

Dear EURIEC Partner,

We find ourselves in hectic times, with hotspots in and outside Europe and rapidly unfolding political developments. Amid this dispersed attention, there is also the risk that criminals see more opportunities and aim to exploit them. This is why, more than ever, we must remain vigilant and strengthen each other wherever possible. The residents and visitors of our countries deserve nothing less.

The international specialists of EURIEC are, as always, fully prepared to continue working with you on further improving cross-border cooperation.

I wish you enjoyable reading and happy holidays!

Kind regards,



**Gert Wibbelink**  
*Head of EURIEC*

## PRESENTATION ON EURIEC AT THE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Two EURIEC colleagues had the opportunity to give a presentation at the Prevention Conference of the Sicherheitskooperation Ruhr. This presentation allowed us to showcase the support services, EURIEC offers to local governments to a broad audience. We shared practical insights into our daily work, receiving not only positive feedback but also questions related to ongoing cases from attendees, which we are happy to follow up on. Additionally, we met some new staff members of SiKo Ruhr!



## EURIEC Steering Committee sets priorities for 2025

On November 18, the first EURIEC Steering Committee meeting led by the new chair, Susanne Scheepers (mayor of Simpelveld), took place. Together with representatives from the RIECs, ARIECs, SiKo Ruhr, and relevant German, Belgian, and Dutch ministries, priorities for the coming year were established. Alongside cases focusing on international information exchange linked to organized crime, several additional priority themes were identified: combating the exploitation of labor migrants, international licensing policies, explosives (including fireworks), and synthetic drugs. These themes will receive special attention next year, including efforts to amend relevant legislation. Furthermore, a multi-year policy plan will be developed to address the long-term development of EURIEC.



## Presentation on EURIEC at the Caseworker Conference

At the annual SiKo Ruhr conference for operational staff, we presented EURIEC and the (international) administrative approach to employees of various authorities. In addition to explaining EURIEC's tasks and the diverse ways public sources in the Netherlands and Belgium can be utilized, attendees also received an overview of the powers of Dutch mayors and the Public Administration Probity Screening Act (Wet Bibob). The presentation was once again well received, and several colleagues approached us with questions.



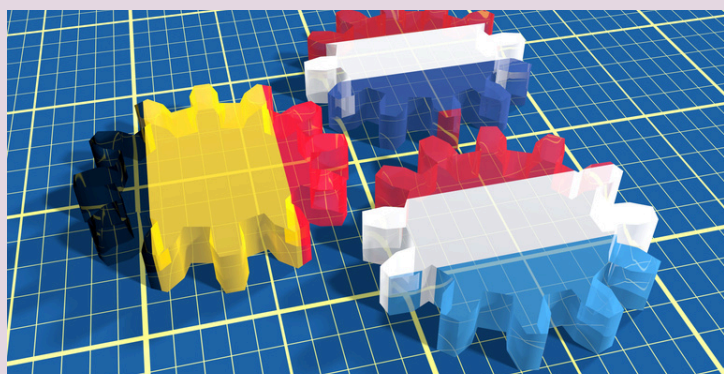
## SUCCESSFUL PANEL ON NETWORKING



EURIEC had the pleasure of moderating a panel on networking at this year's annual conference for executives of the SiKo Ruhr. The panel guests included practitioners such as Nadine Könning from the Recklinghausen police authority, Hans-Joachim Olbering from the city of Gelsenkirchen, and academic representative Matt Noortmann from Maastricht University. Insightful discussions during the event highlighted how better collaboration between authorities can contribute to more effective crime prevention. The event reaffirmed the crucial role of building resilient networks in the fight against crime. EURIEC will remain a strong partner in this vital process and took the opportunity to meet with executives and personally explain our services.

## CALL FOR CASES TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE NEW BENELUX POLICE TREATY

Since October 1, 2023, the new Benelux Police Treaty has been in force. The treaty not only enhances opportunities for police cooperation but also includes a provision for the international transfer of police data



for administrative purposes. This means, for example, that the Dutch police can provide information to Belgian police with permission for it to be shared with a Belgian local authority. If, for instance, a Belgian company is found to facilitate a criminal organization in the Netherlands, sharing this information could result in the revocation of its license in Belgium. It is important to seize opportunities across borders to jointly build barriers. Should you encounter a situation where Dutch police information could be useful for a Belgian local authority, please contact us at [euriec@rieclimburg.nl](mailto:euriec@rieclimburg.nl).

## Expert Platforms on International Licensing and Cooperation Between Genk and Maastricht

In recent months, five expert platforms were held, bringing together experts from different countries to discuss cross-border issues and explore solutions. One platform focused on international licensing. Participants in this expert platform included staff from the National Bureau Bibob, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security (J&V), the Border Obstacles Contact Point, and Belgian ARIECs. The aim of the meeting was to identify the similarities and differences between legislation in Belgium and the Netherlands and explore how better cooperation can be achieved in the short and long term. Participants agreed that when a foreign individual or company submits an application, municipalities should have access to the same information as if the application had been made in their own country.

A second expert platform involved staff from the city of Maastricht and the city of Genk, who exchanged knowledge on measures taken to address drug problems and youth crime in their cities.

For more information we are happy to refer you to our [website](#). Would you like to unsubscribe from our Newsletter? Please [click here](#).