



Bundeskriminalamt



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### **Break and continuity of organized crime: an assessment from French cases**

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## **Abstract**

Despite a tendency to undervalue legal and police's sources, they provide valuable and useful information for understanding, for example, what is known as the French Connection; this international heroin network can be considered, with the benefit of hindsight, as a genuine paradigm of criminal organization. A number of questions can be posed in the light of its history concerning the uncommon nature of criminal organizations vis-à-vis legal bodies and, more precisely, on their internal structure and their connections, in particular on an international scale. As a result of a careful examination of the French organized crime, this paper investigates the break and continuity of this phenomenon on a diachronic and synchronic point of view.

Some findings of research projects concerning activities of criminal groups are emphasized:

- drug related crime and money laundering;
- illegal cannabis cultivation;
- and to a lesser extent, cigarette smuggling (because the research is still ongoing).