk for the international society is very high, since the organised crime:

- Is not limited within the national borders,
- Is able to fall back and re-adapt itself quickly regarding political – economical changes and legislative measures,
- Uses modern – updated methods and the achievements of technology,
- Exploits the existent differences among the States at criminal, administrative and economic levels.

The socio-economic and political changes that took place mainly in the countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkans favoured, inter alia, the development of criminal action undertaken by criminal Organisations (Greek and foreign) in Greece. The continuous political and economic instability in the above mentioned countries with the sequential development of illegal markets in conjunction with the greatest commercial and other mobility across the borders and the use of new technologies (especially the communication) had as a result the internationalisation of the organised crime and the extension of action by the criminal organisations in all Balkan Countries.

The above situation should be recorded and studied systematically, so that to develop the more appropriate tools in order to deal with it.

In order to better understand every field of criminal activity, it is necessary to have a thorough examination of the phenomenon and criminal organisations so as to make sure that analysis reflects, as far as possible, its real dimensions.

This report attempts basically to register the phenomenon by focusing on crimes and criminal groups that cause the most serious problems, as they have been identified at European level and specified at National level. It follows the organised crime analysis directives, agreed upon by the EU Member States, as the expert analysts of the M-S have recently amended them.

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

During 2004, 178 investigations were conducted in Greece in respective cases that meet the characteristics of the Organised Crime. The number of cases per crime is indicated in the table below:

CRIME	NUMBER OF CASES
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	46
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	39
DRUGS (Trafficking)	28
FORGERIES	13
FRAUDS	12
TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN VEHICLES	6
CIGARETTE SMUGGLING	6
ROBBERIES	6
COUNTERFEITINGS	5
EXTORTIONS	5
THEFTS	3
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY	3



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COPYRIGHT	3
ILLCIT TRAFFICING IN CULTURAL GOODS	2
KIDNAPPINGS - HOSTAGES	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>

The above classification was based on the “main crime”, i.e. the crime that was the basic criminal activity of the Criminal Organisation (CO)<sup>1</sup>. However, the Criminal Organisations, together with their main activity, commit also other “secondary crimes”, in order to facilitate or conceal the commitment of the main crime, e.g. forgery of certificates, in order to facilitate the trafficking in human beings.

The table below indicates the secondary crimes that correspond to each main crime, as they arose from the (178) investigations carried out by the law enforcement agencies.

MAIN CRIMES		SECONDARY CRIMES	
<b>FRAUDS</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>9</b>
		THEFTS	1
		FORGERIES	8
<b>KIDNAPPINGS</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
		EXTORTIONS	1
<b>ILLCIT TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL GOODS</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>
		TRAFFICKING IN FIRE ARMS	1
<b>EXTORTIONS</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>
		KIDNAPPINGS	1
		TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN VEHICLES	1
		TRAFFICKING IN FIRE ARMS	1
<b>TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>23</b>
		DRUGS (use)	1
		LEGALIZATION DETENTION	3
		ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	18
		FORGERIES	1
<b>TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN VEHICLES</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>
		THEFTS	1
		LEGALIZATION OF ILLEGAL PROCEEDS	1
		FORGERIES	4
<b>THEFTS</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>
		COUNTERFEITINGS	1
		FORGERIES	1
<b>CIGARETTE SMUGGLING</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>ROBBERIES</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>5</b>
		TRAFFICKING IN FIRE ARMS	1
		THEFTS	1
		DRUGS (trafficking)	3
<b>TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>4</b>
		CRIMINAL ORGANISATION	1
		TRAFFICKING IN FIRE ARMS	3
<b>CHILD PORNOGRAPHY</b>	<b>3</b>		
		COPYRIGHT	1
<b>ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION</b>	<b>46</b>		
		KIDNAPPINGS	6
		SNATCHINGS	1
		THEFTS	4
		DRUGS (trafficking)	1
		FORGERIES	6
<b>COUNTERFEITINGS</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>
		DRUGS (trafficking)	1
		FORGERIES	1
<b>FORGERIES</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>6</b>
		BRIBERIES	2
		THEFTS	1
		CIGARETTE SMUGGLING	1
		ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	1

<sup>1</sup> See terminology at the end of this report.



		FORGERIES	1
<b>COPYRIGHTS</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>
		FORGERIES	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>		<b>83</b>

More specifically, in the above mentioned table are indicated the additional criminal activities of the criminal organisations which committed as a main crime trafficking in drugs, trafficking in human beings, forgeries, e.t.c. The analysis of this report is based only on the main crimes and occasionally it makes reference to the secondary crimes, when it judged as useful for the purposes of the analysis.

In the investigations (1.191) suspects, members of criminal organisations, were involved. From the above mentioned suspects (858) were accused by the Law Enforcement authorities and brought legal proceedings against them. (134) of the above-mentioned suspects were considered to be key members of criminal organisations<sup>2</sup>.

From the (178) investigations, it was found that (63) Organisations had hierarchical structure and (89) flat structure. It wasn't possible to define the structure in (26) cases.

The number of the members belonging to each C.O. is shown in the following table. In many cases, there were also other members, which were not found from the investigations.

CO MEMBERS IN TOTAL	NUMBER OF CO
3 members	38
4 members	40
5 members	25
6 members	17
7 members	18
8 members	9
9 members	7
10 members	3
11 members	5
12 members	3
13 members	1
14 members	2
15 members	1
17 members	1
19 members	1
22 members	1
25 members	1
27 members	1
31 members	1
34 members	1
37 members	1
41 members	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>

From the above C.Os, the (92) were homogeneous and the (77) were heterogeneous<sup>3</sup>.

CRIMINAL ORGANISATION	NUMBER
HOMOGENEOUS	92
HETEROGENEOUS	77
UNKNOWN	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>

From the above (178) C.Os, the (52) were domestic – Greek, the (76) were foreign and the (45) were both foreign and domestic<sup>4</sup>.

CRIMINAL ORGANISATION	NUMBER
DOMESTIC	52

<sup>2</sup> See terminology at the end of this report.

<sup>3</sup> See terminology at the end of this report.

<sup>4</sup> See terminology at the end of this report.



FOREIGN	76
DOMESTIC – FOREIGN	45
UNKNOWN	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>

Most of the afore-mentioned Organisations have certain general characteristics in common. To be more specific, they do not have the structure of big, transnational and well-manned Organisations that can easily recruit their members and fill any vacancies any time, in order to enhance their action. On the other hand, they are easy to dismantle due to their lack in cohesion and strict hierarchical structure. This is due either to external factors (action of the prosecution mechanisms, changes in the market, etc) or to internal factors (loss of members, conflicts, etc). The only exceptions are some C.O. which criminal activities remain stable for many years and don't seem to be influenced easily from internal or external factors, such as the **Albanian** Criminal Organisations involved in drug trafficking, robberies and thefts, the **Turkish, Iraqi, Chinese** and **Pakistani** Organisations in the illegal immigration, the **Bulgarian** Organisations in counterfeiting and forgery, the **Ukrainian** and **Russian** in the cigarette smuggling and the **Romanian** in thefts and trafficking in human beings.

The criminal Organisations act mainly within the two big urban areas of Greece, Attica and the area of Salonica. When required, the members of these Organisations become active in other areas of Greece as well (e.g. trafficking in drugs, illegal immigration, smuggling) and mainly in geographical districts which are adjacent to neighbouring countries (islands of Aegean Sea, Prefectures of Evros, Florina, Thesprotia, Ioannina, Arta, Serres, Kastoria).

### 3. MAIN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

From the investigations on the activities of CO it arose that they were active in crimes, which are analysed in this chapter of the report. No activity was found in the following crimes: Trafficking in Firearms – Explosives, Hi-tech Crimes, Crimes against Environment, Trade of Nuclear and Radioactive Substances and Trade of Human Instruments.

#### 3.1. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Greece, due to its geographical position and the difference of the living levels, in comparison with the neighbouring countries, receives a strong migratory pressure. A large number of illegal immigrants are nationals of neighbouring countries (Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM, Romania), while a great number comes from African and Asian countries. Also a number of illegal immigrants were trafficked by organised trafficking networks.

The migratory pressure (as shown by the arrests of illegal immigrants in Greece) was mainly caused by the following nationalities: Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Afghan, Iraqi, FYROM, Pakistani, Georgian, Egypt and Palestinian.

The traffickers came mainly from the following countries (apart from Greece), in that very order: Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iraq and Egypt (order resulting from the total of the arrests of traffickers in Greece).

The Criminal Organisations engaged in illegal trafficking of immigrants that became a subject of investigation were (46), mainly Egyptian, Turkish, Pakistani, Greek, Albanian Greek-Iraqi, e.t.c. Investigations on (252) suspect members of Criminal Organisations were conducted out of whom (170) were charged with respective crimes.

During 2004, there was still intensive activity of the **Turkish COs** in trafficking of immigrants by sea from Turkey towards the Greek islands and the Greek mainland, via the Greek – Turkish land borders, mainly via the natural border of Evros river.



They were activated either by themselves or together with members of COs who were of the same origin with the illegal immigrants (Iraqi, Kurdish, Pakistani, Georgian). Several Turkish traffickers were arrested, who undertook to transport the illegal immigrants to out country, via the Turkish coasts, but it was not possible to dislocate or to find out the whole structure of the Criminal Organisations, so that these organisations are not included in this report.

In addition to the Turkish COs, the **Egyptian COs** present intensive activity -to the greater extent in comparison to the previous years- in the trafficking of illegal immigrants using boats for transportation of their fellow – countrymen,.

### Routes

The land border routes that immigrants follow in order to enter Greece illegally remain the same as last year, that is to say:

- **Albanian nationals:** mainly via the Greek-Albanian borders (land and sea borders) as well as via the borders with FYROM.
- **Nationals of countries of Central and Eastern Europe:** via the borders with FYROM, Bulgaria and Turkey (Evros river).
- **Nationals of Afro-Asiatic countries:** mainly via Turkey as well as via Bulgaria. Many of them enter Greece via the harbours of Patra and Igoumenitsa, to go to Italy and then to other European countries.

### Origin of Illegal Immigrants.

The Criminal Organisations trafficked immigrants who mainly were coming from the following countries:

**Via sea borders with floating means:** China, India, Pakistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Palestine.

**Via land borders:** Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM, Turkey, Iraq, China, Syria, Georgia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Palestine, Nepal, Somalia, India, Sudan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Moldavia, Turkey.

In general, the action of the illegal immigrants trafficking networks is unchanged during the recent years and it is pointed out as follows:

1. In the countries of origin, the networks have established “mechanisms for recruitment of potential illegal immigrants”. Usual method is announcements in newspapers and Internet inserted by travel agencies or Labour Exchange. Contacts are also made at particular bars, clubs and cafeterias. These places and the traffickers have acquired local fame and it is easy to be met by the concerned persons.
2. The payment of the agreed amount for the transportation is made either in the country of origin or partially in the country of origin, transit and concentration immigrants and in the country of destination. The amount varies depending on the type of the provided services, the route and the used method, as well as the destination.
3. Very often, members of COs use violence against the trafficking immigrants, in order to achieve quick payment of the agreed amounts of money by their relatives. Usually traffickers detained illegally the immigrants’ passports. When the trafficking persons reach their final destination, they are illegally detained in apartments, warehouses, or other guarded places until they or their relatives pay to the traffickers the agreed amounts. The immigrants are subjected to physical and psychological violence in order to pay the money. In some cases, illegal immigrants were not able to pay for their release and were “recruited” by the COs in order to undertake services for custody of new illegal immigrants.
4. Quite often the illegal immigrants’ trafficking Organisations are engaged in other forms of serious crime as well, such as: drug trafficking, trafficking in human





beings for sexual exploitation, extortions and forgery of travel or other documents.

5. In some cases, the illegal immigrants are transported by vehicles, such as trucks, coaches and caravans, in which special hiding places are designed (there is a risk for the lives of the immigrants due to the lack of oxygen). In many cases there are escort vehicle as well as in order to detect and avoid police controls using mobile phones for communication among the perpetrators. It should be noted that during 2004, there was an increase at the phenomenon concerning transportation of illegal immigrants in small groups of 3-4 persons with cars, sometimes hired cars. Many individual Greeks were arrested, mainly traffickers in the interior of the country, who receive the immigrants in border areas leading them to the interior of the country. The traffickers come either from border areas, mainly or from urban centres, who do not belong to COs but they are recruited for rent and for a specific transportation.
6. Tracking down the perpetrators is difficult given that the illegal immigrants fear for their life and that of their relatives. Knowing how ruthless the traffickers can be, the immigrants rarely denounce them to the Prosecuting Authorities. Tracking down the leading members of the Organisation is more difficult since they do not appear in the illegal immigrants and they are not known in the low members-traffickers.
7. During the land transportation, the traffickers lead the immigrants along a specific part of the route. The most part of the route has the form of journey of many stages, and several traffickers control the immigrants by along a chain of restricted criminal networks.
8. Corruption and bribery are involved in illegal immigration. In Greece, several municipal employees and civil servants have been accused for receiving of money in order to supply foreigners with false documents or documents without previous production of supporting documents which are necessary for their legal stay in the country. Usually, they provide the illegal immigrants with false documents, which are necessary for their residence, while in some cases genuine documents are issued producing incomplete supporting documents. The amounts received through the above methods are large.
9. Usually, the boats used for the transportation of illegal immigrants are in very bad condition, they do not carry the necessary ship's papers, certificates, as well as saving and fire means. In several cases these boats suffered damage during the trip putting in danger the lives of the passengers. In one case, the crew of a boat, transporting illegal immigrants, grounded and sunk the boats near the Greek coasts.
10. During 2004, there were several cases of Chinese immigrants coming from Turkey with final destination Greece. The Chinese immigrants were transported via the land borders hidden in vehicles (trucks, coaches). Their traffickers were mostly Chinese or Turks. The Chinese members of COs continued to use violence and torture against illegal immigrants transported and detained illegally in Greece, so that their families to pay additional amounts of money in order to release them. Bangladeshi, Iraqi and Pakistani COs used similar method, with violence, torture, illegal detention and extortion.
11. During 2004, there were many cases where individual drivers of trucks were arrested, who transported a small number of illegal immigrants, hidden in special hideouts, to the harbours of Patra and Igoumenitsa and then to travel with boats, to Ancona, Brindisi or Trieste, Italy. It was not possible to identify the test members of CO's.
12. During 2004, the port authorities continued to arrest individual Turks, traffickers of illegal immigrants (one or two individuals each time), who had small boats with outboard motors and transported illegal immigrants from the Turkish coasts to





Greek islands (mainly Lesbos, Samos and Patmos). The above Turks traffickers were boatmen who were hired by members of CO's, after they gathered immigrants (from Arabian-Asian countries), at several places close to the coasts, and they undertook to transport the immigrants to the Greek coasts, for a specific payment.

### **Assessment**

As far as there are the economic and political situations in the countries neighbouring with our country, the migratory pressure will continue in the next years.

The international police co-operation with countries considered as areas of "recruitment" and pre-gathering of illegal immigrants is an important step in the fight against this phenomenon, by the persecuting authorities. However, the social and political stability as well as the economic prosperity of the origin countries is probably the most effective measure against the market of illegal immigration.

### **3.2. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS.**

Greece due to its geographical location but also to the fact that it is a European Union member constitutes a pole of attraction for many foreign women coming from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. These women searching better living conditions, are easily misled by criminal groups and become subject to prostitution and slave trade in Greece (as a country of origin) or via our country (as transit country) to E.U. countries

The criminal organisations that performed trafficking in human beings and were subjected to investigation were (39), mostly Greek, Bulgarian and Albanian. Investigations conducted concerning (307) suspect members of Criminal Organisations, and (240) of them were charged for relevant crimes.

#### **Members of a Criminal Organisation – Structure of the Organisation**

The perpetrators, who are involved in illegal trafficking of women apart from Greeks are also foreign nationals, such as: Albanians, Bulgarians, Russians, Turks e.t.c.

The number of COs which were disclosed during 2004 is increased in comparison with the last year. This fact is due to the more substantial and effective action of the persecuting authorities. In 2004, the dislocation of COs involving in trafficking of human beings was one of the priorities included on the action plans of the Hellenic Police. The result of the co-ordinated efforts was the identification and dislocation of the whole structure of COs, while at the same time the cases of arrests concerning individual members of COs were decreased (therefore, these cases are not included in the reports). Another reason for the increase of the cases is that in 2004 there were also cases concerning trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation as well as trade of infants, while in the last year there were cases concerning exclusively trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation.

#### **Sexual exploitation - Modus Operandi**

In 2004, the modus operandi was not different in comparison with previous years.

The foreign traffickers usually use advertisement (travel agencies or Labour Exchange Offices) in the countries of origin, offering job with high wage to young women in order to work in Greece (as waitresses or domestic help, e.t.c.). The victims arriving in Greece find out that they have been deceived; their travel documents are withheld, they receive psychological and physical violence and are forced to prostitution.

Their transportation from the country of origin to Greece is mostly responsibility of foreign traffickers. The place of detention the way of transportation and pursuit of customers is mostly responsibility of Greek C.O. members. The women are



exchanged or sold and quite often the traffickers transfer them in several places throughout Greece.

The women prostitute themselves working, as covering, as waitresses or artists in bars and nightclubs. The C.Os co-operate with the owners of these nightclubs where the victims prostitute themselves, offering sexual services to customers of these clubs after private contacts of these customers with them or with the business managers. In 2004, there were several C.Os which had as key members owners of the above-mentioned nightclubs.

The criminal Organisations establish “agencies” and book dates through mobile phones, appearing daily in newspapers and magazines and at the same time they work on the publication of advertisements with the pictures of these women through the Internet.

Different criminal groups are involved in the cases of “transportation” or “resale” of trafficking victims, as well as in “identifying” potential victims both in the countries of origin and locally.

### **Victims**

The main countries of origin of the victims are: Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Albania, Moldavia, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Lithuania and Czech.

In many cases, the victims live under “slavery” conditions while they are constantly under observance and surveillance, confined in apartments, deprived of their passports and other identification and not receiving any reward for the services they provide.

The most common methods used by the members of the criminal Organisations for blackmailing them, breaking their resistance and securing their silence is abuse, threats against their lives or members of their families and the illegal holding of their documents. They are forced to work overtime being unable to refuse the clients. They are paid the 15%-20% of the total reward. A great number of the victims has health problems, suffers of sexually transmitted diseases, while there also cases of drug addiction (cocaine) in order to cause their excitement.

The psychological pressure exercised on the female victims is very intensive so that several times they search their freedom on every possible way without concerning neither their lives nor their physical integrity. In 2004, there were some cases where female – victims (Lithuanian) jumped off a balcony in order to ran away from the traffickers, causing serious injuries to themselves.

In many cases, the women have suspicion or know that they will be victims of sexual exploitation, however, being in very difficult economic and social position and having no other choice they accept to be involved in this procedure endangering their physical integrity in order to gain money. They cannot consider or foresee that their economic earnings will be low, they will not choose the customers and that will suffer violence and humiliation.

### **Minor victims**

In 2004, (6) COs activated in sexual exploitation of minors, exclusively or together with adults. The Albanian COs had the highest involvement in the sexual exploitation of minors. The minor victims were coming from Albania, Moldavia, Romania and Bulgaria, while an Albanian C.O. was dislocated, which was involved in the kidnapping of a minor Greek girl and made her a prostitute.

The modus operandi of C.Os, concerning this specific category of victims, is not different in comparison with what was mentioned above. In these specific cases, a basic role in the victimisation of minors is played by their parents, in the countries of origin, who co-operate with the COs either “selling” their children for money or showing no interest in their fortune (so that the C.Os kidnap the victims). The minor



victims usually are misled and seduced by members of C.Os via fraudulent promises in order to leave their countries by free will.

The minor victims are exercised with intensive physical and psychological violence from the members of C.Os suffering an irretrievable harm in their psychism because of the shock.

### **Trafficking of the victims**

The recruitment of victims by the criminal Organisations occurs both in the countries of origin, as well as in Greece on the pretext of:

- Professional and financial establishment by promising jobs as “artists”, baby-sitters, escorts for the elderly, etc.
- Marriage with men of high income and social status.
- Free tourism in Greece.

Travel and employment agencies operating in the countries of origin are also involved in the recruitment of young and beautiful women; the majority of these agencies operates illegally and uses advertisements to attract their “victims”. The victims sign an informal contract with the agencies, paying a quite heavy amount given their financial status, which mostly is paid partially from their future salaries.

The Internet facilitates much the activity of the above offices (advertisements’ publication, communication with the victims).

### **Female victims hustle mainly in:**

- Rooms adapted to this purpose inside nightclubs, bars, etc. where the women work
- In massage clubs
- In secret brothels or/and legal ones without the necessary working permission
- In hotels
- In the house of the client

### **Illegal trafficking in women is carried out in the following ways:**

- By providing them stolen or falsified travelling documents
- By using original travelling documents, that were however issued lawfully for other individuals and were later falsified
- Via fictitious (“white”) marriages to Greeks who, due to their difficult economic situation, accept to get married, for money, to foreign women not knowing them, so that they can stay legally in our country.
- By crossing through unguarded inaccessible points of the northern borders of Greece and being transported inland by different means (taxis, private vehicles).
- By being secretly transported inside special crypts of commercial cars.
- By violating the visa they have obtained from the Consulates of the European countries based in the countries of origin.

### **Trafficking routes:**

In 2004, the following routes were used in the trafficking of human beings:

- Via unguarded and inaccessible points of the Greek – Albanian, Greek – Turkish, Greek – Bulgarian and Greek – FYROM borders
- Russia-France-Greece
- Russia - Germany-Greece
- Moldavia-Turkey-Greece
- Uzbekistan – Turkey - Greece



- Romania - Greece
- Lithuania - Greece
- Russia – Greece
- Ukraine – Greece
- Bulgaria – Greece

### **Financial exploitation of human beings**

In 2004, (3) COs (Romanian, Albanian and Greek) involved in trafficking of human beings and exploited financially their victims.

The victims of the Greek C.O. were persons with disabilities (deaf-mutes) of Ukrainian origin, these persons were persuaded and facilitated financially for entry – residence in the country and were also provided with accommodation in the pretext of obtaining high profits and sales of goods. Then taking advantage of their physical weakness, forced the victims to sell small items at junction road points and shops, holding the larger part of the proceeds. In order to achieve co-operation with the victims, the members exercised intensive physical violence using torture and causing injuries in order to intimidate them.

The Albanian C.O. forwarded illegally from Albania to our country minor children (boys 10-13 years old) worming out the consensus of their parents, taking advantage of their poverty. Members of the C.O. in Greece forced the children to begging (in the pretext of selling small items, e.g. tissues) in several areas in Attica. A part of the proceeds was sent to the parents of the minors. The minors lived under poor living conditions and the members of the C.O. exercised on them intensive psychological and physical violence in order to increase the proceeds from begging.

In the case of the Romanian C.O., members of it, holding an employment agency in Romania attached their poverty and forwarded them legally to our country, via Austria, but they stayed illegally since the legal time of residence was expired. The C.O. provided work and accommodation to them to give a large part of their salaries to the members of the C.O.

### **Trade of infants**

In this specific criminal field (4) Bulgarian COs activated, which operated in Athens and Crete.

According to the investigations carried out until today, the COs operating in Bulgaria take advantage of the poverty of their fellow – countrymen and search for confined women or couples which had recently a child and are ready to offer their new-born children for illegal adoption in Greece.

A specific Bulgarian C.O. forwarded confined women from Bulgaria to our country, in order to bear at Greek hospitals. Then, they negotiated for the sale of the newborn children to childless couples.

Another Bulgarian C.O. forwarded to Greece (Athens), via the Austrian borders, a minor confined woman, against her will, obtaining the consensus of her mother, in order to sell the newborn child after the delivery.

The amounts for buying and selling of infants varied between 10.000 and 20.000€. In all cases there was a co-operation between the relatives of the mother, or the mother herself. (except a case of a minor mother) and the members of a C.O.

The investigations did not reveal the method used by the C.Os to approach the childless couples for illegal adoptions.

### **Assessment**

The basic factors favouring the sexual exploitation of women relate not only with the socio-economic situation of the victim's countries of origin, but also with the demand



of sexual services from the citizens of the countries of destination. This phenomenon will continue in the future, since the C.Os find a suitable opportunity for large profits, and find easily their victims in the countries of origin.

In the countries of destination, the C.Os take advantage of the legal market of nightclubs offering to the owners of these clubs large profits coming from the work of the victims at the clubs providing sexual services to the customers.

### 3.3 TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS

The position of Greece on the “Balkan axis”, one of the most important routes for the trafficking of drugs constitutes as a transit country towards the countries with the largest production of opium in the world. Our extended land and sea borders with third countries facilitate trafficking and make prevention-persecutor particularly difficult.

The countries located on our northern borders cover basic sections of the Balkan axis, while the on going unsettled political-economic situations intensifies the problem.

The southern part of Greece is affected given that it is located at a crucial point of the sea route that connects, through Suez Canal and Black Sea, the Asian regions of drug production with the big European harbours.

Another reason is the fact that, according to the reports of the competent international bodies and Organisations, almost all the countries and regions neighbouring on Greece or being in direct communication with it have been characterized as drug production, processing, collection or transit centres. An illustrative example is the case of Albania from where large quantities of cannabis and heroine are imported every year into Greece. On the other hand, Turkey continues to be the place where the largest quantities of heroin - produced in Afghanistan - are collected in order to be forwarded to Europe.

The criminal Organisations engaged in the illegal trafficking of drugs that became subject of investigation were (28), mainly Albanian and Greek. Investigations on (137) suspect members of criminal Organisations were conducted out of whom (97) were accused for respective crimes.

#### **Criminal Organisations – Modus Operandi**

In 2004, the involvement of Albanian COs in the trafficking of drugs in Greece continued. Their involvement concerns not only trafficking of raw cannabis but also activity in other types of drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, as the profits from these types of drugs are much higher.

In 2004, a line between the foreign groups of organised crime (Colombian, Spanish, Dutch) and the Greek groups continued having as key members ship owners involved in shipping business. These specific Greek C.Os own ships and the know-how to transport notable quantities of drugs by sea. In 2004, sailing boats or fishing boats were used to transport cocaine from Latin America to Greece. They transported small but notable quantities, for this ships, deceptive buyers and intermediates appear while the real buyer remains secret as he does not appear as owner or shareholder of the company to which the ships belong.

#### **Routes**

Most drugs are trafficked principally with trucks and ships. However, in general all types of road, sea or air means are used for their transport.

In the 2004, there are still two main routes of drugs transport and trafficking: the “**Balkan Route**” for the drugs that are produced in the countries of SE – SW Asia and Middle East and the “**Atlantic Route**” for the drugs produced in South and Central America.



The Balkan route remains the most popular way for trafficking heroin to the West Europe and it is used for the transport of the largest quantity of heroine consumed in Europe. However, the Balkan Route is not considered a uniform route, for it consists of individual smaller routes, namely the following:

**Northern route:** Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands as well as Turkey, Romania (via ferry-boat).

**Central route:** Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslavian Republic Of Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro, (especially Kossovo), Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy.

**Southern route:** Turkey, Greece (via ferry-boat), Albania, Italy.

As regards the Atlantic Route, countries located in the coast of Northern – West Africa (mainly Mauritania, Guinea), can be added in the route as interior stops.

### 3.3.1 HEROIN

In 2004, the decrease of heroine seizures coming directly from Turkey continued. The routes of heroin from Turkey to Greece continued to follow the central axis of Balkans: Bulgarian-FYROM-Albania with destination Greece.

Moreover, in 2004, the trend of 2003 continued, so that the greatest quantity of heroin seizures (34,82%) was imported in Greece from Albania. From the cases, which were investigated, it was found that the active COs in heroin trafficking were: Albanian (4), Greek-Albanian (1), which operated in Athens and Salonica.

The countries of origin of the seized heroin as well as the transportation methods of the most serious cases are shown in the following table:

HEROIN		
ORIGIN – METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION		
COUNTRY	QUANTITY *	PERCENTAGE
ALBANIA	109.841	34.82%
BULGARIA	641	0,20%
TURKEY	304	0,09%
VARIOUS-UNKNOWN	204.643	64,87%
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES	By land	100%
	By sea	

\* Quantity in grams

### 3.3.2 COCAINE

According to the cases occurred in 2004, our country is still the interior place for transportation of cocaine from the production countries to the Central Europe. From the cases which were investigated, it was found that the active C.Os in cocaine trafficking were: Greek (2), Nigerian (1) and Belgian (1).

The largest quantity of seized cocaine was transported with sailing or fishing boats, coming from our country. In these cases, Greek C.Os were involved with participation of Greek ship-owners who held links with big international criminal organisations dealing with production and trafficking of cocaine.

According to the cases of the recent years a trend was found for creation of direct links between Greek key members of C.Os and overseas suppliers of cocaine.

Increased involvement of Nigerian nationals in C.Os was found, who transport quantities from South America with destination Greece and other European countries, having direct access to COs involved in trafficking of cocaine in Latin America. The participation of Albanian national seems to be decreased in comparison with the last year

The countries of origin of the seized cocaine and the transportation routes of the most serious cases are shown in the following table:





COCAINE		
ORIGIN-TRANSPORTATION METHODS		
COUNTRY	QUANTITY*	PERCENTAGE %
COLOMBIA	1.056.798	91,75%
BOLIVIA	37.300	3,23%
BRAZIL	6.127	0,53%
ALBANIA	3.220	0,27%
SPAIN	1.977	0,17%
VARIOUS-UNKNOWN	48.407	4,22%
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES	By land (3.944)	0,34%
	By air (6.864)	0,59%
	By sea (1.058.775)	91,91%

\* Quantity in grams

### 3.3.3 KANNABIS

Albania remains in 2004, the main source of cannabis imported in Greece. From the cases which were investigated it was found that the C.Os were active in trafficking of cannabis were: Albanian (13) , Greek-Albanian (2) and Greek (2).

Many C.Os, which dealt with trafficking of cannabis, were dislocated in areas, which are adjacent to Albania, such as the prefectures of Thesprotia (5), Kastoria (4) Ioannina (4) and Corfu (1). Also, the greatest seizures of cannabis took place either at entry – exit points with Albania or in prefectures, which are near the Greek-Albanian borders. The Greek C.Os co-operated and received the cannabis from Albanian C.Os.

In the following tables one can see the data concerning the source countries, the seized quantities and the percentage that corresponds to each source country per route of transportation of processed and raw cannabis.

RAW CANNABIS		
ORIGIN-TRANSPORTATION METHODS		
COUNTRY	QUANTITY*	PERCENTAGE %
ALBANIA	3.347.32	70,44%
VARIOUS-UNKNOWN	1.405.68	29,56%
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES	By land (4.747,78)	92,63%
	By Sea (200,00)	7,35%

PROCESSED CANNABIS		
ORIGIN-TRANSPORTATION METHODS		
COUNTRY	QUANTITY*	PERCENTAGE %
ALBANIA	5.506	21,99%
VARIOUS-UNKNOWN	19.780	78,01%
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES	By land (24.710)	99,9%
	By Sea	-

\* Quantity in kilos

### 3.3.4 PSYCHOTROPIC, CHEMICAL, PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES

The total quantity of ecstasy pills that was seized in Greece by the persecution authorities during 2004 was 87.761, in comparison with 47.705 in 2003.

The ecstasy pills are coming mostly from central European and Balkan countries.

From the (152) cases where ecstasy pills were seized in Greece, their source was found in (10) cases, indicated in the following table.

ECSTASY
ORIGIN





COUNTRY	QUANTITY*	PERCENTAGE %
ALBANIA	25.531	29,92%
THE NETHERLANDS	20.285	23,11%
BULGARY	1.187	1,36%
POLAND	848	0,97%
ΔΙΑΦΟΡΕΣ-ΑΓΝΩΣΤΕΣ	39.910	44,64%

\* Quantity in pills.

From the investigated cases it was found that the C.Os were active in trafficking of ecstasy pills were: (1) Greek – German, (1) Greek – Albanian and (1) Nigerian – Brazilian.

The ecstasy pills are trafficking in the interior of the country, mostly at the nightclubs with dancing music and in rave parties, which are organised by members-traffickers and the participants are mostly teenagers.

Several individual traffickers especially Albanian nationals, have been arrested having in their possession large quantities of ecstasy pills, but there have not been found links with C.Os.

### Assessment

The proximity of Greece to countries that cultivate, produce, traffic and store drugs constitutes an exceptionally aggravating factor for the fight against trafficking.

Greece, due to its geographical location and configuration, will continue to be a country into which criminal organisations import and transfer drugs.

### 3.4 TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN VEHICLES

Greece remains a transit point for trafficking in stolen vehicles from Western European countries (in particular France, Italy, Germany and Spain) to countries of Eastern Europe, former U.S.S.R., Middle East and Asia.

The criminal Organisations engaged in trafficking in stolen cars that were investigated during 2004 were (6). Investigations were carried out on (92) suspected members of Criminal Organisations, out of which (72) were charged with relevant crimes. Two C.Os were foreign, one domestic and three were mixed (domestic and foreign).

In 2004, as in the previous years, there were cases of stolen vehicles from Greece, which were forwarded to other countries or to the interior of the country and their destination was either the domestic market or their transfer to other countries. The most important cases, which were investigated, concerned import of stolen vehicles from abroad. Most members of C.Os are Greek nationals followed by Georgian nationals who are involved in many cases of stolen vehicles trafficking committed, possibly by one C.O.

A C.O. with (34) known members dealt with the trafficking of stolen trucks and machines (excavators, bulldozers, e.t.c.) from other countries to Greece in order to be used in the completion of the Olympic Games and other large works (operation EMPTY). The stolen vehicles came mostly from Italy and other European countries. Their import and sale in our country were achieved through the falsification of the chassis numbers and the forgery of the vehicle's documents. Temporary, five day, German number plates were used and Dutch registration numbers. For their transportation Greek drivers were used, who followed several routes from the European countries with final destination Greece via the harbours of Ancona – Italy and Patra. Most of the vehicles were distributed through the banks and the leasing method. The vehicles were used in the Olympic works without the knowledge of the companies and contractors, buying them through legal procedures and from Greek legal companies, where members of the C.Os employed. Up today, 45 big trucks and machines were seized, while the origin of other 60 vehicles, which had been imported from Italy.



The investigations concerning another C.O. (with 41 confirmed members), which dealt with trafficking of stolen vehicles from the Central Europe to Georgia, are still under way. In particular, 27 Georgian nationals were arrested at the customs office in Kipi, Evros, at the Greek – Turkish borders, who transported stolen vehicles from the Central Europe to Georgia. The arrested members attempted to enter in different periods, Greece from Turkey crossing the above mentioned point driving stolen luxury cars (mostly Mercedes), which carried Dutch false registration numbers. The investigations, which were carried out up to today, indicate existence of a criminal organisation dealing with trafficking of luxury stolen cars and operating in several countries of the Western Europe with focal point Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The stolen cars came from Belgium, Spain, France, Germany, Italy and Greece.

The Albanian C.O. stole cars of great value, stealing first the car keys from the houses of the owners (break-in) of the cars, and then the cars were transported by land to Albania together with items of great value (electronic– electric items, jewels, e.t.c.).

#### **Modus operandi of the COs during 2004**

- Stealing of cars of great value with the use of their own keys which were stolen from the houses (breaking in) of the owners.
- Falsification of the chassis numbers and forgery of their documents (registration licences, insurance contracts, traffic duties signs), using technical means.
- Discreet roles of the members (leading members, keymembers, financiers, drivers, importers-“windows”, customs clearers, dealers, persons who arrange the procedures, such as number plates, e.t.c.).
- Deception of the customs authorities which issue the classification certificates of the vehicles imported in our country through forgery of the documents justifying legality of their purchase.
- Involvement of legal businesses dealing with trade of cars and processing the issue of number plates and other relevant documents.
- Stealing of blank documents from public services and their filling in with false data.

#### **Routes of trafficking in stolen cars**

- Theft of vehicles from different European countries (Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy) – Greece and via Evros river transfer to Turkey with final destination Eastern Europe countries.
- Theft of vehicles in the interior of the country and their sale in the domestic market.
- Theft of vehicles in the interior of the country and forwarding them to Albania (by the Albanian C.O.).

#### **Assessment**

The effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies has contributed during the recent years in the fight against this phenomenon through the specialization of the personnel, modernization of equipment and straightening of the international co-operation. The Schengen Information System, combined with the upgrading of the National Databases of the member states, are effective tools in the fight against the transborder trafficking of stolen vehicles. In addition, the manufacturing companies adopt complicated security systems for the new models of cars making difficult their theft.

The co-operation between the law enforcement agencies and the manufacturing companies, the strict control of the markets dealing with the selling of used cars and the improvement of the protection of documents against forgery are characteristic



steps which can contribute to the fight against this phenomenon.

### 3.5 CIGARETTE SMUGGLING

Cigarette smuggling is a major source of profit to C.Os, as well as an important reason for loss of tax revenue in Greece and other EU members.

The investigations revealed that six (6) Criminal Organisations were involved in cigarette smuggling. Investigations were also conducted with regard to thirty eight (38) suspects as members of criminal Organisations, thirty one (31) of whom were charged with similar crimes.

According to the investigated cases, it arises that Greece is still mainly the transit country and not the final destination country of smuggled cigarettes.

The smuggled cigarettes are imported illegally in our country and then they are forwarded with trucks, via the main harbours of Piraeus, Patra, Salonica and Igoumenitsa to Northern European countries, mainly United Kingdom where the special consumption taxes are very high in comparison with other countries. In some cases, cargos of smuggled cigarettes had as destination the domestic market.

C.Os are facilitated in transporting smuggled cigarettes in E.U. because the transport of cargo among EU member states is free and the only requirement is a consignment note. The customs authorities make only spot check and when there is information concerning smuggling.

In 2004, in two cases, large quantities of cigarettes were imported with boats in distant and isolated coasts of our country in order to transfer them with trucks, to other E.U. countries. In these cases, It was found that smuggled cigarettes were transferred with trucks from Greece to other countries, using false documents in order to mislead the customs authorities. Only In one case our country was the final destination of smuggled cigarettes, which were transported with a truck from Spain via Italy.

In 2004, several individual drivers of trucks were arrested, who attempted to transfer smuggled cigarettes hidden in special places. The starting point was the harbour of Igoumenitsa and destinations were Ancona, Brindisi and Trieste, Italy. Up today, it was not possible to identify COs involving in these cases.

#### **Modus operandi of COs active in 2004**

- Transport of cargo by means of trucks and trailers, under the cover of other legal products of all kinds.
- Utilization of legal transport companies, which, unknowingly, undertake to transport smuggled cigarettes, under the cover of other products (typical is the case where smuggled cigarettes were found inside heaters).
- Export of cigarettes with genuine documents, but these cigarettes do not arrive at their destination because they are re-imported in Greece or are forwarded to other countries depriving the Greek state the legal duties.
- Issuing of forged documents with data of existing firms, unknowingly or establishment of fictitious firms with forged or stolen documents.
- Transportation of large quantities with ships, which approach remote coasts in order to unload the smuggled cigarettes and then they are re-loaded to trucks.
- In several cases the C.Os use drivers of trucks who are not C.O. members and think that they transport legal cargo. This way, the C.Os have one more covering measure.
- The C.Os choose the cigarette marks mostly preferred by consumers in the UK, (e.g. SOVEREIGN, MARLBORO, DORCHESTER INTERNATIONAL).



## Routes

The United Kingdom remains one of the most popular destinations for C.Os involved in cigarette smuggling in Greece, due to the high price of cigarettes in retail market, as well as due to the great difference from their prices in other countries (due to high tax rate).

The routes for illegal cigarettes trafficking has been differentiated in 2004, as follows:

- Greece – Italy (by ferry-boat) – Spain - U.K.
- China or Egypt (by ferry-boat)-FYROM (or other Balkan countries)

## Assessment

In 2004, the cases of cigarette smuggling present stability.

### 3.6 ROBBERIES

In 2004, (6) Criminal Organisations were active, of which (2) committed robberies against trucks loaded with goods, mainly cigarettes, in order to steal the goods. Other C.Os committed robberies against banks, hotels, drivers of trucks and gas stations.

Investigations were carried out for (40) suspect members of C.Os and (28) of them were arrested for relevant crimes.

#### Modus operandi

- Use of firearms for the purpose of threatening of the victims.
- Use of physical violence (kicks, punches, e.t.c.) and extreme forms of violence, such as homicide.
- Use of stolen vehicles (cars, motorcycles) in commitment of robberies abandoning them after their escape.
- Stealing of number plates which were placed on vehicles used for commitments of robberies.
- Covering of the face with hoods so that were not identified during the robberies.
- Members of C.Os committing robberies against loaded trucks wear police uniforms using the same model of cars used by the patrols, carrying lights on the top with police signs.
- Frequent changes in the composition of the group during the commitment of crimes.

### 3.7. EXTORTIONS

The Criminal Organisations involved in extortions and subjected to investigation were (5). Investigations were conducted for sixty-six (66) suspects on suspicion of participation in Criminal Organisations, forty-nine (49) of whom were charged with crimes of such nature.

In combination with extortions, C.O. members committed drug trafficking, trafficking in stolen vehicles, forgeries, crimes against physical integrity, use of bad and stolen bank cheques, as well as legalization of illegal profits.

In 2004, an important Greek C.O., with 37 known members, was dislocated; this C.O. exerted storekeepers in several areas of Attica, promising protection of the stores receiving money.

The above C.O. was divided in three sub-groups with particular structure, which co-operated among them in the extortions of nightclub, cafeteria and restaurant owners. A feature of this case is the fact that some storekeepers accepted and exploited, against other storekeepers, the protection provided by this C.O. in order to protect their economic interests through an unfair way (explosions and destructions of other



stores). A special characteristic of the above C.O. was the extortions against persons inside and outside the group, using firearms and explosive devices.

### **Modus Operandi**

- Two C.Os committed extortions in order to obtain money from business owners under the pretext of providing protection, mainly to owners of cafeterias, bars, nightclubs with strip show programmes, e.t.c.
- A C.O. used to steal cars and then extorted their owners in order to pay money to return back the cars. However, members of the C.O. received the money without returning the cars.
- A basic “tool” of action is the use of violence either by threats against the victims’ life and property or by physical injuries, homicide attempts, shootings, explosions, arsons and destructions of their property. The form of violence varies according to the reaction of the victims.
- The C.Os seek to extort money (according to the proceeds of each company) to grant “protection” or to acquire co-ownership percentages of the firms very often.
- Greek C.Os come to a conflict between them in order to obtain the “protection” of a store. This conflict causes violent fights between the members of C.Os which may result to death.
- The Pakistani C.Os committed kidnappings of illegal immigrants in order to extort their relatives for money. These C.Os use intensive violence against the kidnapped victims.

### **3.8. THEFTS**

Three (3) criminal Organisations committing thefts were investigated. Investigations were conducted for (25) individuals on suspicion of participation in criminal Organisations, (22) of whom charged with crimes of such nature.

The majority of thefts concerned removal of property and money from houses by means of burglary. They removed mostly money, electrical devices, technical equipment, cloths, jewels, e.t.c..

The criminal organisations committing thefts are, usually considered as homogenous according to the national origin of the members with flat organisation, international links with the country of origin of the members, where usually all or part of the stolen items are gone, or money coming from their illegal activity.

In 2004, a C.O. appeared which acted with an unusual method, removing automatic money devices (A.T.M.) from banks in order to take the money contained in them considering arise:

- A C.O. removed A.T.Ms, using the method of unpick, with stolen crane machines and trucks, inactivating the alarm systems. Their activity extended to several areas of the country, while their members had clear roles with specific and determined duties (safe-breakers, electricians – electronics, operators of cranes and lifting-tackles, supervisors, e.t.c.).
- Another C.O. committed thefts of several items of great value from luxurious houses, as well as thefts of cars of great value. It co-operated with specific pawnshops and jewellers in Athens, selling the stolen items. In addition, member of this C.O. were formed to possess forged banknotes of (50) €.
- Third C.O. acted for, at least three years in Athens committing thefts of valuable items from houses. A member of this C.O. participated in a group of fellow-countrymen, which committed thefts from stores in Aegean island during the summer period.





## Assessment

It is estimated that the threat posed by C.Os of such type is still low while, they usually stop their activity after the dislocation, since the ties between their members are not strong enough, and there is not strict hierarchical structure and use of violence.

### 3.9. FRAUD

The investigation revealed that twelve (12) Criminal Organisations were involved in fraud. Investigations were also conducted with regard to (87) individuals on suspicion of participating in criminal Organisations, (53) of whom were charged with crimes of such nature.

The frauds are committed with the forgery to be, almost always, the secondary and necessary additional crimes (mainly forgeries of credit cards and documents).

A C.O., using special equipment, trapped A.T.Ms and the numbers of credit cards and the PINs. Then based on the genuine numbers, produced forged cards, without data and received money from A.T.Ms. Members of the C.O. had used in Greece 76 forged improvised credit cards.

Another C.O., also, produced forged credit cards (white plastic) stealing real data from cards and then, in co-operation with storekeepers, bought goods at the expense of the owners of the genuine cards, using the same method, a C.O. with members from Greece, France and Lebanon, with computers and copy mechanism in the magnetic field of the cards (magnetic rink) produced forged cards with real data sent via e-mail by other members in Brazil and U.S.A.

Third C.O. misled the citizens in several areas of the country via TV games projected by local TV channels, charging the participant players with large amounts of money in phone lines of high charge starting with the number 090, and after a long time of waiting not giving them the right to play in the game, always asking very easy questions. Members of the C.O. received only calls from other members who purposely made a mistake.

#### Modus operandi of COs active in 2004:

- C.Os, in combination with the crime of fraud, also commit forgeries of documents used in the commitment of fraud. In several cases, they have organised laboratories for the production of false documents.
- Most part of the frauds committed by C.Os was against banks by obtaining loans or credit cards using false supporting documents (identity cards, income and employer certificates, etc.).
- For the commitment of frauds, persons having economic problems (with unexistent income, homeless, drug - addicts, e.t.c.) were used who for an efficient consideration produced forged documents in the bank in order to receive loans.
- A C.O. achieved to enter the software programmes of a bank and removed money from bank accounts of customers. The amounts were transferred to bank accounts in Greece and Ukraine kept by members of the C.O.
- Another form of fraud by C.Os concerns stealing (through the trapping of A.T.M. machines of credit card data (PIN codes, account numbers, e.t.c.) belonging to citizens abroad and in our country, in order to forge their credit cards to withdraw money from A.T.M. and to obtain money from fictitious purchases of several goods. For the fictitious purchases they had secured co-operation with stores and commercial businesses.
- In many cases frauds are committed against stores through the purchase of great value with the use of forged credit cards.



- A Greek C.O. committed fraud through a “put – up” TV game. In particular, for several months, a TV game was played in same TV channels of Salonica; in this game, two same photos were presented which had an obvious difference but the eventual participating players never found this difference. In order to participate in the game, the players made calls paying much money waiting for a long time without participating in the game. The profits coming from this activity were very large.

### **Assessment**

The development of modern technology favours the constant improvement in the commitment of frauds. There is a co-operation between C.Os at international level, mainly for exchange of data concerning bank accounts. The C.Os activating in fraud take advantage of every possible weakness in the money – credit system and, in general, the opportunities offered by the free market, in order to obtain illegal accounts of money with a low risk. The possibilities for success are increased due to the confirmed co-operation with legal business, which look for obtaining a part from the illegal proceeds.

### **3.10. FORGERY**

The investigation revealed thirteen (13) Criminal Organisations involved in forgery. Investigations were also conducted with regard to (55) individuals on suspicion of participation in criminal Organisations, seventy-seven (37) of whom were charged with crimes of such nature.

Most of the C.Os involved in forgery as main crime, activated in the production of false residence documents for the economic immigrants in our country, who do not meet the necessary conditions for legal residence in our country. The false documents were mainly passports, visas, certificates from an employer, international driver licenses and other documents, which were necessary for the aliens to obtain work and residence permits.

In many cases, members of C.Os were civil servants in key-positions and their duties related to the issue of such documents.

The nationalities of C.O. members who committed forgeries are almost the same with the individuals who committed illegal immigration (Greeks, Albanians, Bulgarians, Pakistanis, Iraqis, etc).

The Bulgarian C.Os use a very sophisticated methodology and produce in their country false documents and false seals of public services and then they import them in Greece for further elaboration and exploitation.

The Greek-Albanian C.Os activated in the issue of false documents and stealing of legal residence permits in Greece. Their basic collaborators are employees of municipalities who play substantial role in their activity.

The Pakistani C.Os committed forgery of documents used for legalization of immigrants and forgery of international driver licenses issued by different countries.

### **Modus operandi of C.Os active in 2004:**

- Operation of illegal laboratories producing false documents of every type with the use of modern technological means. Many seals of public services and genuine blank documents were found at the most laboratories.
- Use of special and modern technological means for forgeries: computers, printers, scanner, gelatin for plasticization, typewriters, special sewing thread, prints of sink seals on special paper and other supporting tools.
- Involvement of employees, working in public and municipal services, in C.Os, for issue of false and illegal residence permits to aliens in the country as well as





other necessary documents. Co-operation with lawyers who played the role of mediator with the illegal aliens.

- A C.O., taking advantage of the legislation on repatriation of Greeks lived in the former USSR, forged and produced false certificates confirming the Greek nationality for aliens, in co-operation with employees of prefectures.
- The C.Os activating in forgery for legalization of aliens provide multiple services since, in combination with false travel documents, they also sell the respective tickets which will facilitate their travel abroad (air tickets, boat tickets, etc).
- Issue of false passports and Visas Schengen by Greek – Albanian and Bulgarian C.Os to aliens, in order to facilitate their travel abroad.
- Production of false seals belonging to public services of our country and other countries (Pakistan, Turkey) by Pakistani and Bulgarian C.Os in order to legalize aliens in our country or to travel to Italy and Spain. For the trafficking of false documents and forms, they also used courier offices.
- In particular, members – aliens of C.Os collected orders from aliens – “customers” (usually fellow – countrymen), who wanted to buy false documents. As meeting places were central points in Athens at specific stamping – grounds (cafeterias, photo stores and other stores) where aliens use to gather.

### **Assessment**

In 2004, the activity of C.Os in the crime of forgery was only confined in the issue of documents, which are necessary to the economic immigrants (passports, residence permits, etc).

The constant increase in the forgery crimes in the recent years at international level and domestic levels is not only due to the development of modern technology (computers, skimmers, colour printers, special software), used by the C.Os, but also due to the existence of a large number of economic immigrants in Greece, who take advantage of the services offered by the C.Os and acquire false documents in order to either mislead the authorities and obtain a legal residence permit for Greece or manage to travel to other countries.

### **3.11. THEFTS OF COPYRIGHT**

The modern technology has offered to C.Os the opportunity to deal with theft of copyrights, mainly with the reproduction of piratical digital discs, selling them to the public at lower prices than then prices of the legal disc companies. The C.Os which were investigated for this type of crime were three (3). Investigations were carried out for fourteen (14) members suspects of these C.Os and ten (10) of them were accused with relevant crimes.

The COs reproduce piratical digital discs, with music content, at organized laboratories or at special places, using modern technological means (computers, CD speed copy guides, colour printers, e.t.c.), with high capacities for reproduction of mass quantity of pirated audio CD-Rs, having as covers similar to the genuine ones. In order to promote them to the market, they transfer the products at storehouses and then supply the vendors in several places of the country obtaining large amounts of money.

The extension of this criminal activity is indicated in the numerous arrests of individual vendors who sell pirated audio CD-Rs (mostly Nigerians); however it was not possible to dislocate the whole network and to identify all respective illegal laboratories.

The vendors travel throughout Greece selling the pirated audio CD-Rs at central places of big towns. Recently, piratical DVD are sold with modern movies which are



projected or will be projected at cinemas.

### **Assessment**

The C.Os activating in the reproduction and sale of pirated audio CD-Rs piratical discs take advantage of the high prices of the genuine ones and sell them in almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the price of the genuine ones. The public purchases the piratical discs since the prices of the genuine discs are considered as high. It is estimated that as far as there will be high prices in the market of digital music discs, the C.Os will exploitate the market conditions and will reproduce and sell piratical digital music discs.

### **3.12. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Three (3) Criminal Organisations that engaged in child pornography came under investigation. Investigations were conducted for twenty (20) individuals on suspicion of participation in criminal organisations, seventeen (17) of whom were charged with crimes of such nature.

The C.Os activating in child pornography were Greek and all members were Greek. For their criminal activity they used internet.

#### **Modus operandi of the C.Os active during 2004:**

- The three Greek C.Os, trafficked over the Internet child pornography material together with indecent pornographic material.
- They speculated against the website visitors interrupting, via activation of a special software, their telephone line with the Greek ISP connecting them unknowingly, to foreign telecommunication providers abroad in order to access other pornography web pages and "pink lines".
- They used server of companies abroad (mainly USA) as well as data of companies abroad in order to pay money for the providing services.
- Members of the C.Os operated in several cities of Greece (Athens, Salonica, Serres, Creta, Kavala, Pyrgos, Iraklio) collaborating with members abroad (Brazil, USA). They were computer programmers, businessmen, students, insurers, photographers, educators, lawyers, teachers and employees of businesses, mostly 20-45 years old.
- Members of a C.O. mainly activated in "fishing", via internet, of young and minor persons, for indecent photographic for a consideration and subsequent speculation through the selling of pornographic material in the web (WWW). This specific C.O. organised meetings with persons-members of websites at central points of Athens, where photographed minors participated as well.
- One of these C.Os trafficked, together with the child pornography material, photos and video reproduced with the use of secret camera, representing sexual intercourses of unsuspecting citizens at hotel rooms, cubicles for trying on clothes and other public places (it is characteristic that some of the photos were taken at the facilities of the Olympic Games in Athens). This C.O. belonged to an international network operating in our country and Brazil.
- Members of a C.O. worked and studied at Universities and trafficked the pornographic material using the university connections.

### **Assessment**

A positive step on the fight against this type of organised crime is the full operation, since the early of 2004, of Computer Crime Enforcement sections in Athens and Salonica; they are responsible to deal with child pornography crimes in the internet throughout the country. In addition to the above mentioned cases, the computer crime enforcement Agency has brought to justice many other cases if child



pornography, which are not included in this report, since only one or two persons were identified each time making impossible to reveal the activity pr not of Criminal Organisations.

Given, on the one hand, that Greece is still behind as regards Internet users in comparison with other European countries, and, on the other, that the internet is developing rapidly and the number of Greek users is increasing dramatically, it is expected that child pornography on the internet and other forms of e-crime will rise sharply in the future.

### **3.13. COUNTERFEITING**

Five (5) Criminal Organisations that engaged in counterfeiting came under investigation. Investigations were conducted for twenty (36) individuals on suspicion of participating in Criminal Organisations, fourteen (23) of whom were charged with crimes of such nature.

The said banknotes are usually imported directly from Bulgaria to cities of Northern Greece. In 2004, several individuals were arrested mainly in Northern Greece (most of them Greeks).

The overwhelming majority of C.O. members accused of counterfeiting are considered as medium-range members in roles of traffickers, drivers and mediators. The investigations could not approach key-members and leading members (persons responsible for running counterfeit laboratories, financiers, etc.)

Usually, the counterfeit banknotes are those of 50€ and 100€. There are extremely faithful to the original. A specific Greek C.O. with many members, imported from Bulgaria in our country counterfeited banknotes of 500€, with high authenticity; this counterfeiting method appeared for the first time in European Union.

#### **Modus operandi of C.Os during 2004**

- A C.O. with many members had as a keymember a border guard, who served at the Illegal Immigration Enforcement Section in Athens. This C.O. had also criminal activity in the trafficking of human beings aiming to the sexual exploitation.
- A C.O. which disposed in the market counterfeited banknotes of Euros in small quantities, in different areas of the Central Greece. Purpose of this C.O. was to obtain genuine banknotes through purchases at several shops. The transfer of the counterfeited notes was carried out inside a hidden place of a vehicle.
- Members of a C.O. continued to import, from Bulgaria to Greece, counterfeited Euros with their own cars, in order to hand them over to other members of a Greek C.O.
- Bulgarian C.Os continued to import from Bulgaria to Greece counterfeit banknotes using their own cars with a view to delivering them to members of Greek C.Os.

#### **Assessment**

Greece is the only county bordering on Bulgaria. Therefore, the counterfeited euros produced in the illegal laboratories of this country will be forwarded mainly to Greece, especially after the facilities occurred in the recent years as regarding trafficking of human beings and goods.

The arrival of foreign tourists from third countries, who are not familiar to the use of Euros, provides opportunities to the C.Os, which produce and traffic counterfeited banknotes, to distribute them in the Greek market, especially in the summer period.



### 3.14. TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL GOODS

Two (2) criminal Organisations that engaged in illegal trade in cultural goods came under investigation. Investigations were conducted for (10) individuals on suspicion of participating in criminal Organisations, all of them Greek nationals, and (8) of them were charged with crimes of such nature.

The cases in question involve illegal trafficking of ancient items (gold wreath of oak, gold coin and golden jewels) from Hellenistic and Ancient times, of considerable archaeological value. This CO was active in Thesprotia and Voeotia.

The C.Os activity in trafficking Greek archaeological treasures is limited (the relevant illegal activity usually involves the unintended or intended discovery of ancient handcraft and their illegal selling). The investigations did not reveal the source of the items and how they had ended in the hands of the C.Os. Members from one of the above C.Os had carried out illegal excavations using metal detectors in order to discover ancient items and trade them.

Individuals arrested in possession of archaeological treasures rarely lead to C.Os that buy and promote this ancient handcraft abroad. Arrested individuals are mostly Greek nationals (almost 93% of the total), and indicate the trend for illegal profit through the selling of ancient items.

#### Assessment

International C.Os operating, mainly, in the Central Europe are always interested in the ancient Greek treasures. Since such treasures are buried under the ground of many areas in Greece, there will always be persons who will try to sell the discovered ancient items to COs.

### 3.15. KIDNAPPING – HOSTAGES

In 2004, one C.O. took hostages, investigations were carried out for (5) suspects as members of a CO, and (2) of them were accused of relevant crimes.

The above C.O., in 2004, committed a kidnapping and took hostage a minor, requesting from the parents to pay a large amount of money in order to release the minor. The kidnapping ended with the release of the minor and the arrest of the C.O. members without paying ransom.

#### Assessment

It is estimated that during the recent years, the C.Os activating in kidnappings-hostages is very limited and the threat posed by them is low.

The successful operational results of the (8) kidnappings for ransom, which occurred in the country during the last ten years, contributed to this development.



#### 4. AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Many Criminal Organisations had connections and were active in (25) countries apart from Greece, such as Turkey (29 COs), Albania (23 COs), Italia (11 COs), Bulgaria (10 COs), Spain (7 COs), Romania (6 COs), Russia (6 COs), Ukraine (5 COs), Pakistan (4 COs), Brazil (4 COs), Iraq (4 COs), Germany (3 COs), FYROM (3 COs), Bangladesh (3 COs), China (3 COs), Belgium (3 COs).

The following table shows the countries (apart from Greece), where were active the members of Criminal Organisations that were dismantled in Greece per crime. The figures charted in the table show the number of crimes in which was active members of different COs per country (only as far as main crimes are concerned):

CRIME	FYROM	ALBANIA	BELGIUM	BULGARIA	BRAZIL	FRANCE	GERMANY	UNITED KINGDOM	INDIA	IRAQ	IRAN	SPAIN	ITALY	CARRIBEAN	CHINA	CYPROS	LIBEA	LITHUANIA	BANGLADESH	NETHERLANDS	UKRAINE	PAKISTAN	ROMANIA	RUSSIA	TURKEY
KIDNAPPINGS																									
FRAUDS					1							1									1		1		
EXTORTIONS																					1				
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS		2		7		1	1											1			4		5	5	5
TRAFFICKING I STOLEN VEHICLES			2			1	1					2	3												
THEFTS																									
CIGARETTE SMUGGLING												3													
ROBBERIES																									
DRUGS (trafficking)		15	1		2			1				2	2	1						1					
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY					1																				
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	3	6					1			3	2		4	1	3	1	1		3			3			24
ILLEGAL TRAFFIKING IN CULTURAL GOODS																									
COUNTERFEITING					1																				
FORGERY				2					1	1			1											1	
COPYRIGHT																									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>

The C.Os dismantled by law enforcement authorities in 2004 were mainly active in the Athens and Thessaloniki area. The Criminal Organisations' activity is concentrated in the **capital area**, as this area consists of around 37% of the country's population (with the biggest rate in aliens). This area concentrates the biggest financial and commercial activity and the main bulk of business activity and services offered in the country. The **Thessaloniki area** concentrates almost 10% of the country's population and constitutes the centre of economic and commercial activity of Northern Greece, as well as a nodal point for relevant activities of the Balkan countries.

#### 5. RESOURCES

Many organised criminal groups draw their resources of their members' legal business activities (e.g. shipping, transportations, trade, running shops, etc.) in order to invest in illegal activities (mainly drug trafficking, smuggling, trade in human beings, illegal immigration). Based on the cases solved, it is estimated that C.Os members do not extract their resources by acting violently (e.g. robberies), in order to fulfil their illegal activities.

#### 6. USE OF VIOLENCE

The C.Os use violence mainly in the crimes concerning trafficking of human beings and illegal immigration.

C.Os which committed robberies (Greek and Greek-Russian C.Os) and kidnappings



(Albanian C.O.) did not use special type of violence, except the violence needed for the commitment of these crimes (e.g. threat and use of physical violence). Only one Greek C.O. killed a victim of robbery.

The **Albanian C.Os** which transfer drugs via the Greek – Albanian borders continued in 2004, to use violence. In particular, they do not hesitate to shoot against Greek border guards, while, in some cases, members of C.Os threatened to use grenades against Police officers. The Albanian C.Os which deal with the trafficking of human beings continue to use cruel treatment for their victims and among them are minor victims of sexual and economic exploitation.

The **Greek C.Os** continue to use intensive violence in the crimes of trafficking of human beings and extortion. In the trafficking of human beings, they used psychological and physical violence in the victims via torture of the women and coercive supplying of drugs. Characteristic is the case of two women – victims who preferred to jump from an apartment' balcony, with a result to be injured, in order to escape from the illegal detention and violence. The Greek C.Os which committed extortions used, also in 2004, very cruel forms of violence, such as homicides, injuries, arsons, bomb attacks and threats against the lives of the victims and their relatives. Also, there were cases of conflicts, with use of intensive violence, between the C.Os which committed extortions against storekeepers, within the frameworks of the antagonism concerning predominance and extension of their illegal activity.

The **Greek – Moldavian and Greek – Ukrainian C.Os** dealing with trafficking of human beings, aiming to the sexual exploitation, used very cruel violence against the victims, such as beats until consciousness, continuous rapes of women and special methods of torture (e.g. torture with the use of razors).

The **Greek – Romanian and Russian C.Os** dealing with trafficking of human beings used threats for violence and detained illegally their victims, removing their travel documents.

The **Pakistani C.Os** which committed extortions, kidnapped fellow – countrymen in order to extort their relatives. The kidnapped victims were suffered intensive physical violence and humiliation, while they were detained illegally under poor living conditions.

The **Chinese, Bangladeshi, Greek-Iranian and Iraqi C.Os** dealing with illegal immigration transferred and detained illegally in our country illegal immigrants (usually fellow – countrymen), under poor living conditions, not caring about their lives, until their relatives pay the money to release them. In particular, the Chinese C.Os continued to use violence against the trafficking victims, destroying the passports of their fellow – countrymen, detaining them illegally at warehouses – cells, torturing them with the use of cruel physical violence. In general, the use of physical violence with beats by the C.Os dealing with illegal immigration aims to the intimidation of the victims and their relatives in order to pay larger amounts of money than the agreed ones and already paid for the initial transportation of the illegal immigrants in our country.

### Assessment

The more the COs modus operandi evolves due to the use of modern technologies, the use of persons with special skills and sophisticated coverage tactics, the more the degree of violence they exert in order to accomplish their illegal activities is diminished.

In crimes that require trafficking, management and exploitation of persons (illegal immigration, sexual exploitation, extortions) it is estimated that the use of violence will continue with the same characteristics by the same C.Os for which the use of violence is an element of the action methods used for many years, yielding big profits.





The use of violence is an integral part of these C.Os for the achievement of their objectives, and there is an indication that it will not be limited in the future, but it will take more cruel and specialized forms, aiming to a more possible intimidation of the victims and increase of the illegal profits.

## **7. EXERTING INFLUENCE**

In some cases, Criminal Organisations cannot accomplish their economic goals without the tolerance and protection offered by civil servants. This is why they always want to approach and enlist civil servants and employees (of the judiciary, police, tax authorities, customs, etc.) for help to their criminal actions in order to assure their tolerance or protection in exchange of a considerable economic profit.

During the year 2004, it was concluded that civil servants were only engaged in forgery and frauds relating with the legalization of illegal aliens in Greece.

## **8. USE OF SPECIAL/SOPHISTICATED METHODS-COVERAGE**

Extended use of the modern technology by the C.Os was noted as in the last years. In several cases, many C.O. members have knowledge of digital technology (computer, communications, computer transactions, etc.) as it is found from their activity in frauds, forgeries, counterfeiting and child pornography.

It is interesting to note the illegal access of C.Os to the electronic systems used by a Greek bank for transactions, in order to withdraw money from accounts of third persons.

The skimming method used for snatch of data from credit cards (recording with special machines which record data from magnetic tapes and use of special computer software computer) and production of credit cards with genuine data, is interesting. In some cases, the C.Os produced plastic credit cards (white plastic) and then, with the co-operation of storekeepers, bought goods on the charge of the owners of the genuine cards.

The C.Os, which commit child pornography, using their special knowledge on computers, speculate on the visitors in their web pages diverting the calls to providers of Internet services abroad.

There was a C.O. which misled citizens through "put-up" TV games projected by local TV channels charging the participant players with large amounts of money.

The C.Os still exploit the constantly developing technology of the mobile phones (communication, photography, small computers), as tools in the commitment of their illegal acts. They also exploit fully all possibilities for identity concealment while they make use of all possibilities provided by the new generation of telephony.

C.Os dealing with illegal immigration and trafficking of drugs hire persons who are not members and undertake to cross the Greek borders (usually the Greek-Turkish in the first case and the Greek – Albanian in the later), in order to transfer and deliver the illegal immigrants and drugs to members of the C.Os. In this way, the C.Os are covered and reduce the risk for their members to be arrested.

## **9. THE LEGALIZATION OF PROCEEDS DERIVING FROM ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES**

The legalization of proceeds deriving from illegal activities, as a derivative crime committed due to the need to conceal the real source from which the illegal proceeds derive, is committed by almost all the C.Os, since their objective is mainly the pursuit of profit.

According to the data of the main competent body of Greece (Art. 7 Committee of L.2331/95) on money laundering, (779) reports of suspect transactions were examined in the year 2004, which were filed from banks, exchange offices, various





Public Services, the Hellenic Capital Market Commission of the Athens Stock Exchange and citizens.

The majority of the C.Os that commit crimes of trafficking in drugs, trafficking in human beings, illegal immigration, smuggling and frauds, use money laundering as a "complementary crime".

## **10. CONCLUSIONS (RISK ASSESSMENT – TRENDS)**

### **New Trends**

- The investigations, in 2004, concerned (178) cases of organised crime; namely, there is an increase in comparison with the last year concerning (157) cases. A particular increase was in the cases concerning trafficking of human beings (39 in 2004, 18 in 2003), not only due to the increased effectiveness of the law enforcement authorities (concentrated experience and knowledge, anti-trafficking squads, first priority in the action plans), but also due to the trafficking of human beings, aiming to the economic exploitation, and the trade of infants. Also, the fraud cases were increased considerably (12 in 2004, 6 in 2003).
- The increasing social, economic and geographical mobility in E.U. and the Member – States has affected the structure and composition of the C.Os operating in each country. The homogenous and domestic C.Os are reduce in the resent years. In the contrary the heterogeneous and foreign C.Os are increasing. The recorded homogeneous and domestic C.Os were (92) in comparison with (77) of the heterogeneous, while the foreign C.Os were (76) and the domestic-foreign totally (45) in comparison with (52) of the domestic ones.
- In addition to the cases, where the C.Os dealt with trafficking of human beings aiming to their sexual exploitation, there were cases where the C.Os exploited them economically, mainly aliens (minor and deaf-mutes), forcing them to beg, in the pretext of selling small items.
- There were cases concerning trade of infants, where the C.Os identified confined women (from Bulgaria), or they had just born, and persuaded them to sell their infants to Greek childless couples. Usually, the relatives of the mothers were the mediators and made the agreements for the selling.
- An increase was noted in the sexual exploitation of minor girls-victims, in comparison with the previous years.
- The involvement of Greek C.Os continued, with key members, in the transfer of cocaine with ships from the Latin America to Europe.
- It was found an increase in the trafficking of synthetic drugs, especially ecstasy pills.
- The C.Os, which deal with trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, present recently some changes in the modus operandi (customers lists, strict criteria for selection of customers, monitoring of appointments, reduction of violence, obtaining of acquiescence, etc.)
- The action of C.Os seems to be extending outside the areas of the two large urban centres of the country to other areas, mainly the areas adjacent to neighbouring countries and islands.

### **Risk Assessment**

It is estimated that the criminal Organisations acting in Greece will continue to engage mainly in the illegal immigration, drug trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, smuggling, counterfeiting, frauds and forgeries. It is estimated that the C.Os which are already engaged in the aforementioned fields will try to continue with the same or greater intensity, as long as these illegal activities produce large profits and the markets offer opportunities for their commitment.



After the enlargement of the E.U. and the impending accession of Bulgaria and Romania, in 2007, the E.U. and our country will border with countries such as Ukraine, Moldavia and Turkey. Since many of the victims from the trafficking of human beings and illegal immigrants come from these countries, there are more possibilities for the C.Os to activate in this area and our country to accept more pressure in these and other criminal areas.

## **11. MEASURES TAKEN**

The measures taken by the Greek State to tackle organised crime are in line with the directives of the European Union and other international Organisations, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and criminal conditions of the Greek reality. The additional measures adopted in the year 2004 were the following:

- Legislative measures by passing new legislations and amending old ones,
- Improvement of police methods of prevention and suppression,
- Organisational restructuring of the law enforcement agencies and establishment of new specialized units,
- Continuous education and training of the existing staff,
- Strengthening of international cooperation with new agreements, and co-operations.

### **11.1. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

- The Presidential Decree 2/2004 (FEK A-1) was issued which provides the reconstructing of the Police Services at the General Police Directorate of Attica, while (96) new Police security Stations are organized and operate, aiming to better policing in order to fight against the common and organized crime in the area of Attica.
- The P.D. 100/2004 (FEK A-69) was issued and put into force which provides the establishment and operation of Computer Crime Sections at the Security Directorate of Attica, with jurisdiction throughout the country, and at the Security Directorate of Salonica, with jurisdiction in the area of Salonica.
- The 3251/2004 (FEK A-127) Act was passed by the Greek Parliament and put into force concerning the European arrest warrant, while the 2928/2000 Act was amended concerning the Criminal Organisations, aiming to the better fight against the organized crime and terrorism.
- The Greek Parliament ratified, by the 3294/2004 Act (FEK A-243), the Protocol worked out according to the article 43, par. 1, of the Convention on the establishment of a European Police Agency (Europol Convention), which amends the said convention, aiming to a better fight against the organized crime in the E.U. member states.
- The Greek Parliament ratified, by the 3240/2004 Act (FEK A-92), the European – Mediterranean Agreement between the European Union and its member states and the Republic of Lebanon together with the final act. This Agreement provides co-operation on prevention and fight against the O.C., the illegal narcotic substances and legalisation of proceeds coming from illegal activities.
- The Greek Parliament ratified, by the 3269/2004 Act (FEK A-186), the Agreement between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Slovenia on co-operation in the fight against the crime, especially terrorism, illegal trafficking of drugs and organized crime.
- The Greek Parliament ratified, by the 3298/2004 Act (FEK A-260), Memorandum of Understanding on the Operation of the Anti-Trafficking Center in Vlora, Albania.



- The Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation was put into force; this Agreement provides co-operation between the Ministry of Public Order of the Hellenic Republic and the Ministry of Interior affairs of the Russian Federation in the field of the fight against organised crime.

## 11.2. ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES

- The plans on the security of the Olympic Games included measures on the prevention and fight against threat of the organized crime, and the threats posed by terrorism and the common crime. In particular:
  - a) in the context of the existed agreements on police co-operation with Balkan and European countries, the political and police leadership of the Ministry of Public Order visited many countries and agreed to intensity the exchange of relevant information before and during the Olympic Games in Athens, especially on terrorism and organised crime,
  - b) Especially with the neighbouring countries, there was an agreement on a closer co-operation between the law enforcement authorities at the border controls concerning movement of persons and goods, aiming to the prevention of any illegal activity by COs,
  - c) Police liaison-officers were appointed at the Olympic Games Security Directorate by Balkan and other European countries (United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Fyrom, Hungary, Cyprus, Norway, Sweden Denmark, Finland), during the Olympic Games, aiming to a better and more direct exchange of information on the organized crime and terrorism. For the same reason, Interpol, Europol and NATO appointed liaison officers at the O.G.S.D. (Olympic Games Security Division).
- Our country was supplied with modern technological and other equipment, which was used successfully for the secure performance of the Olympic Games in Athens. The equipment of the Law Enforcement Services and the know-how, as a result of the use of this equipment, helps considerably the fight against the organized crime and the dislocation of the COs operating in our country. In particular, the Customs Authorities begin to take advantage of the new technologies which were supplied before the Olympic Games (vehicles and stationery detection systems X – rays, portable detection devices of SEARCHWR type, endoscopic drug tests, e.t.c.) with a purpose to support their operational activities during the controls at the entry and exit border pints, especially in the fields concerning control, inspection and fight against the illegal trafficking of drugs.
- In May 2004, a special committee of Secretary Generals of Ministries was established; it was responsible for the monitoring and co-ordination the fight against the trafficking of human beings. This committee operates under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and consists of the Secretary Generals of co-responsible Ministries (Interior – Public Administration and Decentralisation, Economy, Foreign Affairs, National Education and Religions, Employment and Social Protection, Health and Social and Social Solidarity and Public Order), aiming to the co-ordination, at political level, all matters concerning trafficking of human beings.
- Furthermore, there are already programmes at the Customs Services, such as the Watch Tower, in co-operation with the Customs of England and the Special Squad “Felixtowe” at the harbours of Piraeus and Salonica, aiming to the identification of suspect containers entered from third countries on Europe, mainly in our country. In particular , there is a programme concerning co-operation



between the Customs Service at the Kipi Post of Evros river and the Special Squad Felixtowe to identify suspect trucks which are involved in the trafficking of drugs, coming from Turkey.

- The Customs Authorities have signed co-operation memoranda (MOU) with:
  - a) The chemical Industry concerning matters of precursor substances,
  - b) Pharmaceutical and chemical company “BAKAKOS Ltd”, concerning precursor substances,
  - c) TM Eye Brand Link in piracy, an institute dealing with identification and suppression of adulterated products,
  - d) BIMCO concerning the sea transportation of goods, and
  - e) DHL concerning prompt transportations
- (96) new Security Police Stations were established and operated aiming to a better policing and the fight against common and organized crime in the area of Attica.
- The new Computer Crime Sections were established and operated in Athens and Salonica.
- The following expert groups (command work group) continued to operate at the Ministry of Public Order:
  - a) concerning the counter – criminal policy aiming to the national formation of a counter criminal policy and its implementation throughout the country,
  - b) concerning the trafficking of human beings aiming to the study of the trafficking of human beings for their sexual exploitation in our country and the planning of an action series to deal with it, due to the need for working out and implementation of a national policy at the levels of prevention, enforcement and restitution of the victims,
  - c) regarding the Local Councils for prevention of crime aiming to the support of the new institution, activation of the competent agencies and evaluation of actions.
- The procedures of committees are finished; these committees studied the functionality and effectiveness of the databases used by the Hellenic Police for the organized common crime. According to the findings of the committees, a procedure for the change of databases has began, so that to provide processed intelligence serving a future European Criminal Intelligence Model and an Intelligence Led Policing.
- The works continued for the connection between the databases of the Ministry of Public Order and other Ministries (Transportation and Communication, Justice, e.t.c.) in order to improve the effectiveness of the prosecuting authorities in the fight against crime, organised or not.

### **11.3. PREVENTIVE - SUPPRESSIVE MEASURES**

- The co-operation meetings continued between police officers from Police Directorates bordering police officers from Police Directorates bordering to Balkan Countries (Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM) and Police Officers from these countries, aiming to a better co-operation to deal with the transborder organized crime. During the meeting in 2004, special emphasis was given to the security of Olympic Games in Athens, in August 2004
- The five-year Special Operational Action Plan of the Anti-Drug Prosecution Authorities continued successfully in the framework of the five-year National Action Plan against Drugs under the coordination of an interministerial committee in which participate all the Ministries involved (training of personnel, stuffing of the



drug enforcement agencies, supplying of technical equipment, strengthening of the international co-operation, e.t.c.).

- Our country and the Ministry of Public Order undertook the Presidency of the Group on the fight against organized crime and corruption, in the context of our country's presidency in the Black Sea Economic Co-operation –BSFC.
- Our country participated in the “SAFF HAVEN” operation, held on 14-25 June 2004, in the context of the SECI initiative, aiming to the fight against the trafficking of drugs in the Balkan routes.

#### 11.4. PERSONNEL - TRAINING

- Participation of police officers in seminars: a) on strategic crime analysis, b) operational crime analysis, c) economic crime analysis, which were organized by Europol, the Sweden NCIS and the French Gendarmerie.
- Personnel with the Hellenic Police and other prosecution services participated in a number of international meetings and Fora on: a) organised crime, b) illegal trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, c) cross border crime and d) illegal trafficking of drugs. These meetings were held in the framework of programmes of the European Union, the U.N., Europol, Interpol, the Schengen Agreement, SECI, Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, International Organisation of Migration, OLAF, FATF and other bi- and multilateral cooperation agreements.

#### 11.5. ANALYSIS METHODS

Personnel of the I.P.C.D. Analysis Section of the Hellenic Police Headquarters participated in the **Contact and Support Network for Organised Crime (CSN)**, which has been working on the action plan adopted by the EU Council as regards changing the report on the situation of organised crime in Europe, turning it from a situation report to a risk and threat assessment. In this framework, new analysis guidelines were used, as presented and discussed in the CSN. Also, the guidelines given by the Europol Analysis Unit to member states regarding the drawing up of the report for the year 2004 were taken into consideration (recommendations and information gaps in the 2003 Europol report, letters addressed to member-states on the areas requiring closer attention).

#### 11.6 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- In December 2004, in the Context of O,E,C,D., an additional protocol was signed on the fight against terrorism.
- Several meetings were held between police officers of neighboring police Directorates of Greece and Albania aiming to a better fight against the cross-border and organized crime in this area.
- The Greek police liaison officers activated in 13 countries, in the fight against the organized crime.



## 12. METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

The Crime Analysis Section of the Public Security Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters was responsible for drawing up the present report.

The Document ENFOPOL 35, REV.2 (6204/2/97) of the Council of the European Union was used as an assessment mechanism. The classification of criminal behaviours into the category of Organised Crime was made on the basis of eleven criteria agreed in the framework of the European Union and described above.

Following the conclusions of the Contact and Support Network for Organised Crime, important changes and modifications were made to the present report under the guidance of the Europol Analysis Department. It was the third time that the features of criminal Organisations had been analysed with the methods set by the first part of the action plan on changing the Report into a risk and threat assessment.

In drawing up the report and formulating the final text, the editors used contributions by the Law Enforcement Agencies of Greece (Hellenic Police, Coast Guard, Customs Authorities, Economic Fraud Squad/SDOE, Article 7 Committee of Law 2331/1995 on money laundering, Anti-Drug Coordinative Body, Fire Department, etc.) in the framework of a multi-sectorial planning, aiming at describing in the best possible way the situation as regards Organised Crime.

The information sources also included the formal investigations conducted by the above-mentioned authorities in the framework of preliminary investigations. Assessments are based on data and information from these sources. The present report also included information on organised crime collected by the liaison officers with Greece's (53) Police Divisions.

The cases analysed in the first phase by national databases (mainly those of the Hellenic Police) and the reports of the liaison officers were approximately (835) which, after a first examination seemed to meet some criteria of organised crime. After these were scrutinized, (178) cases were chosen that met the minimum characteristics of organised crime, on which this report was based.





## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>D.E.A.</b>	DRUGS ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
<b>F.A.T.F.</b>	FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE
<b>O.L.A.F.</b>	ORGANISATION DE LA LUTTE ANTI-FRAUDE
<b>S.E.C.I.</b>	SOUTH EAST COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE
<b>S.I.S.</b>	SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM
<b>E.U.</b>	EUROPEAN UNION
<b>C.O.</b>	CRIMINAL ORGANISATION
<b>U.K.</b>	UNITED KINGDOM
<b>U.S.A.</b>	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
<b>O.C.</b>	ORGANISED CRIME
<b>F.Y.R.O.M.</b>	FORMER YUGOSLAVIAN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
<b>S.D.O.E.</b>	ECONOMIC CRIME SQUAD
<b>S.O.D.N.</b>	DRUG PROSECUTION COORDINATING BODY

## TERMINOLOGY

In order to avoid misinterpretations for terms often used in this report, the interpretations of some terms are provided below:

- **C.O. key member** is considered (from the preliminary examination service) a person who, within a CO, plays an important and leading role in inciting and organizing criminal activities.
- **C.O. member** is considered (from the preliminary examination service) a person who is not a key member but is suspect or accused of participating in the crime-committing CO.
- **Main Crimes or Activities** are the crimes for the commitment of which the CO has been established and which were the main target of the investigation carried out by the prosecution authorities.
- **Secondary Crimes or Activities** are the crimes that are subordinate to main crimes as regards intensity, participation and profits. They are committed by COs in support of their main activities and are committed, as a rule, separately from the main crimes.
- **Criminal Organisation (C.O.).** The Greek legislation (Law 2928/2001 and Article 187 of the Penal Code) provides: "Imprisonment for up to ten years is imposed on a person who establishes or participates as a member in a structured group with constant action consisting of three or more persons (Organisation) in order to commit crimes provided by Articles 207 (counterfeiting), 208 (trafficking in counterfeit banknotes), 216 (forgery), 218 (forgery and defalcation of stamps), 242 (false certificate, fraud), 264 (arson), 265 (arson in woods), 268 (flood), 270 (explosion), 272 (offences concerning explosive material), 277 (causing of a shipwreck), 279 (poisoning of fountains and foods), 291 (disturbance of the security of railways, ships, airplanes), 299 (wilful murder), 310 (serious physical damage), 322 (kidnapping), 323 (trafficking in slaves), 324 (kidnapping of minors), 327 (abduction), 366 (rape), 338 (abuse in lechery), 339 (seduction of a minor), 374 (grand theft), 375 (defalcation), 380 (robbery), 385 (extortion), 386 (fraud), 386a (fraud with use of computer), 404 (usury), as well as more felonies provided in the legislation on drugs, arms, explosive material and protection against substances which emit harmful radiations".
- **Homogeneous** is the C.O. whose the majority of its members have the same descent. **Heterogeneous** is the C.O. whose, in the country to the Homogeneous,





its members have different national descents.

- **Indigenous** is the C.O. whose the majority of its members have Greek descent. **Non-indigenous** is the C.O. whose, in the contract to the Indigenous do not have Greek descent. **Indigenous and non-indigenous** is the C.O. whose half of its members have Greek descent and the other half do not.