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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**Annual Overview with Information on the Results of the Hercule II Programme in 2011
(Article 7 of Decision 878/2007 of 23 July 2007)**

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Annual Overview with Information on the Results of the Hercule II Programme in 2011 (Article 7 of Decision 878/2007 of 23 July 2007)

In line with Article 7 of the Decision 878/2007 of 23 July 2007¹, the present overview provides information on actions implemented under the 2011 Hercule II budget and monitors the results of the programme for which information on the implementation of actions was made available in 2011.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Hercule II Programme Description

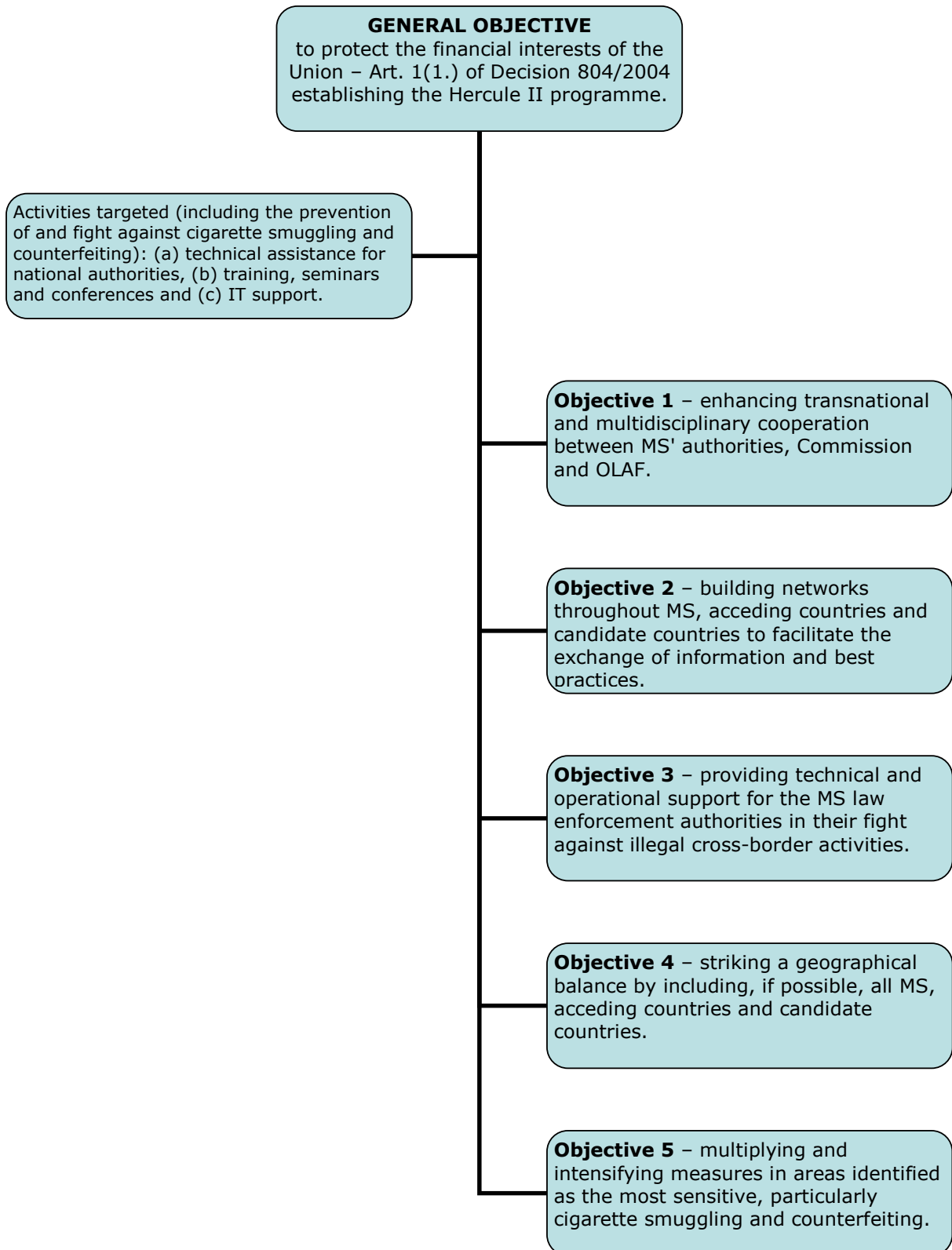
The Hercule programme was established by Decision [804/2004/EC](#) for the period 2004-06. By Decision [878/2007/EC](#), the programme was extended to cover 2007-2013 as Hercule II, with a financial envelope of €98.5 million and an average annual budget of around €14 million.

The programme is the only instrument **specifically** dedicated to protecting the financial interests of the EU by supporting the fight against irregularities, fraud and corruption affecting the EU Budget. The Hercule programme is administered by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), which is a Directorate-General of the European Commission.

The main objectives of the Hercule II programme are:

- to enhance cooperation between the actors in the fight against fraud damaging the EU's financial interests, i.e. the competent authorities in the Member States, the Commission and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF);
- to reinforce the networks for the exchange of information between Member States, the accession countries and the candidate countries;
- to provide operational and technical support to law enforcement agencies in the Member States, particularly the customs authorities.

¹ OJ L 193 of 25 July 2007, p. 18



General activities supported by the programme (as stipulated by Commission Decision C(2011)2064 adopting a financing decision for 2011 for Hercule II)²:

- organisation of seminars and conferences;
- promotion of scientific studies on EU policies relating to the protection of the EU's financial interests;
- coordination of activities relating to the protection of the EU's financial interests;
- training and awareness, including in connection with joint surveillance operations;
- promoting exchanges of specialised staff;
- development and supply of specific IT tools, data-processing;
- technical assistance, including the purchase of equipment;
- promoting and strengthening the exchange of data;
- provision of information and support for activities relating to access to information, data and data sources;
- purchase of specialised technical hardware and technical support for the monitoring of illegal activities in the field of the fight against fraud.

These activities come under one of the programme's **chapters 7 until 10 or sectors of activity**, as listed below:

7. Technical assistance for the fight against fraud

7.1.1. Technical support for national authorities' use of special investigative tools and methods in the fight against fraud and corruption, and technical support to strengthen inspections of containers and trucks at the EU's external borders, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting:

7.1.2. Technical support for detecting the presence of cigarettes and tobacco

7.1.3. Analysis of cigarette/tobacco samples

8. Training, seminars and conferences – operational part

8.1.1. Financial support (co-financing) for training and various cooperation measures in the area of the fight against fraud, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting

8.1.2. Organisation of training and various cooperation measures in the area of the fight against fraud, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting

8.1.3. Organisation of training on forensic computing

8.1.4 Organisation of technical training courses on image interpretation for scanning operators

8.1.5. Co-hosting a Fifth Inter-Governmental Negotiating Body meeting (INB5)

²

C(2011)2064 of 1 April 2011. This Decision has been published on OLAF's internet webpages.

9. Training, seminars and conferences – legal part

10. IT support

10.1.1. Ensure that Member States have access to strategic information in support of investigations

10.1.2. Develop specific IT tools for data analysis

10.1.3. Analysis of cigarettes that have been seized, with a view to creating a database of genuine and counterfeit products which can be used to determine whether seized cigarettes are genuine or counterfeit

The following bodies are eligible for funding under the programme (as stipulated by Article 2a of Decision 878/2007/EC):

- (a) all national or regional administrations of a Member State or a country outside the EU, as defined in Article 3, which promote the strengthening of EU action to protect the EU's financial interests;
- (b) all research and educational institutes that have had legal personality for at least one year, are established and operating in a Member State or in a country outside the EU, as defined in Article 3, and promote the strengthening of EU action to protect the EU's financial interests;
- (c) all non-profit-making bodies that have had legal personality for at least one year, are established and operating in a Member State or in a country outside the EU, as defined in Article 3 (Decision 878/2007/EC), and promote the strengthening of EU action to protect the EU's financial interests.

The Hercule II programme is administered by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). Until the reorganisation of February 2012, the programme's activities were carried out by several administrative units within OLAF. Since February 2012, Unit D5 (Hercule, Pericles & Euro protection) is responsible for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the programme.

The annual work programme for 2011 was adopted on 1 April 2011³ and financed under item 24 02 01 of the European Union budget for 2011.

1.2. Purpose and scope of this overview

The annual overview is intended to fulfil the requirement under Article 7 of Decision [878/2007/EC](#) to "provide annual information on the results of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council". To that end, it covers all actions and commitments made under the 2011 budget⁴.

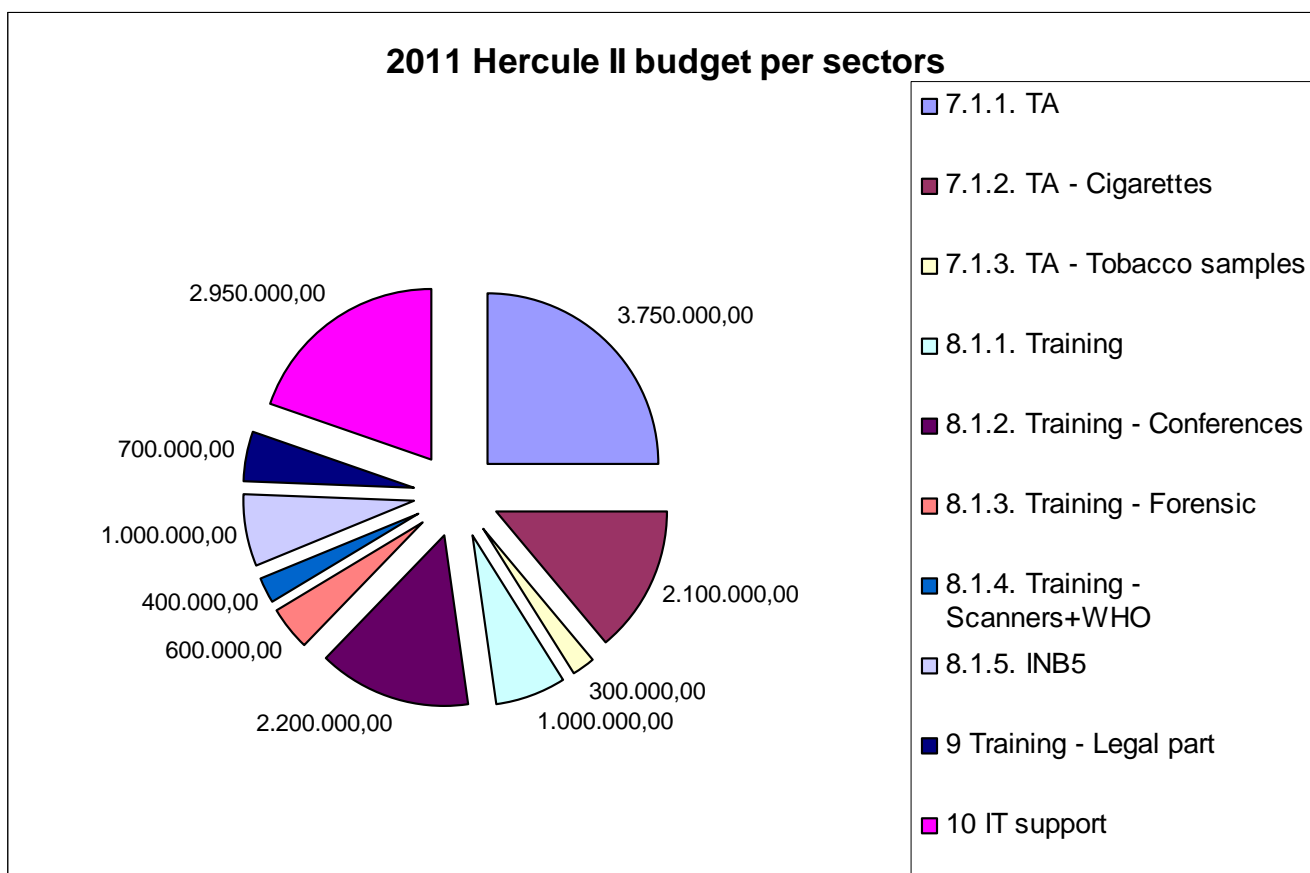
As Hercule II actions are multi-annual, most of the final reports on the actions funded under the 2011 budget have not yet been received. Section 4 of this overview – Multi-annual impact - thus assesses the impact of previous years' actions that were finalised during 2011 (final technical and financial reports received in 2011).

³ C(2011)2064 of 1 April 2011.

⁴ Some of the grant agreements were only signed in 2012.

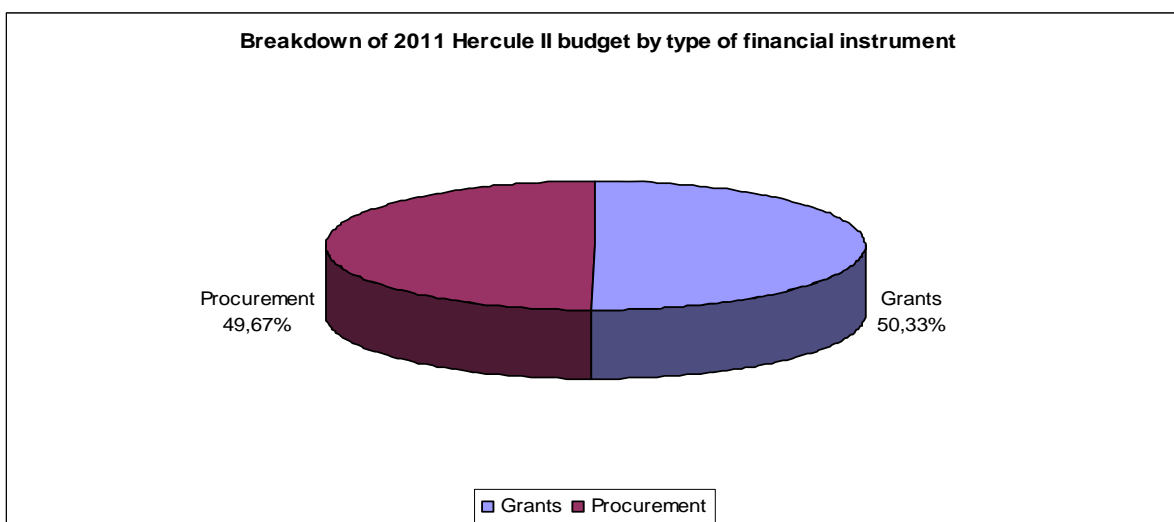
2. BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION IN 2011

Distribution of 2011 budget per sector:



The Hercule II budget for 2011 was implemented through:

- Grants (budget of €7.550.000): sectors 7.1.1 (maximum 50% co-financing), 7.1.2. (maximum 50% co-financing) , 8.1.1 (maximum 80% co-financing), 9 (maximum 90% co-financing);
- Procurement (budget of € 7.450.000): sectors 7.1.3, 8.1.2, 8.1.3., 8.1.4., 8.1.5., 10.1.1, 10.1.2., 10.1.3.



Activities to support the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting of cigarettes are funded under Technical Assistance "Cigarettes" and "Analyses of tobacco samples", but are also addressed under the Training Sector of Activity (Conferences and seminars for customs) and IT-support (analyses of trade flows and container shipments, in particular wrong declaration of goods and/or place of origin).

The commitments under the HERCULE II budget in 2011 are shown in Table 1. They correspond to the amounts indicated in the contracts or grant agreements as the parts to be financed by OLAF. The payments under the grant agreements committed in 2011 cannot be reported as most of the activities are on-going. It is only after the activity has ended that this information can be provided, but the payments are mostly lower than the committed amounts as actual costs are almost always lower than budgeted or allowed.

The grants are awarded to beneficiaries after the examination of proposals submitted within the framework of Call for Proposals. The technical specifications drawn up for each Call contain three sets of criteria to ensure that the Hercule II budget is spent in full compliance with the Financial Regulation and the Implementing Rules and to ensure that the "best value for money" is obtained for the actions to be funded under the grants. For technical assistance grants for example, proposals are examined on the basis of their feasibility; transnational and multi-disciplinary scope; complementarity with other EU actions and geographical coverage of the activities.

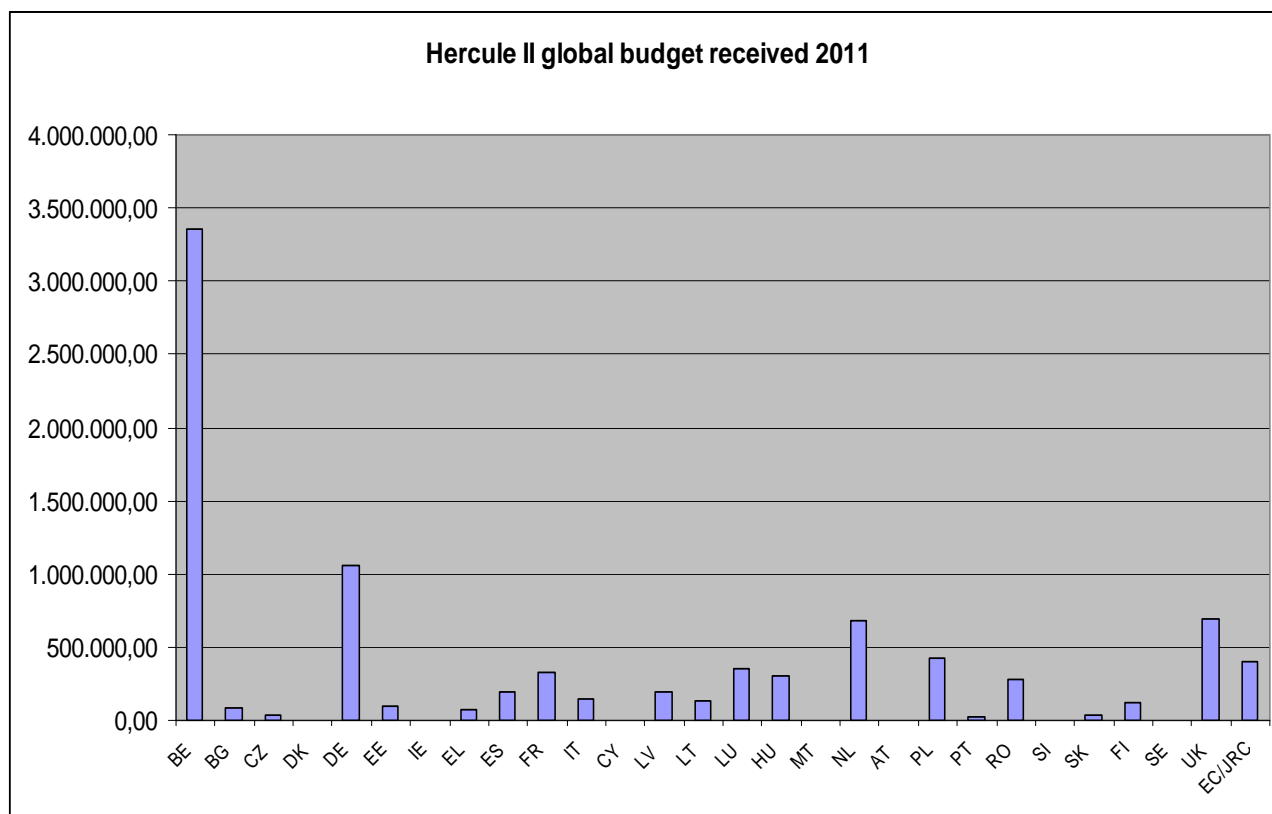
For Conferences and Training activities, the award criteria aim at allowing the selection of the actions that have a wide geographical scope, support implementation of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) and that target relevant and important groups of professionals, such as lawyers or judges.

Table 1: Available commitment appropriations and commitments made in 2011

	AREA	BUDGET	TOTAL COMMITTED ⁵	%
Technical assistance				
Grants	TA	3.750.000	2.715.116	72,4
	Cigarettes	2.100.000	1.714.472	81,6
Procurement	Cigarettes	300.000	0	0
Subtotal TA		6.150.000	4.429.588	72,0
Training				
Grants	Training	1.000.000	506.343	50,6
Procurement	Training Scanners	200.000	0	0
	Conferences	2.200.000	2.051.223	93,2
	Forensic	600.000	653.600	108,9
	WHO, INB5	1.200.000	1.015.629	84,6
Subtotal Training		5.200.000	4.226.795	81,2
Training – Legal Part				
Grants	Legal	700.000	652.327	93,2
IT Support				
Procurement	Databases	2.200.000	2.299.434	104,5
	JRC	500.000	400.000	80,0
	Cigarette analysis	250.000	187.300	74,9
Subtotal IT		2.950.000	2.886.734	97,9
TOTAL		15.000.000	12.195.444	81,3

⁵ Commitments cover the total costs in 2011 of legal obligations (contracts, grant agreements/decisions) entered into for operations extending over more than one year (Art. 7, FR). The total amount for the commitments cannot exceed the allocated budget.

Breakdown of the Hercule II budget awarded in 2011 by Member State⁶:



3. ACTIVITIES UNDER THE HERCULE-II FINANCING DECISION IN 2011

The Annual Work Programme is adopted by a Decision of the Commission ("Financing Decision") to implement the Hercule II Programme. In 2011, the Financing Decision was adopted on 1 April 2011⁷. The budget made available by the budget authority for 2011 was € 15 million⁸.

3.1. Technical assistance for the fight against fraud

3.1.1. Technical support for national authorities' use of special investigative tools and methods in the fight against fraud and corruption, and technical support to strengthen inspections of containers and trucks at the EU's external borders, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting (sector of activity 7.1.1 of the Financing Decision)

The aim of the financial support offered by Hercule II to national authorities is to enable operational field staff working in technical/operational support units and/or investigative units to improve and strengthen their capacities in their fight against irregularities, fraud and corruption.

⁶ The high proportion of commitments for Belgium does not concern grants, but is explained by the fact that most contractors for IT support and for organising conferences have established their legal seat in Belgium. Conferences for example are organised by such a contractor located in Belgium. The commitments for conferences are thus recorded for Belgium, even if they take place in another country, where most of the actual expenditure is incurred.

⁷ C(2011)2064 of 1 April 2011.

⁸ Budget line 24.02.01, sector of activity 3 of the EU budget, see: OJ L 68 of 15 March 2011, p. 931.

The support consists of:

- technical support for national authorities' use of special investigative tools and methods in the fight against fraud and corruption, and;
- technical support to strengthen inspections of containers and trucks at the EU's external borders, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting.

The technical support should reinforce the Member States' capacities and logistics allocated to technical operational support units in the fight against fraud, in particular for actions setting up, improving or upgrading existing:

- automated container-code recognition systems;
- automated number-plate recognition systems;
- technical equipment for electronic surveillance;
- technical equipment for mobile surveillance;
- technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital evidence;
- technical equipment for encrypted communications;
- equipment and devices to detect smuggled and counterfeited goods on the basis of the scent characteristics of the smuggled and counterfeited goods.

In 2011, the supported activities led to substantial qualitative improvements in existing technical systems used for investigative and operational activities by national and regional administrations. The purchase of new operational and investigative equipment was made possible through grants provided under the programme. The grants also covered specific technical training for staff to ensure optimal use, maintenance and management of the equipment.

Following the two Calls for Proposal published on OLAF's website, **36** applications were received from **17** Member States. The following proposals were awarded grants under both Calls:

	MS	Name of beneficiary	Total costs (€)	Awarded Grant (€)	Co-fin. %	Subject
01	RO	Anticorruption General Directorate	149.834	74.900	49,9	Technical equipment for electronic surveillance
02	DE	Berlin Police	109.850	53.000	48,3	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital evidence
03	LT	Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of the Interior	264.843	131.000	49,5	Technical equipment for electronic surveillance

04	BG	Specialised directorate for operational and technical operations – Ministry of Interior	176.129	85.500	48,5	Technical equipment for automated container-code and number-plate recognition systems
05	ES	Guardia Civil – Unidad Central Operativa	499.712	200.000	40,0	Technical equipment for electronic surveillance
06	RO	DNA – Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of cassation and Justice	150.727	75.000	49,8	Technical equipment for mobile surveillance and radio-communication equipment
07	HU	SSNS	802.264	300.000	37,4	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
08	NL	Fiscale Inlichtingen en Opsporingsdienst - FIOD	509.376	212.000	41,6	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
09	NL	Politie Rotterdam - Rijnmond	581.543	286.000	49,2	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
10	BE	Service Public Fédéral Finances – Administration des douanes et accises	30.075	14.990	49,8	Technical equipment for electronic surveillance
11	BE	Federal Police	455.051	223.000	49,0	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
12	DE	Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), Germany	144.164	72.000	49,9	Technical equipment for electronic surveillance
13	EE	Tax and Customs Board under the Ministry of Finance	200.061	100.030	49,9	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital analysis
14	GR	Ministry of Citizen Protection	144.586	70.736	48,9	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital analysis; technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance.

15	LV	State Police	391.920	195.960	49,9	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital analysis.
16	NL	KLPD	294.538	146.000	49,6	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
17	PL	KWP	178.428	80.000	44,8	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital analysis
18	PT	Policia Judiciaria	45.259	20.000	44,2	Technical equipment for the acquisition and analysis of digital analysis; technical equipment for electronic surveillance.
19	RO	General Inspectorate of Police	500.000	250.000	50	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance
20	FI	Helsinki Police	253.316	125.000	49,3	Technical equipment for mobile and electronic surveillance.
		TOTAL	5.881.676	2.715.116⁹	46,2	

⁹

The totals for Technical Assistance are lower than the amounts indicated in the table in section 2 because the small contracts and grants agreements have not been included in this overview.

3.1.2. Technical support for detecting the presence of cigarettes and tobacco (sector of activity 7.1.2 of the Financing Decision)

This sector of activity specifically concerns the fight against cigarette smuggling, in particular the purchase of equipment for the detection of illicit consignments of tobacco products, such as X-ray scanners and other technical devices.

Following the Call for Proposal published on OLAF's website, 7 applications were received from 6 Member States. The following proposals were awarded a grant:

	MS	Name of beneficiary	Total costs (€)	Awarded Grant (€)	Co-fin. %	Subject
01	SK	Customs Directorate	183.742	90.000	49,0	Purchase of laboratory equipment
02	IT	Guardia di Finanza	815.000	349.472	42,9	Purchase of mobile surveillance equipment
03	BE	Customs and Excise Administration	1.743.460	850.000	48,8	Purchase of X-Ray scanner for customs
04	HU	National Tax and Customs Administration	660.000	330.000	50,0	Purchase of mobile surveillance equipment
05	IE	Revenue Commissioners	195.000	95.000	48,7	Purchase of mobile X-Ray scanner for customs
		TOTAL	3.597.202	1.714.472	47,7	

3.1.3. Analysis of cigarette/tobacco samples (sector of activity: 7.1.3)

The total budget available in 2011 was €300.000. Tobacco analyses in 2011 were made on the basis of a contract concluded under sector of activity 10.1.3 ("Cigarette Analysis") of the Financing Decision. There was subsequently no need for committing this budget.

3.2. Training, Seminars and Conferences

3.2.1. Financial support (co-financing) for training and various cooperation measures in the area of the fight against fraud, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting (sector of activity: 8.1.1)

The overall goal of this part of the Hercule II programme, focusing on training in the fight against fraud, is to make financial support available for preventive and/or operational activities that contribute to fighting fraud and corruption detrimental to the financial interests of the European Union, for example:

- by encouraging exchanges of experience;
- by spreading general and operational information;

- by promoting OLAF and its working practices in order to improve cooperation by creating a better understanding of national and EU mechanisms and their interrelationships.

Results in this area include: specific knowledge obtained in fraud prevention and the combating of fraud; specific skills for fraud prevention, detection and investigation capacity in fighting fraud; input for further developing and improving organisational aspects, including legislative work; dissemination of the latest developments, methods and techniques in combating fraud and corruption; and the creation of networks between organisations and exchange of the latest information.

The training is also intended to help Member States ensure that their officials with responsibility for decisions on and control of the spending of EU funds have an adequate knowledge of that aspect of their jobs concerned with the protection of the EU's financial interests. It also promotes the spread of best practice and networking between Member State services with similar responsibilities or shared responsibilities where cross-border issues arise. This is in line with the objectives of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS), which the Commission adopted earlier in 2011¹⁰.

Following the two Calls for Proposal published in 2011, OLAF received **25** applications from 14 Member States. The following proposals were awarded a grant under both Calls:

	MS	Name of beneficiary	Total costs in €	Grant awarded in €	Co-fin. %	Subject
01	DE	Der Generalstaatsanwalt, München	90.590	72.472	80,0	Protection of the EU's financial interests through fighting fraud in Europe
02	CZ	GDC (General Directorate of Customs)	53.100	42.450	79,9	Mobile surveillance control activities in the inland EU, focusing on road and railway transport, using technical means (service dogs trained for special purposes, x-ray)
03	SK	Customs Directorate of the Slovak Republic	49.191	39.350	79,9	Training of customs officers in the area of fight against corruption and fraud, particularly against tobacco products smuggling and counterfeiting
04	PL	The Voivodship Police Headquarters	108.927	90.054	80,0	Safe Europe - exchange of knowledge and experiences in the scope of protection of the EU financial interests
05	PL	Internal Security Agency	75.377	60.000	79,6	Towards a more effective fight against Asian organised crime damaging economic interests of the EU

¹⁰ COM (2011)376 of 24 June 2011.

06	RO	DLAF - Fight Against Fraud Department	96.000	76.800	80,0	Fight against frauds affecting EU's budget - Sharing the Romanian experience with the Croatian authorities
07	IT	P.C.M. - Dipartimento per le Politiche Europee	111.664	89.331	80,0	Counteraction to the EU financial fraud. Strategies and audit tools
08	RO	DNA – National Anticorruption Directorate	31.754	25.314	79,7	Strengthening the prosecution of fraud against the financial interests of the European Union
09	UK	HMRC - Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	13.350	10.570	79,2	Project Hiliana – UK – Bulgarian sharing of information and working practices in the targeting of counterfeited cigarette containers bound for EU ports and managing container traffic
		TOTAL	629.953	506.343	79,8	

3.2.2. *Organisation of training and various cooperation measures in the area of the fight against fraud, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting (sector of activity: 8.1.2)*

The training and other measures financed under this heading covers the protection of the EU's financial interests in a wider sense. In 2011, OLAF used the services of a firm specialised in organising events – MCI Benelux S.A. under a framework contract. This heading is financed under the procurement procedure with a total budget of €1.450.000.

The following conferences were organised by OLAF in the course of 2011:

N°	Dates (2011)	Title Conference	Location – Country	N° Participants	Amount Paid - €
1	25-27/05	12th Conference of International Investigators	Washington, USA	120	59.033
<i>Objectives: To exchange of information on best practices in conducting investigations; to enhance networking with investigation services.</i>					
2	22-24/06	Debriefing phase of Operation Fireblade	Budapest - HU	80	59.057
<i>Objectives: To exchange information on the operation FIREBLADE aimed at detecting the smuggling of counterfeit clothing and accessories in commercial consignments entering the EU by road, in particular from third countries via the Eastern EU border.</i>					
3	29/6–1/07	AFCOS Conference	Prague - CZ	80	118.729
<i>Objectives: To bring together AFCOS representatives from the Member States, Candidate Countries and potential Candidate Countries, to present the work of OLAF and AFCOS and their cooperation; to</i>					

<i>discuss challenges relevant to mutual cooperation; to share experience and best practices.</i>					
4	4-7/09	Working together to Fight Fraud (Customs)	Stockholm – SE	111	197.929
<i>Objectives: To find ways to speed-up investigations ("the so-called Stockholm approach") and enhance cooperation between OLAF and its operational partners in the Member States in identifying, investigating and preventing transnational customs fraud.</i>					
5	12-14/10	Fighting fraud in the field of the European Union Direct Expenditure	Ostia – IT	100	180.963
<i>Objectives To reinforce cooperation between OLAF and its operational partners in the Member States in identifying, investigating and preventing fraud affecting direct expenditure.</i>					
6	16-18/11	9th OLAF Conference of Fraud Prosecutors	Sofia – BG	145	96.096
<i>Objectives: To strengthen the cooperation between OLAF and its partners of the national prosecution services in the fight against fraud and corruption affecting the financial interests of the European Union.</i>					
7	30/11-02/12	11th Training Seminar of the OAFCN	Berlin – DE	100	167.398
<i>Objectives: To Detering fraud by informing the public: the power of pictures". The seminar focused on how pictures can be used to draw public attention to the problem of fraud in the EU.</i>					
8	14-16/12	EU-CHINA Cigarette Conference	Beijing – CHINA	100	146.891
<i>Objectives: To improve horizontal operational cooperation between the Chinese authorities and OLAF/Member States; to establish, with the support of the Central Administration, more direct contacts with the operational units of these Chinese authorities, especially at the provincial level in the key regions; to Introduce and explore the concept of China-EU joint investigation teams that would deal with large international cases in the cigarette area.</i>					
9	08/10	Annual Task Group Cigarette (TGC) Conference	Vienna – AT	90	171.180
<i>Objectives: To bring together experts in contraband and counterfeit tobacco issues to review the results of the last 12 months, discuss emerging trends and issues and plan for the year ahead.</i>					
10	21/06	Operational TGC Conference	Bucharest - RO	70	78.346
<i>Objectives: This was the first of 2 regional operational conferences which were held as part of the implementation of the Eastern Border Anti-Smuggling Action Plan. The purpose of the conference is to bring the operational experts from the various enforcement services in Member States and third countries on the Eastern border together to facilitate cooperation and the exchange of intelligence and information and to look at new trends.</i>					
TOTAL AMOUNT COMMITTED FOR CONFERENCES ORGANISED IN 2011					1.276.135¹¹

¹¹

The total for the "Procured Conferences" relates to the payments made by the Commission for the organisation of the Conferences. These payments are substantially lower than the amounts indicated in the table in section 2, which are commitment appropriations. Moreover, the total in this table does not include smaller amounts for overheads.

3.2.3. Organisation of Computer Forensics Training (sector of activity: 8.1.3)

In 2011, the German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) organised two training sessions in Computer Forensics. The training sessions were organised under a service contract concluded between OLAF and the BKA and funded under the Hercule II programme. The target audience of the training consisted of staff employed by national or regional administrations of the Member States, EFTA/EEA countries and candidate countries which promote the strengthening of EU action to protect the EU's financial interests. A large number of the participants worked for customs or police forces.

Overview of the 2 computer forensic training sessions organised in 2011:

	Date	Location	Courses	Participants	Trainers
1	12-25 June 2011	Mainz-Finthen, Germany	8	159	12
2	2-14 October 2011	Budenheim, Germany	7	135	31
		TOTAL	15	294	43

The training consisted of courses provided to both beginners and advanced students to improve their skills in the use of tools and software enabling the forensic examination of computers or mobile phones in order to gather evidence during an investigation. Courses were provided to carry out a forensic examination of computers running under different operating systems. The courses, the trainers and the overall quality of the training complied with the quality standards set by an international organisation of computer forensic experts. At the end of the training sessions, the participants had to pass an exam to assess the newly acquired knowledge and competences. All participants succeeded in passing these tests.

The training sessions also gave the opportunity to the participants to network and to exchange information and best practices in relation to computer forensic examinations.

The overall costs for the two sessions amounted to €653.600,-, which included the costs of training and the accommodation and travel costs for the participants.

3.2.4. Organisation of technical training courses on image interpretation for scanning operators (sector of activity: 8.1.4)

Specific technical training courses on image interpretation for scanning operators were not organised in 2011. These technical courses are provided by the suppliers of X-Ray scanners to the beneficiaries of technical assistance grants awarded under the sectors 7.1.1. and 7.1.2. of the Financing Decision

3.2.5. Co-hosting a Fifth Inter-Governmental Negotiating Body meeting (sector of activity 8.1.5)

Since 2007, OLAF has been the "chef de file" for the Commission in the negotiation of a Protocol on the Elimination of the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products based on Article 15 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The 5th, and final, meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body 5 (INB5) which was established to negotiate a Draft Protocol was held in Geneva from 29 March – 4 April 2012.

During the INB5 a Draft Protocol was successfully concluded. Once ratified, the Protocol will make a very significant contribution to eliminating the illicit trade in tobacco products. From

an EU perspective the draft Protocol is an important international instrument to fight the global problem of tobacco smuggling.

The Draft Protocol will be presented to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at a meeting in Seoul, Korea in November 2012.

3.3. Training, Seminars and Conferences – Legal part

The legal part of the training, conferences and seminars sector aims to further develop the specific legal and judicial aspects of the protection of EU's financial interests against fraud, by promoting in particular comparative law analyses (sector of activity: 9).

The following activities are eligible under this sector of activity:

- organisation of seminars and conferences;
- studies in comparative law;
- dissemination, including publication of scientific knowledge concerning the protection of the EU's financial interests;
- publication and distribution of a scientific periodical on the protection of the EU's financial interests;
- organisation of the annual meeting of the Presidents of the Associations for European Criminal Law and for the protection of EU's Financial Interests.

The results expected in this area are: organisation of seminars and conferences on the priority topics identified in the 2011 Financing Decision; production of studies to help the Commission (OLAF) identify measures to protect the EU's financial interests; production of scientific studies that can serve to stimulate debate on one of the priority topics; translation of texts and documents that are relevant or of interest for the protection of the EU's financial interests; promotion of the dissemination of scientific knowledge relating to the protection of the EU's financial interests and the results of the measures referred to above; publication of a periodical on the protection of the EU's financial interests; organisation of an annual meeting of the chairpersons of the Associations for European Criminal Law and for the protection of EU's Financial Interest.

Following the Call for Proposals published on OLAF's website, 14 applications were received from 8 Member States. The following proposals were awarded under both Calls:

	MS	Name of beneficiary	Total costs (€)	Awarded Grant (€)	Co-fin. %	Subject
01	DE	Academy of European Law Trier	79.154	66.252	83,7	Conference/Seminar: "Annual forum on combating corruption in the EU 2012 – protecting the European Union's financial interests: internal and external auditing."
02	NL	Utrecht University	56.677	37.690	66,5	Conference/Seminar: "Choice of forum in cooperation against EU financial crime: freedom, security and justice & the protection of specific EU-interests."
03	LU	University of Luxembourg	338.325	256.450	75,8	Comparative law study: "EU model rules of evidence and procedural safeguards for the procedure of the proposed European Public Prosecutor's Office."
04	DE	Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law	86.073	59.993	69,7	Periodical publication: "Eucrim: The European Criminal Law Associations' Forum."
05	IT	Centro Studi di Diritto Penale Europeo, Como.	47.733	42.960	90	Conference/Seminar: "Circolazione e il contrabbando di prodotti contraffatti o pericolosi: la tutela degli interessi finanziari dell'Unione Europea e la protezione dei consumatori."
06	DE	Academy of European Law Trier	73.449	65.810	89,6	Conference/Seminar: "Towards more effective asset recovery in the EU: tracing and confiscating illicit proceeds while protecting the financial interests of the EU." This event took place in Copenhagen, Denmark.
07	DE	Academy of European Law Trier	11.824	10.630	89,9	Annual Meeting of Presidents of the Associations 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark.
08	LU	University of Luxembourg	120.160	99.853	83,1	Final Conference: "EU Model Rules for the Procedure of the Proposed European Public Prosecutor's Office."
09	IT	Centro di Diritto Penale Europeo, Catania	14.192	12.688	89,4	Conference/Seminar: "Cooperazione in materia penale per il contrasto della criminalità grave e contro gli interessi dell'Unione europea: tecniche investigative e protezione dati." This event took place in Ragusa, Italy.
		TOTAL	860.921	652.326	75,8	

3.4. IT support

3.4.1. Ensure MS' access to strategic information in support of investigations

The Hercule II programme provides funds to procure (access to) databases for customs and fraud investigation organisations in the Member States. This database access is needed to support their investigations. Access to databases is procured and managed by OLAF, which ensures substantial economies of scale (sector of activity: 10.1.1).

Access to these databases is provided to the Member States through the secure AFIS network, which is managed by OLAF. OLAF staff also use these databases for their investigations.

During 2011, access to the following databases was procured under the Hercule II budget:

	Name	Content	Total price in €
1	SEADATA/SEASEARCHER	Information on vessels and vessel movements	492.191
2	C-HAWK	Information on ship manifests	205.567
3	CTI	Detailed shipments of Chinese imports and exports	44.946
4	TIPS	Detailed shipment records of Indian imports and exports	1.430
5	GRS 1&2	GRS1 contains basic company information from all over the world, GRS2 gives information on links between companies	525.300
6	DBAI	Financial details of companies all over the world	(106.500*)
7	GTA	International trade statistics	190.000
	Paid under 2011 budget		1.459.434

* DBAI subscription for 2011 was committed and paid under the 2010 Hercule II budget and is not included in the total

3.4.2. Develop specific IT tools for data analysis

In 2011, the Programme provided support to two projects carried out by the Joint Research Centre (JRC): Automated Monitoring Tool (AMT) and Container Traffic (CONTRAFFIC). These two projects provide the adequate tools in order to support investigations that need data and analyses on container movements (current and past), providing more realistic and effective scenarios for joint customs operations (sector of activity: 10.1.2).

AMT has the following operational objectives:

- to increase OLAF's operational anti-fraud efforts by providing automated analysis of trade flow data at EU level;
- to further develop a tool to be used to detect signals in customs declaration data provided by Member States, with prioritisation of the signals detected in customs declarations; and

- to continue developing the ground-breaking software so that its deployment can be widened.

CONTRAFFIC aims to develop and test an advanced risk-analysis system in the maritime transport domain capable of automatically checking the origin of the merchandise declared by importers, in order to detect potential fraudulent cases of the type "false declaration of origin".

In 2011, the AMT project obtained Hercule II funding of €400.000. The Contraffric project continued under a contract concluded in 2010.

3.4.3. *Cigarette analysis*

During 2011, OLAF prolonged the existing contract with the Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI Ltd) for the establishment and maintenance of a database containing information on the specific characteristics of tobacco products and the analysis of samples of tobacco. SOI maintained the database by entering the results of the analyses and provided OLAF with quarterly reports on the results (sector of activity: 10.1.3).

The total amount spent in 2011 was €187.300.

4. MULTI-ANNUAL IMPACT

As Hercule II actions are multi-annual, most of the final reports on actions funded under the 2011 budget have not yet been received. For this section of the overview OLAF assessed the impact of previous years' actions finalised during 2011 (final technical and financial reports received in 2011). The Decision establishing the Hercule II programme has five specific objectives as set out in section 1.1. For each of these objectives, the overview below provides a summary of the main results achieved in 2011.

4.1. To enhance transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation

The specialised anti-fraud trainings granted under chapter 8.1.1 ensured a far-reaching anti-fraud and anti-corruption campaign across the EU and allowed a wide dissemination of anti-fraud measures affecting the EU's financial interests.

The participants in these actions funded by Hercule II (3369 participants in 2011 from 38 countries) included national and regional authorities, officials responsible for managing EU funds, lawyers, accountants, prosecutors, judges, representatives of EU institutions, etc.

The themes of these training seminars covered a wide range of disciplines – from fraud prevention and detection, the fight against irregularities and fraud involving the Structural Funds and online fraud, to combating the counterfeiting of cigarettes and tobacco and combating fraud in the Common Agricultural Policy and the misuse of funds.

The main results of these actions are: knowledge obtained in the field of preventing and combating fraud detrimental to the EU's financial interests; specific skills in prevention, detection and investigation in the fight against fraud; input for further development and improvement of the activities of national organisations, including legislative work; dissemination of information about the latest developments, methods, techniques in the field of the fight against fraud and corruption; and information obtained through networks established between organisations.

Examples of actions financed under Hercule II – Training Part which took place in 2011:

Training organised by the Belgian Administration of Customs and Excise "Awareness seminar on the vulnerability of international container traffic on EU inland waterways"

Two-day seminar including workshops. The aim was to make inland port authorities aware of the danger containers being used for transporting illegal goods (cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, and weapons). Further aims were to encourage the exchange of information and expertise between hub port and inland port authorities and to evaluate the need to refocus control procedures and investigation targets on inland ports.

Cycle of seminars organised by PCM - Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Italy "European Financing 2007/2013 and combating irregularities and fraud involving the Structural Funds".

Eleven half-day seminars in different regions. The target audience includes national and regional authorities, officials responsible for managing EU funds, professionals in the field (lawyers and accountants) and journalists. The aim of the project is also to inform the public about activities of European jurisdictions and the public authorities concerned.

Training organised by the National Bureau of Investigation, Hungary "Fraud with cross-border dimension and detrimental to the international financial interests of the EU in the cyber area".

Regional seminars were held in the field of online fraud to make investigators aware of the most common types and features of fraud, and to present and disseminate the latest developments in technical equipment. An additional aim was to develop the practical, tactical and technical skills of police units providing support for investigations.

The Computer Forensics Training organised by the Bundeskriminalamt allowed for the creation of a network of forensic specialists all over Europe, who will exchange information on best practices in computer forensics and who can be called upon in case of need.

4.2. To build networks throughout the MS, acceding countries and candidate countries

Under the legal sector of Hercule II, financial support has been granted to legal academic projects such as legal studies, legal academic conferences and publications dealing with particular issues in the protection of the EU's financial interests. The nine actions co-financed in 2011 had a wide international dimension. The audiences were mainly judges, prosecutors, lawyers, investigators, police officers, academics, researchers, national civil servants, and members and officials of the EU institutions. These events promoted the dissemination of legal information on the latest developments in the area of fraud prevention and the fight against fraud, and constituted a good forum for discussion of future legislative solutions in the field of the protection of the EU financial interests.

The annual meetings of the Presidents of the Associations for Criminal Law and the Protection of EU's Financial Interests offered a valuable opportunity to enhance and expand the existing network and to initiate discussion among professionals and develop ideas for future legal projects.

Examples of actions financed under Hercule II – Legal Part which took place in 2011 (granted under the 2010 budget):

International Symposium on "The fight against fraud and corruption in the EU: reinforcing cooperation between judicial and administrative authorities", 5-6 May 2011 Budapest, Hungary.

This seminar was held by the Academy of European Law (ERA) and the Hungarian Association for the Protection of the Financial Interests of the EU. It was organised under the Hungarian Presidency of the EU and co-financed by the European Commission (OLAF) under the Hercule II programme.

The event was attended by approximately 90 participants, made up of legal practitioners, representatives of Member State governments, representatives of EU institutions, legal academics and NGO representatives. The conference included two specially designed panel discussions and provided a platform to debate and exchange *practical* ideas on combating financial crimes in the EU, including the protection of the financial interests of the EU. The conference aimed at discussing the operational challenges in investigations for judicial and administrative authorities. It provided up-to-date information on new institutional tools and on the work of other national law enforcement organisations in the EU.

"eucrim" – The European Criminal Law Associations' Forum: publication of 4 issues in 2011 by the Max Planck Institute, Germany.

- Issue: 1/2011 Focus: The Implementation of Legal Instruments
- Issue: 2/2011 Focus: Victims of Crime
- Issue: 3/2011. Focus: Information and Investigations
- Issue 4/2011 Focus: Sanctions

The issues address current developments in the protection of the EU's financial interests and the activities of OLAF, ongoing measures in EU criminal law and the latest developments in relation to the case law of the Human Rights Courts under the Council of Europe in relation to economic and organised crime. These **issues** were published in English. Each news item was supplemented by internet links containing the source(s) of information (legislation, judgments, etc.) in English, French, and German (where available).

eucrim is disseminated in three ways:

- e-mail subscription - 1494 subscribers in 2011;
- all issues of eucrim are stored on the eucrim website and can be downloaded free of charge,
- 2000 hard copies of each edition were printed and distributed to individuals and institutions/organisations, such as universities, law libraries, EU institutions, national law enforcement agencies, courts, etc.

4.3. To provide technical and operational support for MS' law enforcement agencies

The programme's co-financing of the purchase of technical equipment for law enforcement agencies engaged in combating fraud is aimed mainly at:

- ensuring better technical equipment across the EU and increasing compatibility to facilitate cross-border cooperation and achieve procurement savings;
- efficient use of the equipment acquired;
- facilitating joint operations and international support for operations;
- better disclosure of offences and higher quality evidence for the courts.

In 2011, OLAF received reports on the implementation of grants awarded in previous years. These reports provided quantitative and qualitative information on the number of investigations, arrests, seizures of illicit and smuggled goods as well as convictions that were made possible with equipment funded under the programme. A systematic overview cannot be given due to the fact that information on specific investigations and operations cannot be disclosed. Moreover, it is often not possible or difficult to establish a direct causal relationship between the grant and the results achieved with the equipment purchased by the grant. It can be easily assumed however that, without the financial support, a substantially lower number of arrests, seizures and convictions would have been made and that the efficiency and effectiveness of staff using the equipment would not be as high as is the case nowadays.

Examples of highly sophisticated and transnational compatible technical equipment purchased under the 2010 budget and reported in 2011:

Grant awarded to a Polish law enforcement agency under sector 7.1.2. - Technical support for detecting the presence of cigarettes and tobacco. In the 12 months following its acquisition, the technical equipment was efficiently used in 20 tobacco-related investigations with 112 persons and 32 seized consignments of illicit goods.

Grant awarded to a Slovak law enforcement agency under sector 7.1.1. – Technical support for national authorities. In the first half of 2012 the equipment purchased was used in many routine customs operations and led to the seizure of illicit goods totalling around 2 million €

A grant awarded to a Romanian law enforcement agency enabled this agency the purchase of technical equipment that was used in a large number of routine and special operations to fight organised crime groups specialised in the smuggling of tobacco, cigarettes and other commodities. These groups bribed custom and police officials as well. The operations eventually led to the arrest of a large number of criminals and corrupt law enforcement staff as well as the seizure of substantial amounts of smuggled tobacco, cigarettes, liquors and other commodities.

Access procured by OLAF to external data bases provides essential operational information to investigators in both Member States and OLAF. This includes data necessary for protecting the revenue side of the budget, relating to trade flows and shipping and container movements. Data relating to company information is also essential for investigations and analysis relating to the expenditure side of the budget.

The databases containing information on trade flows from China and India (**Chinese database CTI and Indian database**) have been very helpful in several on-going OLAF investigations, which may eventually lead to the recovery of evaded anti-dumping and customs duties. Its usage led, for example, to the identification of shipments of goods where certificates of origin were falsified or changed. The results given below are made anonymous because the investigations are on-going. The amounts between brackets are estimates of the evaded anti-dumping and customs duties.

- Industrial products transhipped through Switzerland (+/- €1 million);
- Industrial products transhipped through Malaysia (+/- €2-3 million).
- Same products transhipped through Indonesia (+/- €1 million)
- Industrial products transhipped (coordination case), amounts recovered so far DE: € 440.000, NL: €215.153, IT: €55.522, SE: €100.000, UK: €82,733, and in 2009: € 315 .314 and 2010: €914.751;
- Industrial products trans-shipped via Taiwan: recovery of: €3,7 million;
- Industrial products trans-shipped from China via South Korea: PT recovered € 1 million. In that case, much of the preliminary evidence came from data retrieved from the CTI database;
- Classification of agricultural products in wrong categories in on-going cases: evaded customs duties are estimated at between €5 and 6 million.

The trade databases continue to be vital investigative tools for investigations in custom and trade irregularities and fraud. They are also important tools in the assessment of incoming information to determine whether or not to open an investigation.

Global Trade Atlas Database (GTA) - A commercial database of trade statistics, worldwide, aggregated at monthly level. It is used by OLAF and Member States to analyse trade flows, identify suspicious trade and cross-check allegations of customs fraud involving one or more Member States. Cross-checks can support decisions on whether to open a case or not, thus saving resources for all concerned.

The following information relates to current cases but the details have been made anonymous. The case details have been supplied by OLAF investigators as examples where GTA has been used in support of an investigation.

- Product Y to country X. GTA statistics showed a consistent flow of product Y from country A to country X, not mirrored by corresponding import on the country X side. The suspicion is that the products Y are redirected to the EU. Ongoing investigation, potential revenue at risk: € 3 million in evaded anti-dumping duty (estimate by Member State Customs);
- Product P from country B, evasion of anti-dumping duty amounting to € 675.000 proved by Member State Customs, bigger case currently under evaluation;
- Product K declared as country C origin, but suspected to be country D origin subject to anti-dumping & countervailing duties (ADD). Revenue at risk €9,1 million ADD and € 1,5 million Customs duty = € 10,6 million. Information was received from Member State authorities about a shipment of suspect country C product. A GTA check revealed the exact same quantity being shipped from country D to country C shortly before the country C to EU shipment, active investigation.

Examples of operational results obtained from the use of the CONTRAFFIC tool (developed together with the Joint Research Centre):

Based on feedback given by Belgian customs in October 2011 about investigations opened in Belgium in the period between the start of the pilot project in November 2008 and the end of 2010, JRC has estimated the hit rate of the signals provided by the system (ratio of positive (fraudulent) cases found to total investigations closed):

Period: November 2008 to December 2010 no. of cases

Total cases reported with high and medium risk	78
<i>Investigations completed</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Confirmed fraudulent cases</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Investigation rate</i>	<i>53%</i>
Hit-rate	59%

The number of confirmed fraudulent cases concerns the evasion of import duties, anti-dumping duties and VAT. The hit rate of investigated cases confirmed as fraudulent for the initial phase of the project is about 60%. For this period, there are still 26 ongoing investigations waiting to be concluded. In 2011 the system underwent significant improvements and preliminary results based on 2011 cases seem to show considerably higher system performance in terms of the volume and quality of cases communicated to customs, including a higher hit rate.

4.4. To strike a geographical balance by including all MS, acceding countries and candidate countries

One objective of the Hercule II Decision is to ensure a geographical balance in the participation of Member States, acceding countries and candidate countries in the programme.

As far as the training, seminar and conference activities are concerned, the co-financed events finalised in 2011 reported a total of 3.369 participants. They represented 38 different countries (26 Member States, 4 candidate countries, 1 EFTA/EEA country, 3 Balkan countries (SAP-process), the Russian Federation, 1 country under the Neighbourhood Policy and 2 other third countries.

Under the Technical Assistance sector (sectors 7.1.1. and 7.1.2.) 11 Member States were awarded a grant for purchasing specialised technical equipment, strengthening their capacities in the fight against irregularities, fraud and corruption.

From the overall Hercule II budget for 2011, 20 Member States were awarded a grant under the different sectors.

The external databases procured under Hercule II were intensively used by all 27 Member State administrations responsible for the protection of the financial interests of the EU.

4.5. To multiply and intensify the measures in areas identified as the most sensitive, particularly in the field of cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting

The widespread availability of illicit tobacco within the EU has led to the loss of considerable tax and duty revenues (losses to the EU and Member States' budgets as a result of cigarette smuggling are estimated to be at least €10 billion per year). One feature of the illicit market for cigarettes in the EU is the significant quantity of counterfeit products available at lower cost than the genuine products.

OLAF's contract with the Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI) ensured the establishment and maintenance of a database identifying the characteristics of tobacco products and the analysis of sample tobacco products. A quarterly report was delivered by SOI, assessing the similarity between the samples delivered by OLAF and the reference samples obtained by the contractor, the likelihood of a sample being a genuine or counterfeit product, and what continent or geographic region the sample has affinities with. During the fourth quarter of 2011, OLAF provided 77 samples of cigarette packs to SOI for analysis.

The EU- China Tobacco conference - Beijing, China, 14-16 December 2011.

The conference was well attended by the relevant Chinese authorities (18 from China Customs, 6 from the China State Tobacco Monopoly Administration, 2 from the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, 1 from the Chinese Ministry of Justice), the Member States (representatives from CY, DK, FR, DE, IR, LTH, NL, PL, SP, UK), the Member State liaison officers in Beijing (DE, FR, IT, SE, DK, FI, NL, UK.) and representatives from the tobacco manufacturers with whom the Commission and the Member States have legally binding and enforceable Agreements (BAT, ITL, JTI, PMI.)

The main aims of the conference were to:

- Improve horizontal operational cooperation between the Chinese authorities and OLAF/Member States;
- Establish, with the support of the Central Administration, more direct contacts with the operational units of these Chinese authorities, especially at the provincial level in the key regions;
- Introduce and explore the concept of China-EU joint investigation teams to deal with major international cases in the cigarette area.

The main topics addressed were the exchange of intelligence, special investigation techniques, agreements with tobacco manufacturers, joint operations, controlled deliveries, and identifying criminal organisations involved in cigarette smuggling.

5. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The successful implementation of the programme required the development of a structured way to:

- Inform (potential) beneficiaries of the programme on funding opportunities;
- disseminate information on the achievements and the results of the actions that received funding.

5.1. Informing potential beneficiaries

Concerning grants, the calls for proposals were published on OLAF's Europa website (http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/about-us/funding/index_en.htm).

The following calls for proposals were published in 2011:

Sector	Name	Budget available (€)	Deadline for the submission of proposals
7.1.1.	Technical support for national authorities' use of special investigative tools and methods in the fight against fraud and corruption, and technical support to strengthen inspections of containers and trucks at the EU's external borders, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting	3.750.000	15 June 2011, 1 September 2011
7.1.2.	Technical support for detecting the presence of cigarettes and tobacco	2.100.000	25 November 2011
8.1.1.	Training, seminars and conferences	1.000.000	16 May 2011, 19 September 2011
9.	Training, seminars and conferences – legal part	700.000	16 May 2011 30 September 2011

The professional networks (mainly the European Lawyers' Association and the training organisations) were approached by OLAF's staff members concerning information on funding opportunities. Potential candidates were also informed via e-mails sent to the members of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Fraud Prevention (COCOLAF), the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network (OAFCN) and European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). The training call was also published in the news section of the e-Justice Portal.

5.2. Dissemination of results

The dissemination of the results of actions under Hercule II, in particular technical assistance, is rather sensitive as most of the achievements relate to investigations for which the information cannot be disclosed.

The dissemination on training activities was realised through the distribution of electronic and/or paper reports summarising the event. Some beneficiaries posted the training materials on their websites or created a dedicated website for their projects.

5.3. Communication and publicity

Under the training (8.1.1 and 8.1.2.) and the legal training (9) sectors, all beneficiaries of grants were requested to mention the support from the Hercule II programme:

- (2) In every publication (title page) or related material developed (e.g. studies, booklets, newsletters, leaflets);
- (3) In electronic information (e.g. websites, audio-visual material, videos, software) and;
- (4) At information events (conferences, seminars).

They were also requested to insert a link from their website to the Hercule II programme's site.

6. FEED-BACK FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAMME

In 2011, OLAF carried out an **informal consultation of the following stakeholders**, partly based on questionnaires:

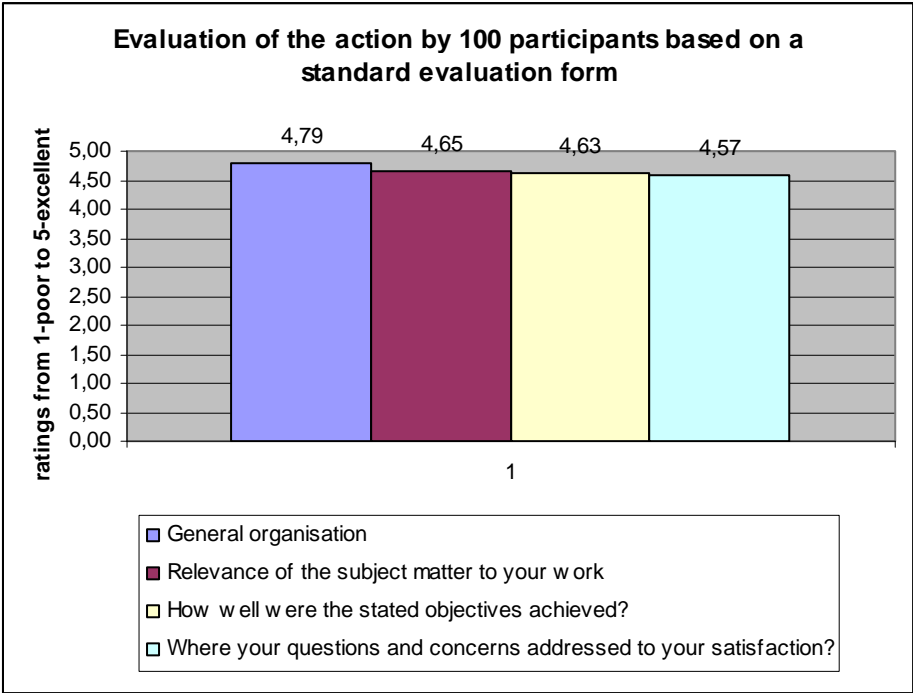
- OLAF's **Task Group Cigarettes partners** (specialist services in Member States concerned in particular with the agreements with the tobacco manufacturers);
- **Member State services that access the specialist databases** procured by OLAF under the programme's technical assistance sector;
- The Associations for Criminal Law and the Protection of EU's Financial Interests (**European Lawyers' Associations – ELA**). These stakeholders were asked to evaluate the implementation of the Hercule II programme and to provide ideas for future objectives.

The consultation confirmed the importance of the Hercule II programme but indicated that the co-financing rates under the technical assistance sector were too low (maximum 50% of the total eligible cost of actions).

Examples of feed-back received from participants in different actions co-financed by Hercule II under 2011 budget:

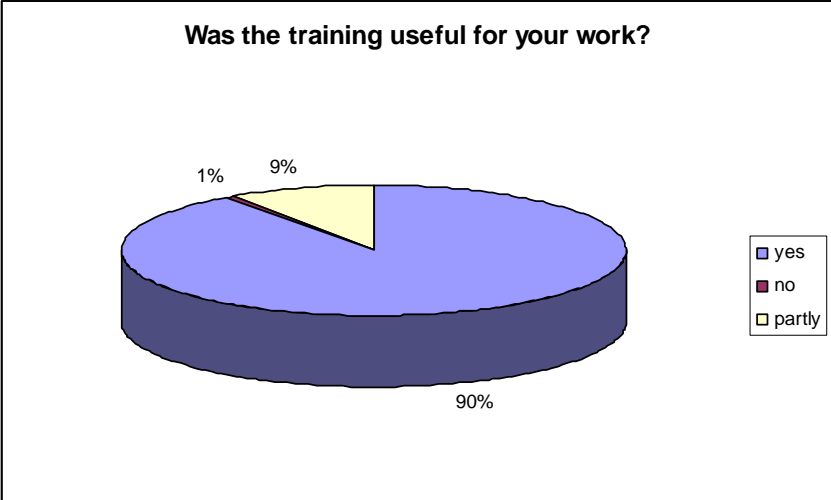
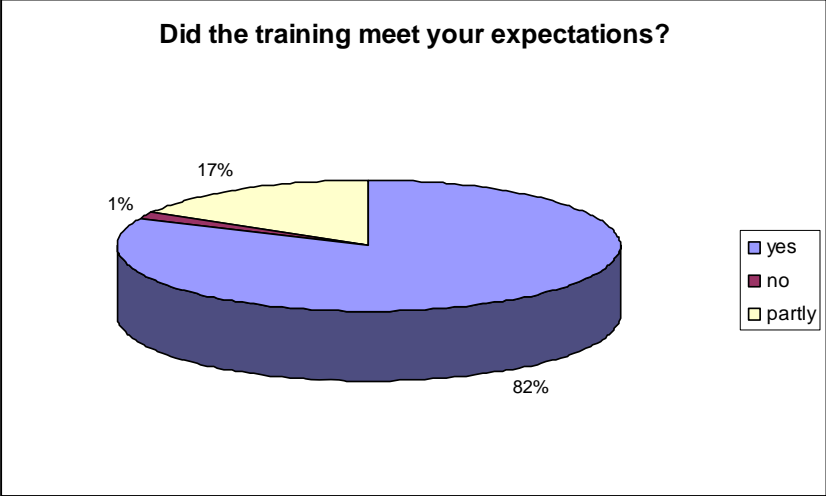
The Voivodship Police Headquarters, Poland: Training seminar on "Safe Europe – exchange of knowledge and experiences in the scope of the protection of the EU's financial interests" (sector 8.1.1. – Training, Seminars and Conferences).

Evaluation by 100 participants:

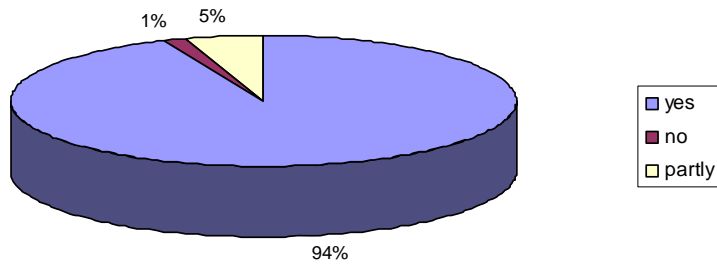


The organiser of the Computer Forensics Trainings carried out a user satisfaction survey to assess the usefulness of the training for its participants. The results of the survey showed that most of the participants were satisfied with the quality and content of the courses as well as with the overall organisation of the training session. More importantly, a majority of participants indicated that the training they attended was relevant and useful for their professional activities. The set-up of the courses allowed the participants to exchange information on best practices from their home country and a limited number of social events provided opportunities for social networking activities.

7th OLAF European Computer Forensic Training - October 2011 (sector 8.1.3 – Training on Forensic Computing), Evaluation made by 139 participants:

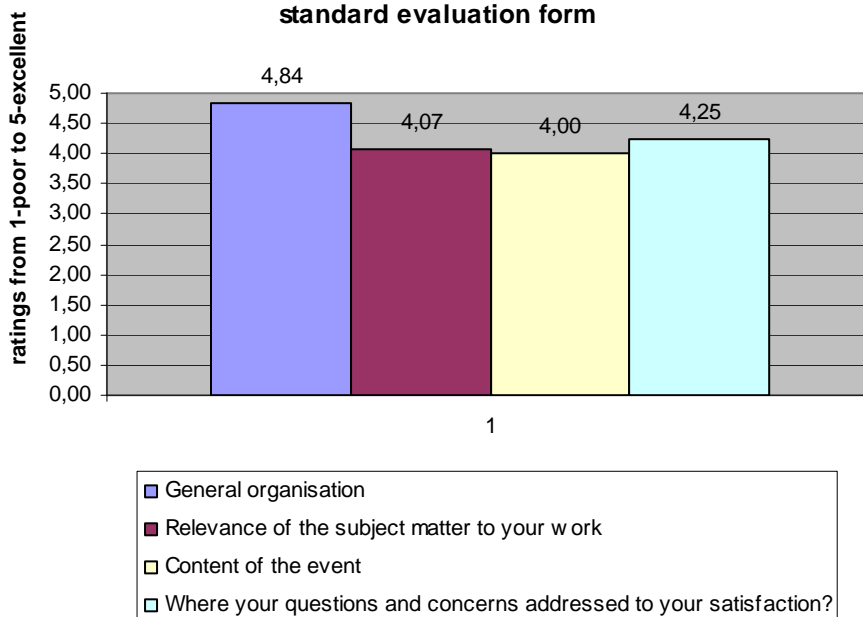


Would you recommend this training to a colleague?



Academy of European Law (ERA), Germany – Annual Forum on Combating Corruption in the EU 2012 "Protecting the European Union's Financial Interests: Internal and External Auditing", Trier, 16-17 February 2012 (sector 9. – Training, seminars and conferences – Legal part), Evaluation made by 43 participants:

Evaluation of the action by 43 participants based on a standard evaluation form



7. CONCLUSION

The results above show that the activities funded under the Hercule II programme were overall successful. However, a comprehensive assessment of the Hercule II programme can only be made after the programme ends in 2013. The evaluation of the programme is required under Article 7 of the Hercule II Decision and will take place in 2014.

The available budget for the Hercule II programme was committed for 81,5%. It should be noted however that half of the budget was spent on grant agreements, which require co-funding from national or regional authorities. Budget restrictions in the Member States eventually led to the withdrawal of several successful proposals. Moreover, budgets for grants often include cost items that are not eligible for funding. This makes it difficult to achieve a higher implementation rate.

On 19 December 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a new programme, Hercule III, under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework MFF (2014-2020)¹². This proposal was accompanied by an impact assessment, which confirmed the need and utility of the programme.

¹²

COM (2011)914 final of 19 December 2011.