



## **The Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN)**

### **Introduction**

CARIN is an informal network of contacts and a cooperative group in all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime.

### **Aim**

The aim of CARIN is to increase the effectiveness of members' efforts, on a multi-agency basis, in depriving criminals of their illicit profits.

### **Key Objectives**

In seeking to meet its aim CARIN will:

- establish a network of contact points;
- focus on the proceeds of all crimes, within the scope of international obligations;
- establish itself as a centre of expertise on all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime;
- promote the exchange of information and good practice;
- undertake to make recommendations to bodies such as the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, relating to all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime;
- act as an advisory group to other appropriate authorities;
- facilitate, where possible, training in all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime;
- emphasise the importance of cooperation with the private sector in achieving its aim
- encourage members to establish national asset recovery offices

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Europol holds the permanent Secretariat for CARIN. For further information contact [info@europol.europa.eu](mailto:info@europol.europa.eu) indicating your email is for the attention of the CARIN Secretariat (SC4)

## **The History of CARIN**

In October 2002 a conference was held in Dublin co-hosted by the Criminal Assets Bureau Ireland and Europol. The conference was attended by representatives of all Member States of the European Union and some applicant states together with Europol and Eurojust. Participants were drawn from law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities within member states. Workshops were held between practitioners and the objective was to present recommendations dealing with the subject of identifying, tracing and seizing the profits of crime.

One of the recommendations arising in the workshops was to look at the establishment of an informal network of contacts and a cooperative group in the area of criminal asset identification and recovery.

The name agreed for the group was the Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network (the Camden Court Hotel Dublin being the original location of the workshops where the initiative started).

The aim of the Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network is to enhance the effectiveness of efforts in depriving criminals of their illicit profits. This is now a major law enforcement tool in targeting organised crime gangs with particular reference to financial deprivation. There is added value in that membership of the group will improve cross-border and inter-agency cooperation as well as information exchange, within and outside the European Union.

The Official start of CARIN took place during the CARIN Establishment Congress in The Hague, 22-23 September 2004. The aim of this congress was the establishment of an informal network of practitioners and experts with the intention of improving mutual knowledge on methodologies and techniques in the area of cross-border identification, freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime. It is expected that this network will improve international co-operation amongst law enforcement and judicial agencies, which in turn will provide a more effective service.

The following states and jurisdictions attended the launch congress  
Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK (including the UK Crown Dependencies of Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar), USA.

# **Membership and Functioning of the CARIN Network**

## **Membership**

Membership is open to EU Member States and to those states, jurisdictions and 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties who were invited the CARIN launch congress 2004. Each Member may nominate two representatives, one from a Law Enforcement Agency and one from a Judicial Authority to be their CARIN contacts. Assets Recovery Offices may represent law enforcement or the judiciary

## **Observer Status**

Observer status will be available to states, jurisdictions and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, which can not be Members. Observer status does not entitle the state, jurisdiction or 3<sup>rd</sup> party to a vote at any plenary meeting or to membership of the Steering Group.

## **Criteria to be fulfilled by each Member and Observer:**

- 1) they should provide the network with clearly identified national contact point(s). The number of contact points should be the minimum necessary for effective operation of the network. Therefore it is recommended that no more than two national contact points are nominated. One contact point should be the central agency involved in asset tracing and forfeiture. If not, this point of contact must have direct access to practitioners in this area;
- 2) they will supply an outline and summary of their legislation and practical procedural guidelines relating to asset forfeiture, civil and criminal, for information sharing with other Members and Observers and for inclusion on the CARIN website; and
- 3) to undertake to meet the objectives and functions as set out in the Statement of Intent.

## **What does commitment to CARIN mean for Members and Observers**

- 1) they may exchange information with each other, as far as their national legislation will allow, on an informal cooperative basis;
- 2) they should advise on and facilitate mutual legal assistance. Mutual legal assistance requests must be made through the appropriate formal legal channels;
- 3) they should share good practices, knowledge and experiences, on their own initiative and should provide feedback to assist in research and development;
- 4) they should raise awareness with appropriate law enforcement and judicial authorities on the importance of developing all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime and the dissemination of information;
- 5) they will fund their own costs and expenses, other than when external funding is available.

## **Functioning of the CARIN Network**

### **General**

- 1) CARIN's working language will be English.
- 2) CARIN will consist of an Annual General Meeting of its Members and Observers (AGM) to be hosted by the nominated Presidency who will be both President of the Steering Group and the Plenary for their one year term, running from 1 January.
- 3) Each Member shall have one vote in plenary. Decisions will be made on the basis of simple majority.
- 4) There will be a website designated for CARIN hosted by Europol and administered by the Secretariat. The details can be found in the Annex attached.

### **Steering Group**

- 1) CARIN will have a Steering Group comprising of up to nine members from which one member will be elected President. The Steering Group period will run from 1 January each year and conclude on 31 December to allow for planning of the AGM.
- 2) Membership of the Steering Group will rotate periodically with two members offering to stand down each year to enable other Members to join the Steering Group. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies there will be a vote of all Members.
- 3) The Steering Group will oversee the administration of the network.
- 4) The Steering Group will receive applications for membership and observer status and will decide if a state, jurisdiction or 3<sup>rd</sup> party meets the criteria for membership.
- 5) Eurojust will have permanent observer status in the Steering Group.
- 6) The Steering Group may establish working groups to examine and report on legal and practical issues.
- 7) The Steering Group will assist in the preparation of the annual conference agenda and will identify areas for consideration at plenary.

### **The Presidency**

- 1) The Steering Group will elect the Presidency.
- 2) Each Presidency will be elected two years in advance.
- 3) One member of the Steering Group will hold the Presidency for a period of one year.
- 4) The Presidency period will commence on 1 January each year and conclude on 31 December to allow for planning of the AGM.

- 5) The Presidency will oversee the external communication on behalf of the Network.
- 6) The Presidency and Steering Group in cooperation with the Secretariat will oversee the preparation of a summary on the activities of CARIN for the year.

### **The Secretariat**

Europol will provide a permanent Secretariat function. The Secretariat will, support and facilitate the Presidency and the Steering Group, manage the web site and will administer the functioning of the network<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Email to [info@europol.europa.eu](mailto:info@europol.europa.eu) for the attention of the CARIN Secretariat (SC4)

## **CARIN Members and Observers<sup>2</sup>**

### **Countries, States, Jurisdictions Principalities and International Organisations**

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada (observer)
- Croatia (observer)
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- *Egmont Group\* (observer)*
- Estonia
- *Eurojust\* (permanent observer in Steering Group)*
- *Europol\* (Secretariat)*
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Guernsey
- Hungary
- *Interpol\*(observer)*
- Ireland
- Isle Of Man
- Italy
- Jersey
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco (observer)
- The Netherlands
- Norway

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<sup>2</sup> As at 1 June 2007

- *OLAF\*(observer)*
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia (observer)
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- South Africa (observer)
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- *UN Investigations Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services\*  
(Observers)*
- United States of America