Eurojust Takes Stock of JIT Investigating War Crimes in Ukraine

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Cornelia Riehle

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AUTHOR

Cornelia Riehle
Deputy Head of Section
Academy of European Law

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On 24 February 2025, the day on which Russia started the invasion of Ukraine three years ago, Eurojust published a summary of the results of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on alleged core international crimes (CICs) in Ukraine. The JIT was set up in March 2022 (→ eucrim 2/2022, 79-80) and comprises the following countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine (→ eucrim 1/2024, pp 8-9). Since the JIT's establishment, it has been supported by Eurojust, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), the Internatuional Criminal Court (ICC), Europol, the Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED), and the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA).

The results of their combined actions include:

- 4000 witnesses interviewed so far by the national authorities participating in the JIT;
- Over 40,000 interviews conducted by the Ukrainian authorities on their own territory;
- Notices of Suspicion *in absentia* against six suspects issued by the Lithuanian Prosecution Service;
- One Notice of Suspicion for war crimes against a civilian issued by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine;
- 26 coordination meetings between the JIT and other national authorities investigating alleged core international crimes (CICs) committed in Ukraine organised by Eurojust;
- Compilation of a case-building package by the ICPA, intended for transmission to the future office of the prosecutor of a possible special tribunal or other jurisdictions;
- Collection and analysis of potential evidence by the ICPA:
- Submission of more than 3700 evidence files by 16 countries to the CICED;
- Introduction of new translation tool to translate evidence files submitted by national authorities (for translation from 19 languages into English).

Since the beginning of the war, Eurojust has been at the forefront of supporting accountability for Russian crimes. Eurojust has provided legal and analytical expertise as well as logistical and financial support to the JIT. The Agency has also allocated roughly half a million euros to finance the JIT's activities.

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