

2008 INTERPOL
ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT INTERPOL

Created in 1923, INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. Its mission is to assist law enforcement agencies in its 187 member countries to combat all forms of transnational crime.

INTERPOL provides a high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support to enable police forces around the world to meet the growing challenges of crime in the 21st century. The Organization focuses on six priority crime areas: drugs and organized crime; financial and high-tech crime; fugitives; public safety and terrorism; trafficking in human beings and corruption.

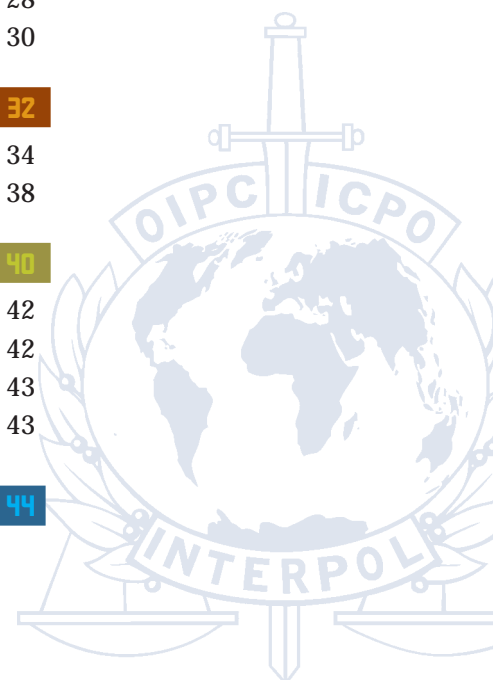
The General Secretariat is located in Lyon, France, and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. INTERPOL also has seven regional offices across the world and a representative office at the United Nations in New York and at the European Union in Brussels. Each member country maintains a National Central Bureau staffed by its own highly trained police and law enforcement officers.

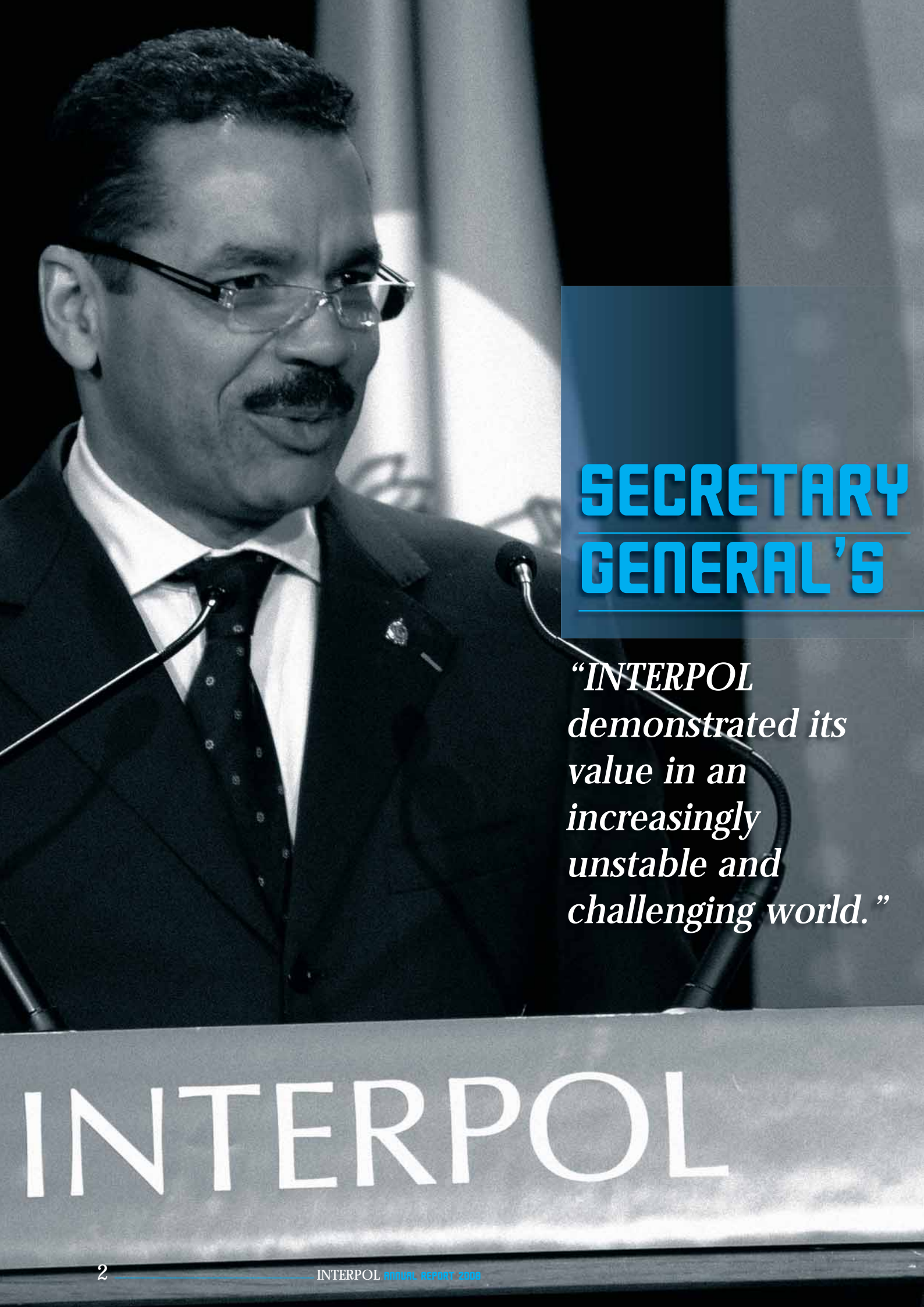


*The INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon
Front cover: the Command and Co-ordination Centre*

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SECRETARY GENERAL'S

“INTERPOL demonstrated its value in an increasingly unstable and challenging world.”

INTERPOL

The 85th year of our history proved to be a demanding and dynamic one.

The achievements that you will read about in this Report were made possible thanks to the commitment of the entire INTERPOL community: our President and Executive Committee, our National Central Bureaus, General Secretariat, Regional Bureaus, and the police and law enforcement services in all our member countries.

The year 2008 saw the election of our President, Singapore Police Commissioner KHOO Boon Hui, by our General Assembly in October. His experience and expertise will help shape our direction in 2009 and beyond.

Our four core functions – secure police communications, databases, operational support and training – guided us in all our activities throughout 2008. Our efforts over the years to enhance and reinforce these core functions have provided us with the foundation and tools to support global law enforcement in the most effective ways possible.

This year our member countries conducted more than 76 million passport screenings and intercepted close to 15,000 fraudulent passports as a result. More than 700 international fugitives were arrested thanks to the close co-operation of our NCBs and member countries.

We demonstrated once again our willingness to help a member country in need. We used cutting-edge DNA analysis techniques to assist the Philippine authorities in the identification of hundreds of victims of a major ferry disaster.

We conducted sophisticated computer analysis of seized suspected FARC terrorist laptops by Colombian authorities.

We also deployed an INTERPOL Major Events Support Team to be an integral part of China's security measures for the Beijing Olympics, and we installed the most advanced screening process for passports and visa applications available.

Finally, we proved our operational effectiveness by co-ordinating a global effort to identify, locate and arrest within 48 hours a child sex predator.

These are but highlights, yet each and every day INTERPOL staff, NCBs and member country law enforcement agencies co-operate worldwide via INTERPOL to prevent, investigate and prosecute crime in a variety of areas. Through our independence, our network and our expertise, in 2008 INTERPOL demonstrated its value in an increasingly unstable and challenging world.

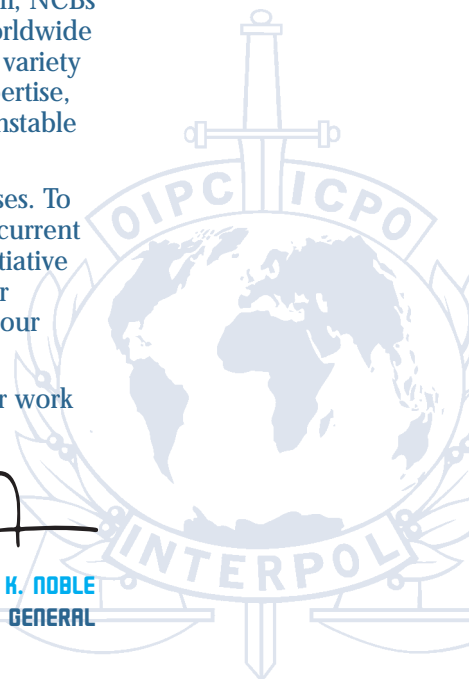
We recognized, however, that we could not rest on our successes. To ensure INTERPOL is well positioned to meet the challenges of current and future forms of crime, we launched the Global Security Initiative (GSI) for the 21st Century. The GSI outlines new approaches for engaging heads of state, governments and the private sector in our common goal of keeping the world's citizens safe.

All in all, I believe that we have good reason to be proud of our work in 2008.



RONALD K. NOBLE
INTERPOL SECRETARY GENERAL

FOREWORD



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The diversity of INTERPOL's activities can be seen clearly in the following selection of achievements from 2008, which build on past successes and steer an ambitious course for the future.

WELCOMING NEW FACES

- We elected a new President, Singapore's Police Commissioner KHOO Boon Hui.



- We approved the membership of the Vatican City State, INTERPOL's 187th member country.



LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVES

- We adopted the Global Security Initiative (GSI) as the Organization's strategic blueprint for international law enforcement in the 21st century: a far-reaching challenge requiring a billion-Euro fund.
- We launched the OASIS programme, funded by the German government, to enhance the capacity and infrastructure of police in Africa.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL TIES

- We opened a liaison office at the European Union in Brussels.
- We signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to establish an Anti-Corruption Academy near Vienna.
- Co-operation agreements were signed with the World Anti-Doping Agency, the European border agency Frontex, the Caribbean Community and the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

PROVIDING VITAL DATA

- We issued more than 3,100 Red Notices for international wanted persons.
- The number of arrests of individuals who were the subject of notices and diffusions reached an all-time high of 5,680.
- We identified more than 1,000 suspected criminals through fingerprint comparisons, compared to fewer than 800 in 2007.
- Entries in the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database rose to more than 16.7 million, with worldwide searches by law enforcement officials totalling 76.5 million.

SUPPORTING OPERATIONS

- In Operation IDent, an unknown man pictured sexually abusing children in Internet images was identified and arrested in the US just 48 hours after the launch of our public appeal.
- Operation SOGA II, against illegal soccer gambling across Asia, led to 1,300 arrests and USD 16.8 million seized in cash.
- Operation Mamba, the first combined INTERPOL-World Health Organization IMPACT operation in Africa, targeted hundreds of outlets selling counterfeit medicines.



- Africa also saw the largest-ever international operation against wildlife crime, with Operation Baba leading to nearly 60 arrests and the seizure of one ton of illegal elephant ivory.
- Project Pink Panthers, relating to armed jewellery robberies committed worldwide by a single gang, saw the arrest in Monaco of two men after police identified them from a photo circulated by INTERPOL.



ASSISTING MEMBER COUNTRIES

- We deployed an Incident Response Team to the Philippines following Typhoon Frank, to help identify hundreds of victims of a major ferry disaster, using cutting-edge DNA analysis techniques.
- At Colombia's request, we conducted an independent forensic examination of computers and hardware seized from a FARC terrorist camp. The report will determine international standards for future computer forensic studies.
- We sent a Major Events Support Team to Beijing as part of international security efforts for the Summer Olympics. China set a standard with all visitors' passports screened against INTERPOL's databases.





GOVERNANCE

INTERPOL President KHOO Boon Hui, elected at the 2008 General Assembly, underlined his commitment to helping member countries meet the demands of international policing.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTERPOL's Executive Committee provides guidance and direction to the Organization and oversees the implementation of decisions made at the annual General Assembly. It met four times in 2008.

A new President – Mr KHOO Boon Hui, Commissioner of the Singapore Police – was elected by delegates at the 77th INTERPOL General Assembly, and brings with him more than 30 years of police experience as well as recognized expertise in organizational management. Mr Khoo has already served two years on the Executive Committee as Vice President for Asia and will work closely with the Secretary General to drive forward the Organization's strategy.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTERPOL's supreme governing body, the General Assembly is composed of delegates appointed by each member country. It meets annually to take all important decisions related to policy, resources, working methods, finances, activities and programmes. The General Assembly also elects members of the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly met for its 77th session in St Petersburg, Russia, from 7 to 10 October, with an opening address by the Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin (pictured right). The General Assembly passed a number of major resolutions including:

- voting unanimously to admit the Vatican City State to INTERPOL, bringing the total number of member countries to 187;
- endorsing the Global Security Initiative for the 21st Century, which will develop public-private partnerships to tackle global security challenges;

Members of the Executive Committee:

President



KHOO Boon Hui,
Singapore,
2008-2012

Vice President for Africa



Mostapha MOUZOUNI,
Morocco,
2008-2011

Vice President for the Americas



Arturo HERRERA VERDUGO, Chile,
2006-2009

Vice President for Europe



Juergen STOCK,
Germany,
2007-2010

Delegates for Africa



Eduardo Fernandes CERQUEIRA, Angola,
2008-2009



Magdy ELSHAFFEY,
Egypt,
2008-2011

Delegates for the Americas



Thomas V. FUENTES,
United States,
2006-2009



Maria del Pilar HURTADO AFANADOR*, Colombia,
2008-2011

Delegates for Asia



Ki Ryun PARK,
Republic of Korea,
2006-2009



Vijay SHANKER,
India,
2006-2009

Delegates for Europe



Süleyman ISILDAR,
Turkey,
2008-2011



Petter DYHRE,
Norway,
2008-2011



Konstantin MACHABELY,
Russian Federation,
2006-2009

The following members completed their terms of service in October:
Franciso J. ARANDA, Spain
Farid BENCHEIKH, Algeria
Zulmar PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS, Brazil
Fernand KOEKELBERG, Belgium

*Stepped down during 2008



- encouraging and empowering National Central Bureaus to disclose to the public Yellow Notices for missing adults and Red Notices for fugitives and prison escapees;
- endorsing the creation of an INTERPOL Computer Forensic Analysis Unit to assist first-responder police units in handling and accessing electronic evidence;
- highlighting the need for improved international co-operation to combat counterfeit medical products: a problem that poses serious implications for public health and safety;
- calling for an increase in the sharing of information in terrorist-related matters, using the available INTERPOL tools and the Fusion Contact Officers network.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES



20th Asian Regional Conference, Hong Kong, China, 5-7 March

Nearly 120 delegates from 32 countries across Asia, the South Pacific and the Middle East attended the conference. Speakers called for law enforcement officers to make better use of INTERPOL notices and databases, particularly in efforts to trace and apprehend terrorists and child sex offenders.



37th European Regional Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania, 28-30 May

Attended by delegates from 48 European countries, the conference covered a range of security issues. National Central Bureaus were urged to provide the widest possible assistance to locate and arrest the four remaining fugitives wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia: Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic, Goran Hadzic and Stojan Zupljanin. Karadzic and Zupljanin were subsequently arrested.

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF INTERPOL'S FILES

The Commission for the Control of INTERPOL'S Files (CCF) ensures that the processing of personal data – such as names and fingerprints – is in line with INTERPOL'S rules, in order to protect both the fundamental rights of individuals and the co-operation among police internationally. The General Assembly voted to amend INTERPOL'S Constitution to integrate the CCF into its internal legal structure, thereby strengthening the CCF'S role and guaranteeing its independence as an official body of the Organization.





SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE



We provide a range of operational services to police across the world, including a 24-hour contact point and expert assistance in the field. Our secure technical network, databases and system of international alerts form invaluable policing mechanisms, backed up by specialized training courses.



SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE

THE COMMAND AND CO-ORDINATION CENTRE

The Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC) is the link between the INTERPOL General Secretariat, regional offices and National Central Bureaus in all 187 member countries. Staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the CCC operates in all four official languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) and serves as the first point of contact for any member country faced with a crisis situation.

The CCC monitors news channels and INTERPOL messages exchanged between member countries to ensure the full resources of the Organization are ready and available whenever and wherever they may be needed. Other services include:

- instant, real-time searches of INTERPOL databases;
- priority issue of INTERPOL notices, particularly Orange and Red Notices;
- support for fugitive investigations and prison-break incidents;
- initiation or co-ordination of emergency-response measures.



■ SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Member countries increasingly request INTERPOL's services in the field during a crisis situation or for a major event with public security implications.

INTERPOL Incident Response Teams (IRTs) deliver an emergency response and/or specialized investigative support and can be deployed in a matter of hours. They are multi-disciplinary and comprise experts from different member countries.

INTERPOL Major Event Support Teams (IMESTs) assist with the advance planning, preparation and implementation of security arrangements at events with a high public profile. The training and infrastructure implemented for the event benefit the country on a long-term basis.

Against the background of increasing demand and interest from member countries, we held our first International Conference on Crisis and Major Events at the General Secretariat in October, where we were able to share best practice with senior officials from 54 countries and 11 international organizations.

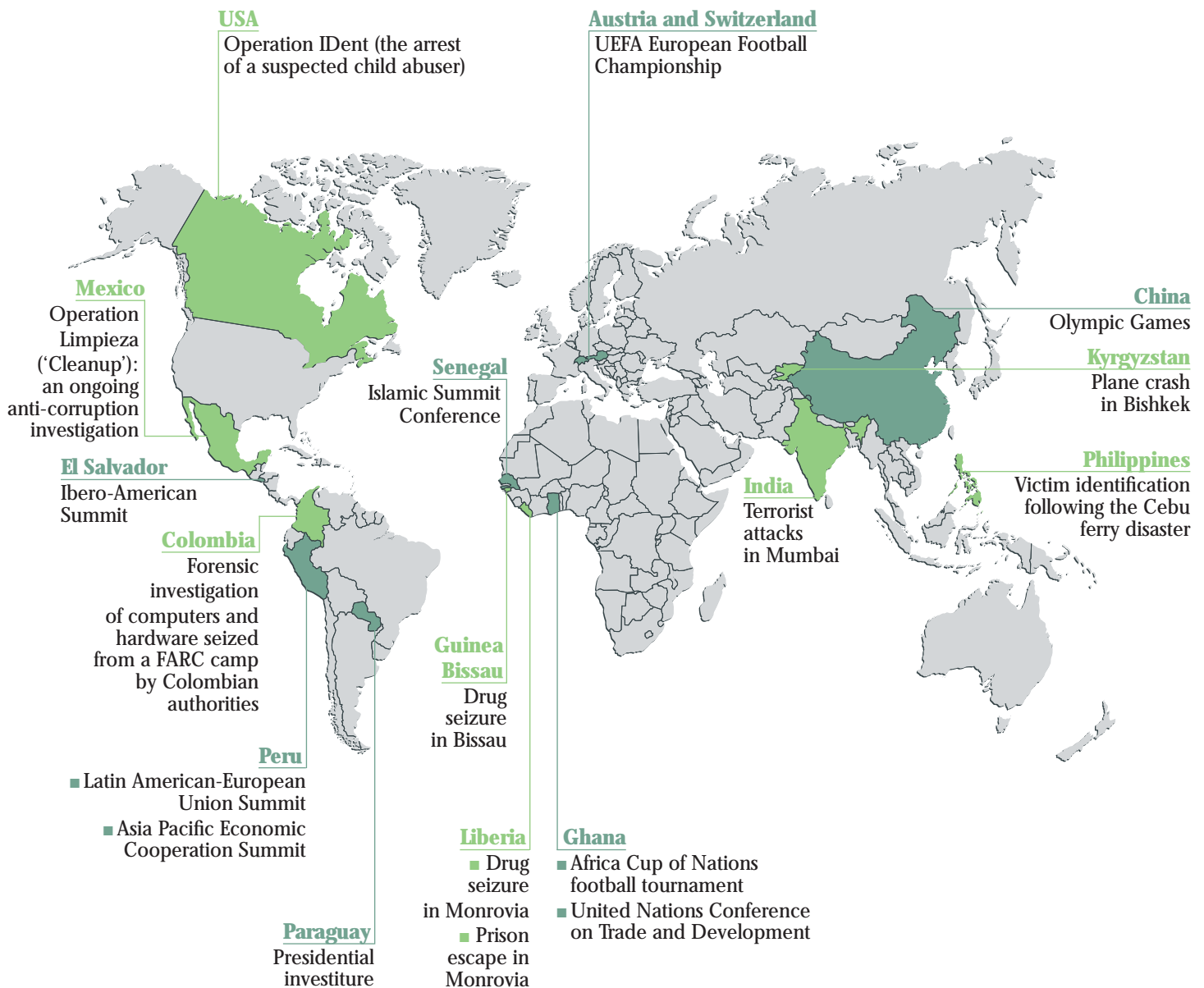


Operational 24 hours a day

INTERPOL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS (IRTs) AND INTERPOL MAJOR EVENT SUPPORT TEAMS (IMESTs) DEPLOYED IN 2008

IRTs

IMESTs





SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE

SUPPORTING THE PHILIPPINES TO IDENTIFY FERRY VICTIMS

Nearly 1,000 people perished during Typhoon Frank in the Philippines on 21 June, with more than 800 victims from the capsized ferry the Princess of the Stars alone. Eight days later, an INTERPOL Incident Response Team arrived in Cebu City to support the local authorities in identifying the victims.

Comprising DNA and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) experts and a representative from the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the team played a central role on the ground in supporting the work of the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation in their ongoing DVI efforts.

The IRT showed INTERPOL's capacity to support a country in a long-term, large-scale specialized operation.

Practical requirements included:

- refrigerated containers to preserve the bodies with dignity;
- mobile forensic labs for swift and efficient DNA analysis;
- a Victim Identification Information Centre for grieving relatives and friends;
- close co-operation with the ICMP in Sarajevo, which has expertise in large-scale victim identification and the most up-to-date DNA matching techniques.

By the end of the year, a total of 2,730 DNA samples had been collected from victims and from their relatives. Of the 560 bodies recovered from the vessels, 234 were identified using DNA analysis and a further 40 victims identified using other traditional methods such as examination of fingerprints and dental records.



A record number of arrests

NOTICES AND DIFFUSIONS

INTERPOL notices serve to alert police to fugitives, suspected terrorists, dangerous criminals, missing persons or weapons threats.

Resolutions passed at the General Assembly empower member countries to make Red and Yellow Notices – for wanted and missing persons – systematically available to the general public via the INTERPOL website. The Internet is a powerful medium for maximizing the reach of the information and tips from the general public can play a valuable role in assisting police with their investigations.

We published 4,596 notices in 2008:



3,126 Red Notices: wanted persons



304 Blue Notices: individuals of interest in relation to a crime



664 Green Notices: warnings and intelligence about serious criminals



385 Yellow Notices: missing persons



91 Black Notices: unidentified bodies



7 Orange Notices: dangerous materials, criminal acts or events that pose a potential threat to public safety



26 INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices: individuals associated with Al Qaeda and the Taliban, as listed by the 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council

In addition to notices, 13,339 diffusions were published in 2008. Unlike the more formal notice, a diffusion can be distributed directly by an NCB to other member countries via I-24/7, our global police communications system.

In 2008, the number of arrests of individuals subject to INTERPOL notices or diffusions reached a record of 5,680, of whom 718 were the subject of a Red Notice, one of our most visible and effective mechanisms for international police co-operation.

INTERNATIONAL ALERTS AND ARRESTS

Notices issued

2,037 +126%

4,596

Diffusions issued

7,977

+67%

13,339

Arrests

2,357

+141%

5,680

2003

2008

Among the criminals arrested were:

- Sidi Ould Sidna, wanted in connection with the murder of four French tourists in Mauritania in December 2007, arrested in Guinea Bissau in January;
- Viktor Bout, accused by the USA of supplying weapons to Al Qaeda and the Taliban, arrested in Thailand in March;
- Stojan Zupljanin, wanted by the United Nations' International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for war crimes and crimes against humanity, arrested in Serbia in June;
- David Murcia Guzman, a Colombian accused of defrauding thousands of investors through pyramid schemes; located, arrested and deported from Panama in November.



SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE

EXPANSION OF POLICE SERVICES

■ EXTENDING ACCESS TO I-24/7

With all 187 member countries connected to I-24/7, our secure global police communications system, the priority now is to extend access beyond the National Central Bureau and to officers in the field. To date, 81 countries across all INTERPOL regions have expanded INTERPOL services through I-24/7.

A new I-24/7 training centre was inaugurated in November in Kiev, Ukraine, to support the expansion of the system to frontline officers in remote sites in several countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This was funded by the European Union's Technical Assistance to the CIS scheme.

■ I-LINK

Work continued in 2008 on I-link, our state-of-the-art criminal information management system, due to be launched in successive phases during 2009. I-link's powerful search functionality will enable investigators across the world to establish connections between individual crimes that might otherwise go unnoticed.

■ MIND/FIND

Known as MIND/FIND, mobile and fixed integrated network databases give field officers direct and secure access to our databases, enabling them to carry out real-time searches of stolen and lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles and wanted persons.

By the end of the year, MIND/FIND technical solutions were fully operational in 42 countries, more than double the figure of 20 at the end of 2007, with some 30 other countries in the development or test phase of the process.

As part of an ongoing project with the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, Montenegro's national police database network was upgraded in 2008 to give every workstation in the country a connection to I-24/7 or to MIND. This resulted in 20 times more searches of our database of stolen and lost travel documents and a total of 36 matches.

MIND HELPS CROATIA IDENTIFY STOLEN LUXURY CAR

A luxury car stolen in France was recovered just four days later, thanks to the use of a mobile unit to run a check against the INTERPOL Stolen Motor Vehicles database. A police officer patrolling a motorway in Croatia was able

to find out instantly that the car was reported stolen by the National Central Bureau in Paris. The officer alerted his command centre, a roadblock was set up, the car stopped and the driver arrested.



Real-time database access for frontline officers

DATABASES

We manage databases of information on criminals and crimes that are accessible to all National Central Bureaus through I-24/7. The information in the databases, which is supplied by police in member countries relates to:

- Nominal data
- Stolen and lost travel documents (SLTD)
- Child sexual abuse images
- Stolen works of art (WoA)
- Stolen motor vehicles (SMV)
- Stolen administrative documents (SAD)
- Fingerprints
- DNA profiles
- Missing persons and unidentified bodies



SIGNIFICANT DATABASE FIGURES

Stolen and Lost Travel Documents hits



DNA profiles



Nominal hits



Fingerprint searches



Terrorist entities



Stolen Motor Vehicles hits



Works of Art searches



Stolen Administrative Document searches



2005

2008

2003

2008



SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE

■ CHILD ABUSE IMAGES

Since the creation of the INTERPOL Child Abuse Image Database (ICAID) in 2001, 834 victims from 35 countries have been rescued. The database contains more than 500,000 images of child sexual abuse and uses recognition software to make links between people and places, so that children can be identified and located.

In 2009 ICAID will be replaced by the International Child Exploitation Database, directly accessible to member countries who have dedicated units responsible for victim identification and child abuse. Once trained on the new system, investigators will be able to share information and evidence more effectively and to receive instant responses to their queries.

The ICAID played an important role in investigations to identify a man seen abusing children in photos circulated on the Internet. Operation IDent, a public appeal for information, led to his identification and arrest.

■ STOLEN AND LOST TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A powerful tool for catching criminals who travel using false identity papers, our Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database has seen a consistently strong annual increase in use since its launch, and is now used by 145 countries. Live access to the database is becoming widely available to border control officers using our MIND/FIND technology. By the end of the year, the database contained 16.7 million records and, as a result of almost 76 million searches, officers identified 16,465 stolen or lost passports/visas.



Powerful tools for catching criminals



FINGERPRINTS

Fingerprint comparison plays a vital role in investigations of all kinds and we are working to optimize the use of our Fingerprints database. In 2008 we signed a partnership agreement with Sagem to develop a new Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This system will automate our fingerprint searches, enabling us to carry out 1,000 a day instead of the current rate of 160 a day, and will have the valuable addition of both palm print and facial comparison software.

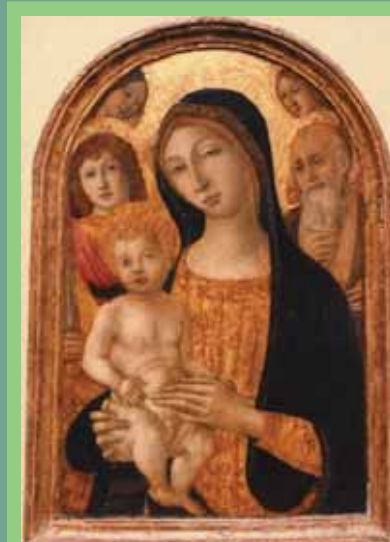


DNA

DNA profiling can help link crimes, identify a suspect or help locate a missing person. In order to encourage member countries to make use of our DNA profiling database, we ran regional workshops in Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. The Bangkok workshop, held in April, brought together six countries and helped develop DNA comparison strategies for the region. Notably, it was the first collaborative effort among Asian law enforcement agencies to tackle the issue of exchanging forensic intelligence.

WORKS OF ART DATABASE HELPS RECOVER STOLEN PAINTINGS

In December, Romanian police arrested one Romanian and two Hungarian nationals who were selling stolen works of art directly from their hotel room in Brasov. Police recovered several paintings and a large number of ancient objects worth several million Euros which had been stolen from a private collection in Vienna, Austria, three months earlier. The use of INTERPOL's ASF Works of Art database and close co-operation with the Austrian police enabled the identification of a 15th century painting of the Virgin with the Child by Matteo di Giovanni di Bartoli, amongst other important artworks.

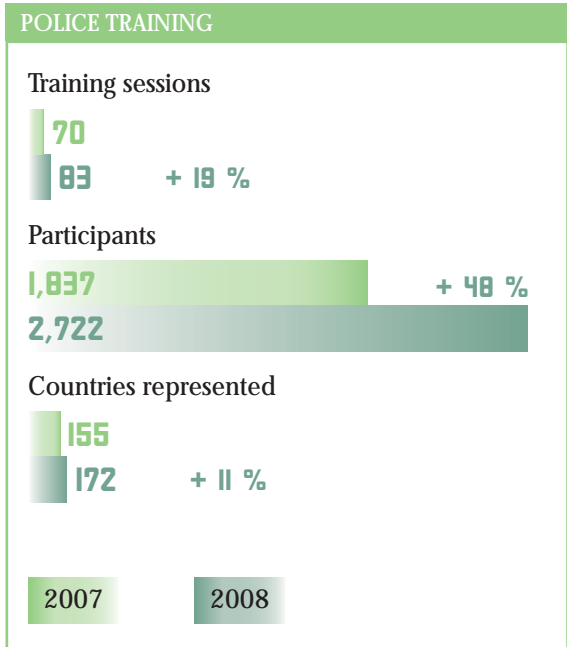




SERVICES FOR POLICE WORLDWIDE

TRAINING

One of our core functions is police training and we continue to expand our range of courses and to promote partnerships with other organizations and sectors.



■ INTERPOL INTERNATIONAL POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Aimed at highly qualified officers who have a responsibility in dealing with international police co-operation, the INTERPOL International Police Training Programme is an eight-week course. The participants gain skills and knowledge of specialized crime investigation techniques as well as numerous INTERPOL systems and services. The course combines classroom study, on-the-job training and assignments in specialized areas. Three sessions were conducted in 2008, including a first session in French. In total, 39 participants completed the course successfully.

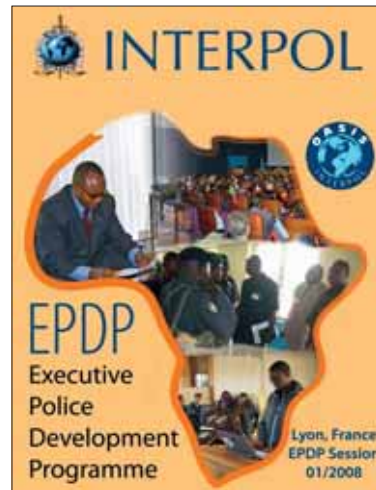
Well-trained police officers

■ EXECUTIVE POLICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Designed to equip senior-rank police officers with the necessary tools to determine national law enforcement policies and strategies, and to better address the challenges of international crime, the Executive Police Development Programme is a strategic training programme. Lasting a total of nine weeks, the course is run within the framework of the OASIS programme. Senior police officers from 17 African countries took part in the first module of the programme.

■ ANALYSING TRENDS

Criminal intelligence analysis uses structured methods and techniques to examine and interpret information from a variety of sources and is a vital police tool, providing timely warnings to threats and supporting operational activities and investigations. A total of 60 police personnel took part in three training courses in criminal intelligence analysis in September and October, held in Lyon, Harare and Nairobi.



■ CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN POLICE COLLEGE

To develop a common European approach to the training of senior police officers, we signed a partnership agreement in December with CEPOL, the European Police College. This collaboration will strengthen our training courses and allow the development of common curricula and course materials.

MAKING TRAINING ACCESSIBLE TO AFRICAN POLICE

The OASIS Programme is subsidizing training courses for African police officers, allowing them to benefit from training they could otherwise not attend. Of the 39 participants in the International Police Training Programme during 2008, 19 were funded by OASIS, and saw first-hand the potential of cross-border police co-operation.





KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Major new initiatives in 2008 serve to address modern-day security challenges and provide targeted support to police in Africa. Key ongoing activities included reducing human exploitation, ensuring public safety, dismantling criminal networks, protecting consumers and tracking down fugitives.

GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE

In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, we face growing crime challenges – such as cybercrime, drug and human trafficking and terrorist financing – that require a global response. In recognition of the need for a broad, cross-sector approach to tackling the changing nature of crime, we have developed the Global Security Initiative for the 21st Century (GSI). Launched at the 77th General Assembly in October, the GSI will outline new approaches for the Organization and provide a comprehensive framework for action.

INTERPOL is uniquely placed to address today's security challenges but the path to a safer world requires a radical redefinition of the role of international law enforcement and demands the involvement of governments, international organizations and the private sector. International security comprises much more than traditional issues relating to military and political stability, but also economic security and social development. Work is under way to build sustained partnerships with bodies from different sectors and, crucially, to raise the funds – some one billion euros – to finance this far-reaching initiative.



OASIS AFRICA

The OASIS programme (Operational Assistance, Services and Infrastructure Support) focuses on assisting those regions of the world that lack the resources to respond to the challenges of transnational crime. Already established in countries in Africa, thanks to funding from the German Federal Government, OASIS delivers a cohesive package of training, infrastructure and operational support, enabling police forces to address crime threats effectively on national, international and global levels.

Access to I-24/7, our global police communications system, was expanded beyond the National Central Bureaus in six African countries (Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Senegal, Swaziland and Tanzania). In this way, officers in strategic locations such as immigration and customs controls now have direct access to our databases, greatly enhancing the effectiveness of their policing.

Training courses within the framework of the OASIS programme cover a broad range of crimes – including stolen motor vehicles, drugs and organized crime and intellectual property (IP) crime – and are run in advance of each operation. In November our Intellectual Property crime course in Nairobi, organized jointly with the Kenyan police, was attended by nearly 150 participants from 26 Eastern and Southern African countries. The six-day training course equipped police managers with the knowledge and expertise to lead proactive operations, targeting transnational organized criminals who manufacture and distribute counterfeit medical products throughout the region.



Arresting criminals across borders

FUGITIVES

WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS

Our Rwandan Genocide Fugitives Project aims to apprehend the fugitives wanted in connection with the 1994 genocide. By the end of 2008, a total of 11 suspects who were the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice requested by either NCB Kigali (Rwanda) or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) had been arrested, of which five arrests took place during 2008.

As well as co-operating with the ICTR, we work closely with the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, to locate and apprehend fugitives wanted for crimes against humanity or war crimes.

**INTERPOL
TOOLS
HELP IDENTIFY
WAR CRIMES
FUGITIVE**



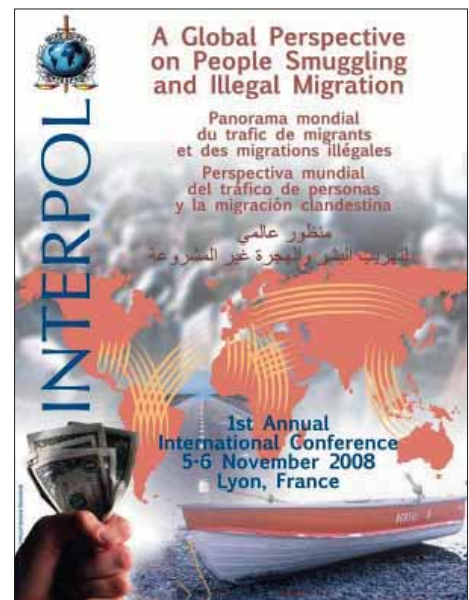
A Bosnian Serb commander during the Balkans conflict, wanted by the United Nation's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice, was arrested by Serbian police in June. Stojan Zupljanin was using a false name when arrested, but was positively identified through DNA comparison. Primary photo and fingerprint comparisons were facilitated by collaboration between the General Secretariat and National Central Bureaus in Belgrade and Sarajevo.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

PEOPLE SMUGGLING

Many immigrants die each year attempting to cross borders while hidden in trucks or containers, and those who reach their destination are often exploited and forced into dangerous or unpaid work. With Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe all points of origin, transit or destination, it is vital to develop a co-ordinated international response.

We launched a new project this year to dismantle people smuggling networks, extending access to the I-24/7 network, increasing use of our databases, providing operational support and boosting training. A pilot operation, codenamed Anaconda, was carried out at the international airport in Lima, Peru, to prevent criminals carrying fraudulent travel documents from entering the country.



© ICE

Paedophile identified and arrested in 48 hours

CHILD EXPLOITATION

CHILD SEX ABUSER IDENTIFIED THROUGH PUBLIC APPEAL

Operation IDENT – the identification and arrest of an unknown child sex abuser in only 48 hours – highlights the power of international co-operation between police, the public and the media.

- We launched a public appeal on our website on 6 May for help identifying a man seen in photos abusing children. Norwegian police had discovered the photos in March 2006, believed to have been taken in South-east Asia.
- We had previously circulated the images to our global network of experts to try and identify the man, and entered them into the Child Abuse Image Database, but without success.
- A fast response from the public led to the identification two days later of Wayne Nelson Corliss, a Canadian man living in the US. He was arrested in New Jersey on 8 May by officers from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.
- In October, Corliss pleaded guilty in a US court to five charges, including the production and possession of images depicting the sexual abuse of children and travelling to foreign countries to engage in illegal sexual activities.

Operation Ident is our second global public appeal for help in identifying a paedophile. The first, Operation Vico, led to the arrest in Thailand of Christopher Paul Neil in October 2007, now serving a prison sentence.



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KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TERRORISM

TERRORISM

Created in 2002, the Fusion Task Force (FTF) has built a contact network in more than 140 member countries, with officers exchanging information and intelligence on active terrorist groups and developing profiles of suspect individuals in the FTF's terrorist registry.

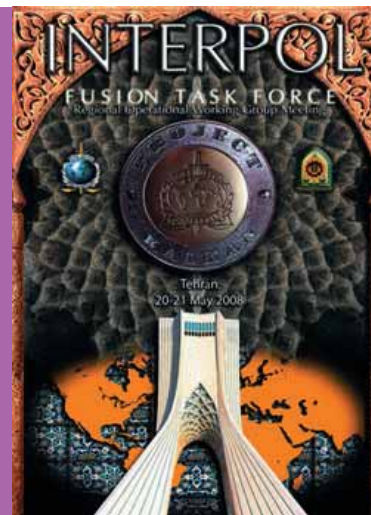
We currently have six projects under the FTF umbrella: Project Nexus (Europe), Project Pacific (Southeast Asia and Pacific Islands), Project Kalkan (Central Asia), Project Amazon (South and Central America), Project Baobab (Africa), and Project Middle East. Four regional working group meetings took place in 2008.

FTF CONTACT OFFICERS

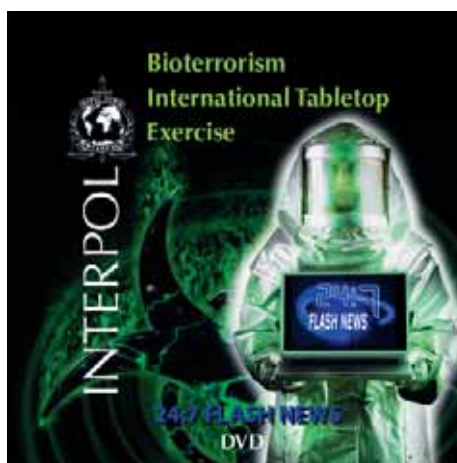


PROJECT KALKAN : A PROTECTIVE 'SHIELD'

Launched in 2004 with only five member countries, Project Kalkan (meaning 'shield') has increased its membership to more than 75, demonstrating a coherent and collaborative approach to security in the region. Tangible results can be seen, with more than 80 individuals arrested in 2008.



Protecting citizens around the world



BIOTERRORISM

A large-scale attack using biological agents or toxins would cause harm and disruption on a global scale. A tabletop exercise on preparing for such an eventuality brought together 20 participants from five countries and three international organizations. Held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August, the event was based on a fictional scenario of a bioterrorist attack and explored the different roles played by police, governments and health-care professionals, as well as preparing for a joint response to this type of threat.

In addition, three train-the-trainers sessions on preventing bioterrorism took place in the Philippines, Peru and Egypt, with a total of 106 participants from 20 different countries.



FIREARMS

The INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) became fully operational in 2008. Based on a Canadian model, this tool enables investigators to correctly identify a firearm and therefore significantly increase their chances of identifying its ownership history when submitting a trace request through the INTERPOL Weapons Electronic Tracing System. The IFRT is accessible via the I-24/7 network and contains more than 250,000 firearms references, detailed descriptions and 57,000 high quality images.



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ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

We donated a surveillance plane to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to boost the country's efforts against poaching and wildlife smuggling: offences that are often connected to drug trafficking networks and other types of crime.

A new manual gives frontline officers operational guidelines on how to carry out controlled delivery of illegal items, enabling investigators to monitor shipments of contraband until they arrive at their destination so that the individuals involved in the smuggling chain can be identified and arrested. Jointly produced with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the manual was launched in October during our 6th International Conference on Environmental crime.



KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AFTER MAJOR DRUGS HAUL

An INTERPOL Incident Response Team (IRT) helped police in Guinea Bissau build a solid case against traffickers, following the seizure in July of a plane carrying a significant amount of cocaine. One of the Venezuelan pilots was identified as wanted by Mexico in relation to his role in the importation of nearly 6 tonnes of cocaine in 2006: the individual was taken into custody and a Red Notice issued for his extradition. A canine unit flown in from Portugal found cocaine residue in the aircraft. Subsequently, forensic specialists in France and the United States analysed all computers and phones seized by the Guinean police. The evidence collected by the IRT confirmed the involvement of a South American organized crime group.



DRUGS AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

■ DRUGS

The drug trade affects all parts of the world, either as source, transit or destination country. For example, cocaine is smuggled from South America via West Africa to Europe or, increasingly, to Southeast Asia. Given the need for a fully global response to the problem, we work closely with the United Nations and regional agencies such as the associations of police chiefs in Africa.

■ ORGANIZED CRIME

Our project on Asian Organized Crime (AOC) was set up in 2006 to provide a permanent platform for international co-operation and intelligence sharing on the activities of Asian organized crime groups. Operation SOGA II, in May and June, targeted organized soccer gambling in Asia. The operation was bolstered by meetings of the AOC Expert Group, operational workshops, computer forensic training and the creation of a dedicated criminal database for illegal gambling.



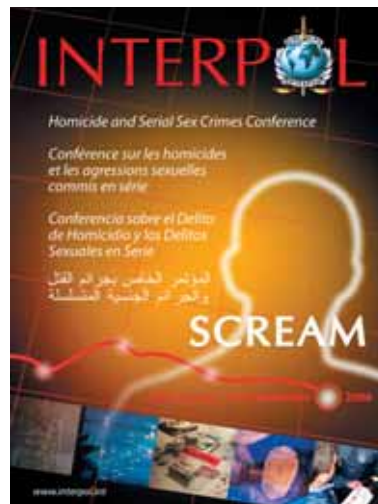
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Breaking down criminal networks

■ HOMICIDE AND SERIAL SEX CRIMES

We launched Project SCREAM to tackle homicide and serial sex crimes and, in November, hosted the world's first-ever conference on this topic. Delegates from 36 countries heard case studies and discussed investigative techniques such as behavioural analysis, methods of obtaining forensic evidence from victims and the INTERPOL tools available to help identify transnational links and support investigations.

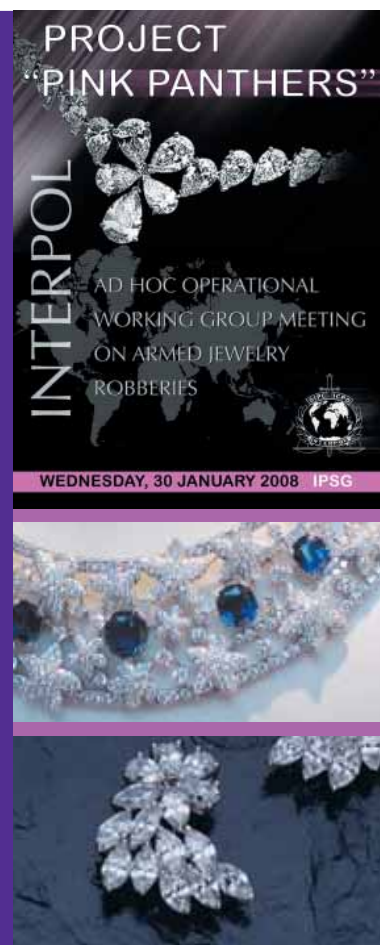


'PINK PANTHER' JEWEL THIEVES ARRESTED

Two men thought to be part of a transnational crime group dubbed the 'Pink Panthers' were arrested after a police officer in Monaco recognized them from a photo circulated by INTERPOL. The Pink Panthers gang is linked to at least 100 high-value armed robberies in nearly 20 countries.

One of the men, a Bosnian national, was the subject of a Red Notice, and checks against our databases confirmed that both men were wanted by several countries, including Switzerland, Liechtenstein and the United Arab Emirates for a range of offences including armed robbery.

The General Secretariat had circulated photos of key members of the gang which the National Central Bureau in Monaco then distributed to police across the Principality – showing the value in sharing criminal data via INTERPOL and ensuring that police on the street are also well informed.



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KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

FINANCIAL AND HIGH-TECH CRIME

■ CYBERCRIME

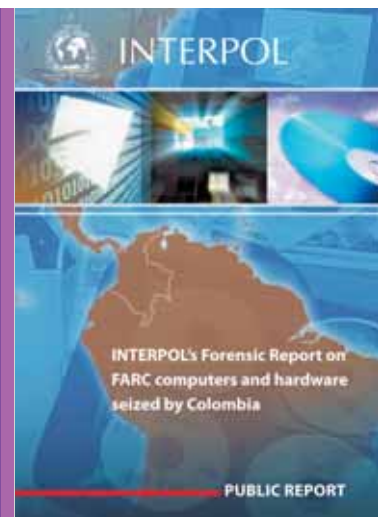
PROVIDING INDEPENDENT ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA

INTERPOL has a unique capacity to provide independent, expert law enforcement assistance, drawing on the best resources and expertise worldwide from our network of 187 member countries.

In March, we were asked by Colombia to carry out an independent forensic analysis of computers and hardware seized during an anti-narcotics and anti-terrorist operation on a Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) camp, in order to establish whether the equipment had been tampered with following its seizure.

We assembled a team of forensic experts who used sophisticated forensic tools to conduct an independent technical study of eight seized computer exhibits containing more than 600 gigabytes of data, including encrypted files.

The experts issued a report which concluded that there was 'no evidence of modification, alteration, addition or deletion' in the user files. Recommendations from the study include offering enhanced training for first-responder police units encountering electronic evidence during criminal investigations and the creation of a dedicated forensic and Internet investigation unit at the General Secretariat.

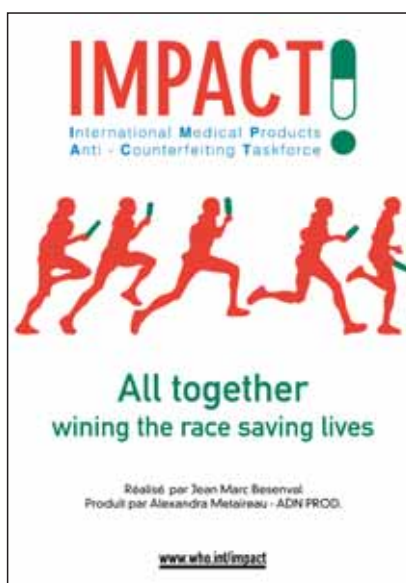


Protecting consumers from fraudsters

■ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME

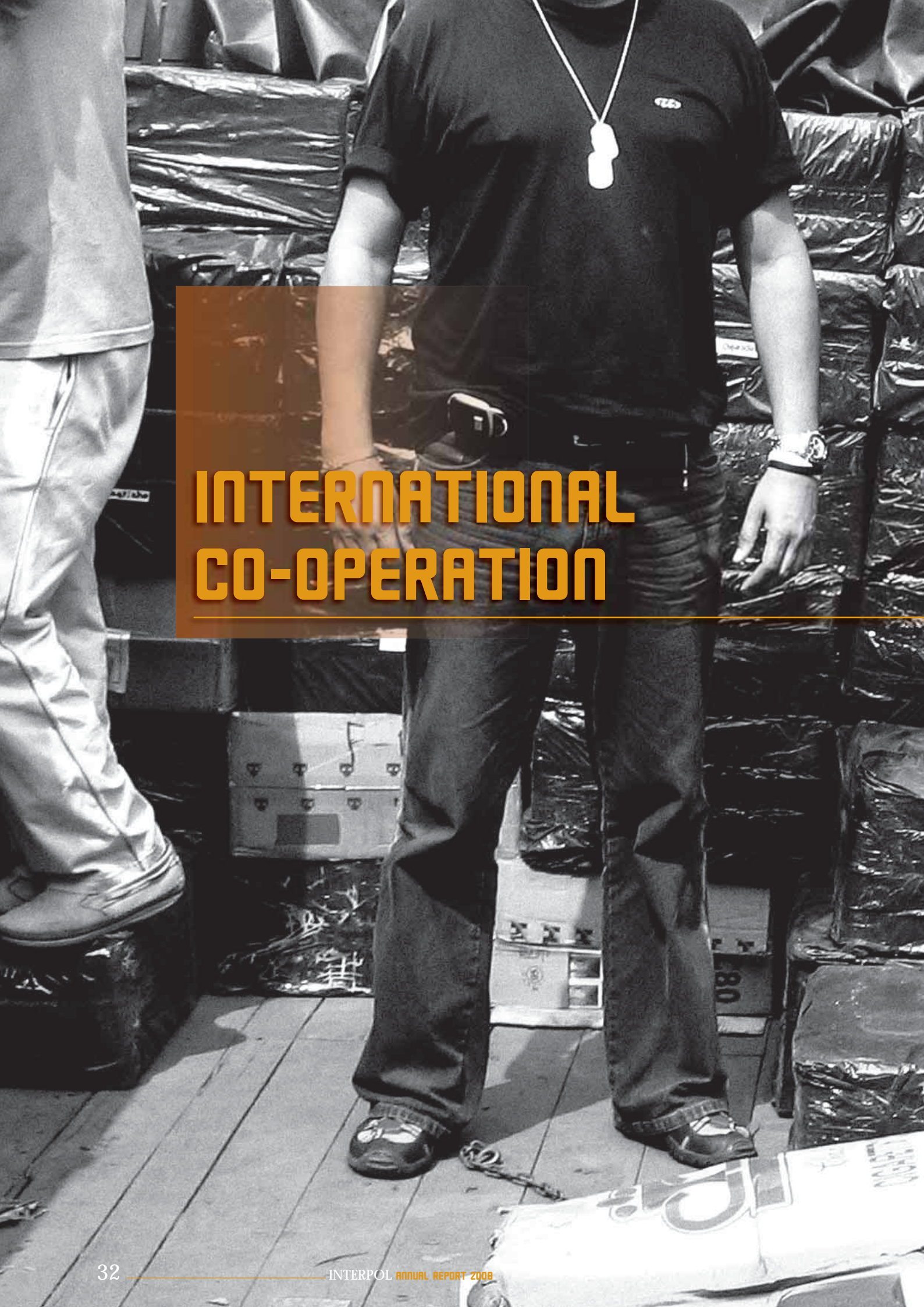
The Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Programme focuses increasingly on counterfeit goods, especially medical products, which pose a threat to the health and safety of consumers. As counterfeiters are becoming increasingly organized and sophisticated, there is a need to strengthen legal, technical, law enforcement and communication tools. Operations in 2008 targeted different geographical regions – South America, Africa and Asia – as well as the counterfeit trade via the Internet.

Several major conferences during the year brought together law enforcement and industry experts, notably the first INTERPOL Certification Industry Anti-Counterfeiting Summit in March, held to identify ways to tackle the fraudulent use of certification marks – labels which indicate that a product meets minimum safety standards.

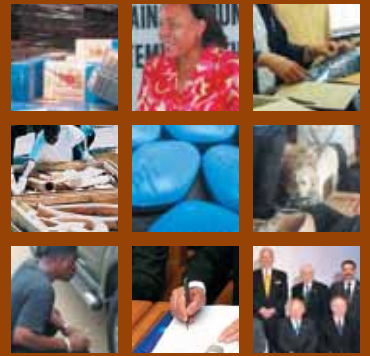
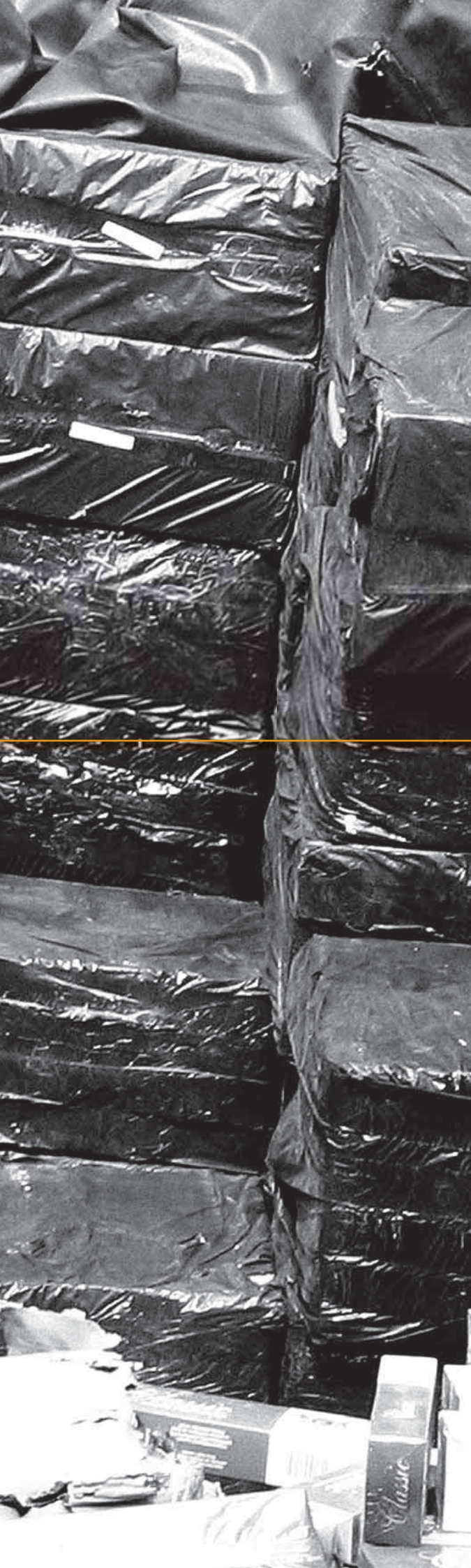


■ FINANCIAL CRIME

An increasingly common type of online crime is 'phishing', whereby a criminal attempts to acquire sensitive information such as an individual's website passwords or credit card details by pretending to be a legitimate business. Within the framework of Operation GoldPhish, we are working closely with the industry to develop combined responses. We participated in important international meetings in San Diego, Singapore and Tokyo, organized by Digital PhishNet and the Anti Phishing Working Group, who are the major players in this area.



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION



Specialized INTERPOL staff provide support to officers around the world in national and regional police operations, while activities are bolstered by strategic partnerships with a diverse range of international organizations.

SUPPORTING POLICE OPERATIONS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

INTERPOL officers supported a wide range of joint operations with national law enforcement officers during the year. Here are some operational highlights:



OPERATION	LOCATION	RESULTS
Child sexual abuse on the Internet		
IDENT a public appeal to identify an unknown man photographed sexually abusing children.	International 2 days	Just 48 hours after the launch of the appeal, the prime suspect was identified and arrested in Union City, New York.
People smuggling		
ANACONDA to dismantle people smuggling networks using stolen or lost travel documents, and prevent criminals attempting to use fraudulent documents to enter Peru.	Jorge Chavez international airport, Lima, Peru 12 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation at the airport of FIND technology, for direct access to the I-24/7 network; Training provided to more than 150 Peruvian police and immigration officers on INTERPOL's tools and services, including databases and intelligence analysis; More than 20,000 travel documents were instantly checked against INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database, resulting in some 200 matches, which were followed up by national law enforcement authorities.
Transnational and organized intellectual property crime		
JUPITER-SOUTH AMERICA IV (1) to target counterfeit and pirated goods, which are often sub-standard and even life-threatening.	Argentina Bolivia Brazil Chile Paraguay Peru Uruguay 3 months	<p>The seven countries reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 299 police and customs operations launched; Seizure of counterfeit, pirate and contraband products valued at USD 132 million (a 14% increase on Operation Jupiter III in 2007); 311 arrests; Support from more than 25 different industry sectors.

Operational results



2



3



4

OPERATION	LOCATION	RESULTS
Counterfeit medical products		
<p>MAMBA (2) part of the WHO's International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce</p>	<p>Tanzania Uganda 7 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 226 pharmacies, warehouse and market stalls examined; more than 100 types of fake and illicit medical products seized.
<p>STORM (3) supported by INTERPOL, the World Health Organization and the World Customs Organization.</p>	<p>Cambodia China Laos Myanmar Singapore Thailand Vietnam 5 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nearly 200 raids were carried out; 27 arrests; seizure of more than 16 million fake medicine tablets with an estimated value of USD 6.6 million.
<p>PANGEA (4) Internet day of action co-ordinated by the Permanent Forum on International Pharmaceutical Crime</p>	<p>Australia Canada Germany Ireland Israel New Zealand Singapore Switzerland UK USA 1 day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial websites closed down; Postal depots monitored and parcels examined; packages containing suspected counterfeit medicines intercepted; Thousands of suspected counterfeit erectile dysfunction drugs and other medicines seized or identified and withdrawn from circulation; Consumer awareness raised via global press coverage.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

OPERATION	LOCATION	RESULTS
Illegal soccer gambling networks in Asia		
<p>SOGA II Illegal soccer gambling organized by Asian crime syndicates is not only a crime in itself, but is often linked with other serious offences such as corruption and money laundering.</p>	<p>China Indonesia Malaysia Singapore Thailand Vietnam</p> <p>2 months* *to coincide with major football matches, including the Euro 2008 championships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1,088 raids (compared to 272 in 2007); ■ USD 16.8 million seized (more than 25 times the amount in 2007); ■ 1,304 arrests (more than tripled from 423 in 2007).
Wildlife crime		
<p>BABA (5) involved more than 300 officials from police, customs, national wildlife and national intelligence from five countries, making it the largest-ever international wildlife law enforcement operation conducted in Africa.</p>	<p>Congo Ghana Kenya Uganda Zambia</p> <p>3 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One ton of illegal elephant ivory seized; ■ Nearly 60 people arrested.



Operational results

OPERATION	LOCATION	RESULTS
Stolen Motor Vehicles		
<p>Many countries in Africa are the destination for vehicles stolen in Europe, North America and Asia. As part of the OASIS Programme, we carried out numerous operations in about half of the countries in Africa, systematically stopping vehicles at roadblocks and checking them against our Stolen Motor Vehicles (SMV) database. Training courses in advance of the operations equipped law enforcement officers with skills on using the database and relevant investigative techniques.</p>		
UMOJA II	Burundi Rwanda 3 days per country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 80 police officers trained; ■ 2,062 vehicles checked against the SMV database; ■ 49 vehicles seized.
KANDA II	Guinea 3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 15 officers trained; ■ 60 vehicles checked in the SMV database; ■ five people arrested for illegal trafficking of drugs and weapons.
GBANDA II (6)	Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon 3 days per country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 860 officers trained; ■ 16,006 vehicles checked in the SMV database; ■ 52 database matches.
KALAMBO III (7)	Malawi Mauritius Tanzania Zambia 2 days per country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More than 5,000 vehicles checked in the SMV database; ■ 63 database matches; ■ 82 people arrested in connection with stolen vehicles; ■ 81 people arrested for other offences (carrying drugs, firearms and explosives and illegal immigration).
SEMTRA	Ghana Nigeria 3 days per country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 250 officers trained; ■ 3,300 vehicles checked in the SMV database; ■ 51 database matches.
MOSI AND NTUMBA	Angola Lesotho Mozambique South Africa Swaziland 2 or 3 days per country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 46 officers trained; ■ 7,000 vehicles checked in the SMV database; ■ 97 database matches; ■ 147 people arrested for offences connected to stolen vehicles, drugs and firearms.



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

BUILDING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ALLIANCES



UNITED NATIONS

In May we published the first Special Notices for entities identified by the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee as being associated with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The Special Notices are distributed to all INTERPOL member countries and serve to alert them that sanctions are in place against the targeted entities. Since 2005 similar notices for individuals have been published, and the combined total of individuals and entities now listed on our website exceeds 300.

Other key co-operation developments in 2008 were the inclusion of INTERPOL as the only non-UN body on the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and as the lead entity in the Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Targets.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

We signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in October to establish the INTERPOL-UNODC Anti-Corruption Academy. The Academy, at Laxenburg near Vienna, Austria, will be a centre of excellence in anti-corruption education, research, and professional training for a wide variety of stakeholders including NGOs, academic institutions and businesses.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

An INTERPOL criminal intelligence officer was seconded to the World Health Organization's International Medical Products Anti-counterfeiting Task Force (IMPACT) in Geneva in March. The secondment has increased the level of co-ordination between all stakeholders and facilitated regional law enforcement interventions into transnational medical product counterfeiting. We also supported the drive against fake medicines at IMPACT's third annual meeting in Hammamet, Tunisia, in December.



G8

Justice and Home Affairs Ministers at June's G8 forum in Japan recognized INTERPOL's global and operational role in fighting transnational organized crime and the need for national law enforcement forces to make best use of the Organization's tools and databases.



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

Co-hosted with the World Customs Organization, our First International Conference on Illicit Cash Couriers took place in May. High on the agenda was the link between cash couriers, money laundering and the funding of organized crime groups, in particular terrorism.

Partners in fighting crime



THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

To foster international police co-operation in preventing and eliminating doping and the trafficking of doping substances – often linked to transnational criminal organizations that use the Internet to advertise and sell substances worldwide – we signed a co-operation agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency.



EUROPEAN UNION

At January's 11th European Police Congress in Berlin, Germany, we called for the Schengen Information System to be supplemented with INTERPOL's database of stolen and lost travel documents, to reduce risks to border security once an individual has entered the free-travel zone.

A meeting in November with the European Troika discussed the need to avoid duplication of international law enforcement work and to find ways of working together in order to address today's security challenges.



FRONTEX

To collaborate in the fields of cross-border crime prevention and detection, we signed a working arrangement in October with the European Border Agency FRONTEX. In addition, targeted operational activities will combat illegal immigration, people smuggling and human trafficking.



COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

To discuss the use of INTERPOL channels to better fight crime and terrorism, the Heads of National Central Bureaus from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) met in Minsk, Belarus, in December. The meeting also provided a forum for briefings on anti-terrorism initiatives in the region. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the CIS to support information exchange in the field of counterterrorism and to provide the Centre with direct access to INTERPOL's databases.



AFRICAN CHIEFS OF POLICE COMMITTEES

Our Regional Bureaus in Africa work closely with the four organizations of the Chiefs of Police in Africa; East, Central, Southern and West Africa. This included joint operations, training courses, workshops and conferences.



THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

To support police co-operation initiatives in the Caribbean region, and provide the Community with direct access to our telecommunications network and databases, we signed a co-operation agreement with the Caribbean Community – an intergovernmental organization.



UK CHILD EXPLOITATION ONLINE PROTECTION

Senior officials from INTERPOL and the UK's Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) Centre met in February to discuss methods for enhancing the sharing of intelligence and information in order to identify, locate and arrest child sex abusers around the world. We already collaborate closely with CEOP as members of the Virtual Global Taskforce, an alliance of law enforcement agencies from around the world working together to fight online child abuse.



SUPPORT ACTIVITIES



Many services at the General Secretariat provide day-to-day support to INTERPOL's policing directorates and to the achievements outlined in this Report.



LEGAL AFFAIRS

The General Secretariat's Legal Office provided support to the Executive Committee and ensured that all aspects of the General Assembly were conducted according to our rules and regulations. The Office was also responsible for representing INTERPOL's interests before the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files and reviewed global diffusions and notice requests to ensure compliance with our regulations.

Additionally, the Office organized a two-day symposium on International Police Co-operation in the Context of Public International Law that was attended by some 100 senior academics and lawyers, law enforcement officials and representatives from international organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Journalists contacted INTERPOL daily, looking for a global perspective on all areas of transnational crime; topics which attract the most interest are terrorism, fugitive investigations, organized crime and drug trafficking.

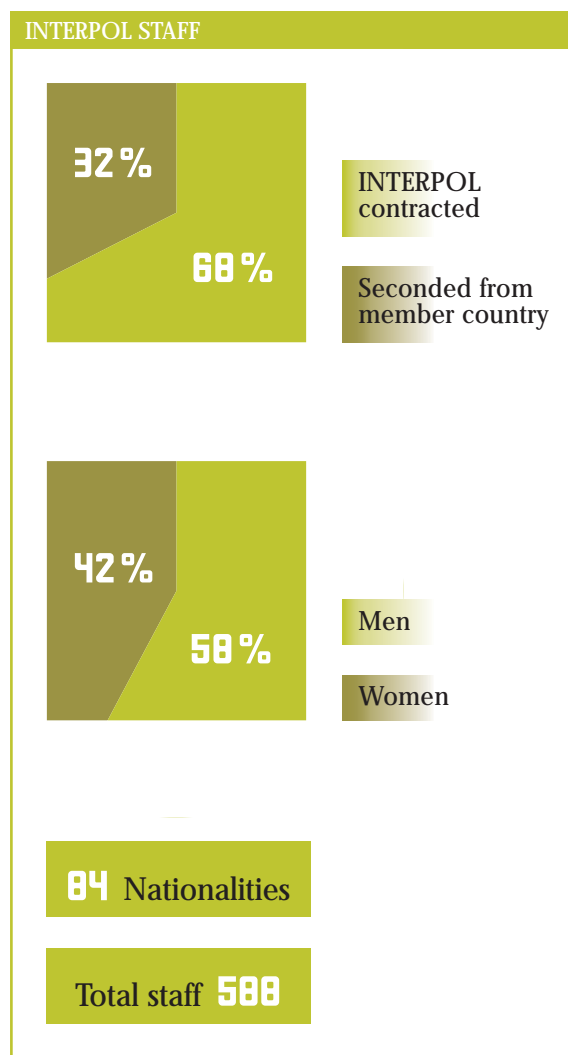
Communications activities serve increasingly to support our operational work, notably during Operation IDent, the public appeal to identify a suspected paedophile. The case attracted significant media and public interest – within the first 24 hours of the operation, the INTERPOL website received almost 250,000 visits, more than 10 times the daily average, and staff at the General Secretariat conducted interviews with newspapers, radio and television outlets from around the world. As a result of the media and public visibility, a suspect was arrested only 48 hours after the appeal was launched.



A diversity of experience

HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of 2008, a total of 588 people worked at the General Secretariat and Regional Bureaus, representing 84 different nationalities. Of these, 190 officials, or 32 per cent of the staff, were law enforcement personnel seconded or loaned by their national administrations. The remaining 68 per cent (398 staff) were employed directly by INTERPOL. Women made up 42 per cent of the staff.



By employing a staff that reflects our worldwide membership we can effectively address the specific needs of the law enforcement community in our five working regions, and benefit from a diversity of ideas, skills, backgrounds and experiences.

The Secretary General, Ronald K. Noble, visited 30 different countries, bringing to 120 the total number of member countries visited in an official capacity since he took office in 2000. Purposes of the visits range from strategic meetings with heads of state, ministers and police chiefs, involvement with operational events, and participation in conferences, forums and lectures.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

Information systems underpin almost all our activities, both administrative and operational, and it is essential that they are up to date and well maintained. In 2008, information technology supported our I-24/7 secure global communications system, and the expansion of MIND/FIND technology, including in the UK where more than 60 devices were deployed throughout the country as part of a global renewal of the UK national police network. Technical support is also crucial to Incident Response Teams – notably this year for the installation of a high-tech forensic laboratory in the Philippines – and to major conferences.



FINANCES

For the financial year 2008, INTERPOL's operating income totalled EUR 57 million, of which 82% was contributed by member countries, mostly in the form of statutory contributions (81%). Income received from externally funded projects or from private foundations and/or commercial enterprises with similar objectives or interests to INTERPOL, constituted 15% of gross income. Financial income made up 3% of the total.

Total ordinary operating expenditures were EUR 55 million globally, with pay constituting the major cost component at 59% of the total, followed by travel and conference costs (14%), third-party and other costs (7%), maintenance expenditures (4%), premises running costs and office expenses (3% each), and telecommunications costs associated with INTERPOL's secure global communications system I-24/7 (2%). Depreciation expenditures constituted 8% of the total.

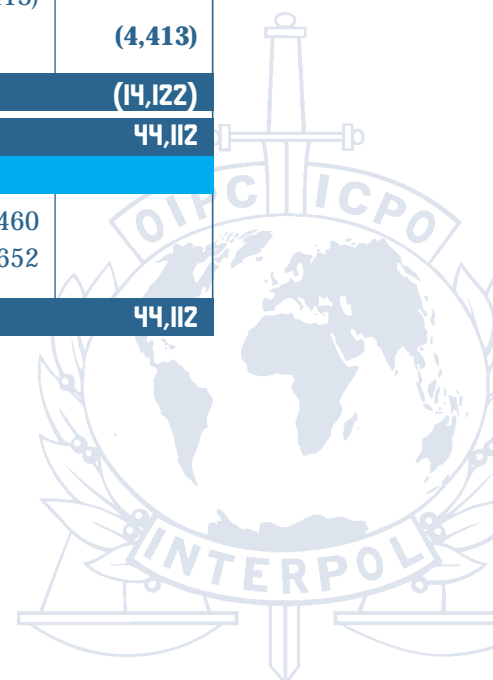
INTERPOL's financial performance saw a surplus during 2008, which was added to the Organization's accumulated reserve funds. Capital projects consumed EUR 3.9 million of financial resources. Cash and cash equivalents increased by EUR 3.8 million, due mainly to the financial surplus, and also advance receipts on the 2009 budget and increases in employee-related liabilities, and were countered by an increase in prepaid expenses and other receivables, and a decrease in project incomes received in advance. Financial equity and reserves – represented by various funds – increased by nearly EUR 2.3 million over the previous year due to the operational surplus in 2008.

The financial tables which appear on the following pages – statements of financial position, financial performance, changes in equity, and cash flows – are externally audited and summarise the financial status and performance of the Organization in 2008 and 2007. The Organization's financial statements are prepared, where possible, in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). Where IPSAS does not have a specific standard, the International Accounting Standards (IAS) have been used.

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, conforming to the historical cost convention using the accrual method of accounting. All transactions comply with the Organization's financial regulations.

■ **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT:**
000s Euros

	31 DECEMBER 2008		31 DECEMBER 2007	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	32,795		28,986	
Other accounts receivables and prepayments	4,796		2,538	
Statutory contributions receivable	2,524		2,149	
Inventories	558		557	
Total current assets		40,673		34,230
Non-current assets				
Non-current statutory contributions receivable	473		544	
Net fixed assets	23,223		23,460	
Total non-current assets		23,696		24,004
TOTAL ASSETS		64,369		58,234
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	(4,179)		(3,803)	
Income received in advance	(3,444)		(708)	
Deferred project income	(4,307)		(5,198)	
Total current liabilities		(11,930)		(9,709)
Non-current liabilities				
Employee-related liabilities	(6,021)		(4,413)	
Total non-current liabilities		(6,021)		(4,413)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		(17,951)		(14,122)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		46,418		44,112
EQUITY				
Capital financing reserve	23,223		23,460	
Accumulated reserve funds	23,195		20,652	
TOTAL EQUITY		46,418		44,112





FINANCES

■ STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON: 000s Euros

	31 DECEMBER 2008		31 DECEMBER 2007	
Operating revenue				
Statutory contributions	45,128		41,398	
Regional Bureau financing	797		781	
Voluntary contributions	721		797	
Reimbursements and recoveries	549		593	
Financial income	1,517		1,157	
Other income	8,264		3,613	
Exchange rate gains/(losses) net	(49)		(168)	
Total operating revenue		56,927		48,171
Operating expenses				
Pay costs	31,262		29,790	
Other staff costs	1,078		889	
Premises running costs	1,845		1,531	
Maintenance	1,902		1,552	
Missions and meetings	7,365		5,866	
Office expenses	1,766		1,300	
Telecommunication costs	1,302		1,398	
Third party and other costs	4,063		1,172	
Depreciation expenditure	4,038		3,724	
Total operating expenses		(54,621)		(47,222)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		2,306		949

■ STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31 DECEMBER 2008: 000s Euros

	CAPITAL FINANCING RESERVE	ACCUMULATED RESERVE FUNDS	TOTAL
Balance at 31 December 2007, as previously reported	23,460	20,688	44,148
Prior year adjustments		(36)	(36)
Restated balance at 31 December 2007	23,460	20,652	44,112
Net gains and losses not recognized in statement of financial performance, being capital expenditures (net) funded out of accumulated reserve funds	(237)	237	
Net (deficit) / surplus for the year		2,306	2,306
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2008	23,223	23,195	46,418

■ **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON:**
000s Euros

	31 DECEMBER 2008		31 DECEMBER 2007	
Cash flows from operating activities				
Surplus / (deficit) from ordinary operating activities	2,306		949	
Non-cash movements				
Depreciation expenditure	4,038		3,724	
Adjustment for financial income (reported separately)	(1,517)		(1,157)	
Adjustment for (gain)/ loss on sale of assets	124		8	
Increase / (decrease) in payables	376		1,214	
Increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	2,736		138	
Increase / (decrease) in deferred project income	(891)		2,391	
Increase / (decrease) in employee-related liabilities	1,608		1,320	
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(1)		67	
(Increase) / decrease in statutory contributions receivable non-current	71		(270)	
(Increase) / decrease in other accounts receivables & prepayments current	(2,258)		119	
(Increase) / decrease in statutory contributions receivable current	(375)		245	
Net cash flows from operating activities		6,217		8,748
Cash flows from investing activities				
Purchases of fixed assets	(3,943)		(4,685)	
Sales of fixed assets	18			
Net cash flows from investing activities		(3,925)		(4,685)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Financial interest income received	1,517		1,157	
Net cash flows from financing activities		1,517		1,157
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		3,809		5,220
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	28,986		23,766	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	32,795		28,986	
MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		3,809		5,220

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