



Europol

## Criminal organizations make 188 billion euros in profit every year, only 2 percent is seized

Barely two percent of the profits made by criminal organizations in the European Union are confiscated. This is evident from a new report from the European police agency Europol. This amounts to more than four billion euros for 2020 and 2021.

**Karla Liebrecht**

Mon Sep 11 ☾ 18:18

**T**he European police agency Europol today presented its report "The other side of the coin". It states that criminals make between 92 and 188 billion euros in profit every year. An amount that is most likely an underestimate. Only the tip of the iceberg is visible and barely two percent of this enormous amount is seized. "And that is very disturbing," says Tamara Schotte of Europol in "The world today" on Radio 1.

Investigating financial crime is not easy. Criminals are used to staying under the radar and laundering money in ingenious ways. It is a complex matter. And so experts are needed to conduct a financial investigation.

"You need police officers who can turn the accounts of a criminal organization upside down, to see how the money is laundered," Schotte explains. So it's about expertise. Europol has established the European Financial and Economic Crime Center for this purpose. "But there is a shortage of experts. We see that this expertise is not there in all our partner countries. Criminals operate differently in each country. Where the hospitality sector is doing well, criminals will try to launder money in that sector. In others countries, for example, the real estate sector. The financial rules are also different everywhere. That is why it is important that something like this is coordinated at European level, that data can be exchanged and that there is support from Europe *for* the member states."



## **Criminals operate differently in every country, and the financial rules are also different everywhere**

Tamara Schotte, Europol

To achieve even better results, Europol also requests that a parallel financial investigation be immediately launched in every file on organized crime. "That is not happening at the moment. It has to do with priorities. They want to get the target in prison and before the court as quickly as possible. All resources are being focused on this and only then will the financial investigation follow."

However, Europol also wants to convey a positive message today. We have never been in better shape. We have a very good overview of what is going on in the criminal financial underworld. We have insight into the different working methods, we have insight into how underground banking works... Member states also know that they can turn to Europol for support and we are ready with a group of experts to tackle this.

Listen to the interview with Tamara Schotte from Europol in "The world today" on Radio 1



The image shows a dark-themed audio player interface. On the left is a square image with the word "EUROPOL" in a stylized font. To the right of the image is the title "Nieuw rapport Europol: 98 procent van crimineel vermogen in de EU blijft onder de radar" in white text. Below the title is a clock icon and the duration "08:20". A horizontal progress bar is shown with a blue dot at the start, and the time "00:00" is displayed below it, with "08:20" at the end of the bar. Below the progress bar are icons for 15s and 30s skip, a play button, a volume icon with a slider, a gear icon for settings, and a "1.0x" speed indicator.

**EUROPOL** Nieuw rapport Europol: 98 procent van crimineel vermogen in de EU blijft onder de radar

🕒 08:20

⏮️ 15 ⏪ 30 ▶️ ⏭️

🔊 00:00 08:20

⚙️ 1.0x