

# Breaking the siloes: international and interagency cooperation to combat firearms diversion

Tuesday 27 October 2020 | 9 am (CET) | Zoom

Better operational cooperation is needed to tackle the threat of firearms trafficking, including the diversion of firearms. The competencies to address firearms diversion are sometimes divided between different agencies or units, which can hinder both detection and investigation. In this session we discuss the role of national firearms focal points in breaking siloes that slow down information exchange, and operational cooperation both within member states and across the European Union. We particularly aim to talk about the best practices through which focal points can make a difference in tackling diversion. Secondly, we want to exchange on bilateral cooperation (including joint investigation teams) and its impact on detecting and addressing firearms diversion affecting two member states. What are the advantages of such bilateral cooperation? How does it tie in with other formats of international cooperation on EU level? These are some of the questions we would like to discuss.

## Agenda

9:00 – 9:10	<p><b>Introduction by Flemish Peace Institute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of meeting and status update project DIVERT</li> <li>• Rules of the meeting</li> <li>• Outline agenda</li> </ul>
9:10 -10:15	<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p>Presentation 1  Mechanisms of operational cooperation in the EU: their added value to detect, prevent and fight diversion (<i>Quitterie de Labbey, Flemish Peace Institute</i>)</p> <p>Presentation 2  The role of firearms focal points and cooperation to tackle diversion (tbc) (<i>Salvador Rojas, Spanish Guardia Civil</i>)</p> <p>Presentation 3  Gaps on Firearms Focal Points. Results from project ECOFIT (<i>Marina Mancuso, Transcrime</i>)</p> <p>Presentation 4  Different formats of joint operations to tackle firearms diversion: an overview of best practices (<i>Martin van der Meij, Europol</i>)</p> <p>Presentation 5   Enhancing customs capacity-building and cooperation to improve the detection of fraud in the context of firearms trade (<i>Andrew Reynolds, WCO</i>)</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p><b>Discussion on best practices to enhance the cooperation against firearms diversion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation mechanisms between national units and agencies</li> <li>• The role of national firearms focal points</li> <li>• Different formats of joint operational actions</li> <li>• Training and capacity-building</li> </ul>
11:15-11:30	<p><b>Wrap-up of the meeting and future steps of the project (Flemish Peace Institute)</b></p>