



Bundeskriminalamt



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Countering International Organised Crime Groups – Challenges and Opportunities

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The local/national Containment of global organised Crime: the Dutch/Amsterdam Example

Prof. em. Dr. Cyrille Fijnaut

Professor of International and Comparative Criminal Law, Tilburg University, Tilburg, NL



Curriculum vitae

Cyrille Fijnaut was professor of criminology and criminal law at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands (1986-1997), the KU Leuven, Belgium (1978-1982, 1990-2004) and Tilburg University, The Netherlands (2000-2011). In the period 1997-2002 he has been a member of the Global Law School at the New York University School of Law. At the end of the Sixties and in the beginning of the Seventies he studied criminology and philosophy at the KU Leuven. Before that time he studied at the Dutch Police Academy (1965-1968) and worked as a police lieutenant in the police force of the city of Tilburg (1968-1969, 1971-1973). In 1978 he defended at the KU Leuven his Ph.D.-thesis on the political history of the police systems in North-West Europe.

His main research interests are related to organised crime, terrorism and social safety, international police and judicial cooperation, the history of policing in Europe and in particular in Belgium and the Netherlands, comparative criminal procedure and police law, the development of European and American criminology and the regulation of gambling. In these fields he wrote and edited more than hundred books and reports. He published hundreds of articles in national and international learned and professional journals and edited books. In addition he has worked in the last 25 years as an expert for a number of governmental and parliamentary committees of inquiry in The Netherlands and Belgium with regard to organised and professional crime problems and in relation to security issues. At this moment he spends most of his time on two books.

Cyrille Fijnaut has a.o. been honoured by Ghent University with a doctorate honoris causa, by the government of the Netherlands with a knighthood in the Order of the Dutch Lion, and by the Belgian government with a commandeurship in the Crown Order.

Content of the presentation

Organized crime: a questionable definition

The history of the problem

- Banditry: a historical and contemporary phenomenon
- Urban underworlds: from marginal pockets to cosmopolitan areas
- The international criminal: an old concept and a living reality

The nature of the problem: activities

- The main categories: serving black markets and controlling legitimate industries

- The decreasing distinctions: white collar crime and terrorism
- The important overlaps: professional crime and street crime

The nature of the problem: people

- Not just chains and networks but also junctions
- Not just organized criminals but also supporters and profiteers
- Not just nationals and ethnicities but also mixed companies

The context of the problem

- The local/national and the transnational dimension
- The globalization of the infrastructure
- The urbanization of mankind
- The role of (civil) war, dictatorship and failed states

The containment of the problem

- The role of criminal law and the criminal justice system
- The necessity of an administrative and fiscal approach
- The importance of strong local/national policies and authorities
- The relevance of international conventions on information exchange and mutual assistance in (criminal) matters
- The complementary role of European/international institutions: Europol, Eurojust a.o.

Organized crime in the Netherlands

A general picture of the scene

- At the cross-roads of incoming and outgoing international criminal networks
- The role of European criminal networks in The Netherlands
- The role of Dutch criminal networks in Europe

The hard core of the problem

- The production and exportation of drugs (cannabis and synthetic drugs)
- The trade in hard(er) drugs, arms smuggling, human trafficking
- The predominant role of Dutch criminal groupings
- The growth of illegal economies and parallel societies
- The investment of criminal profits in real estate a.o.
- The use of counter-strategies against (local) authorities”

The fierce debate on the “legalization” of cannabis (and synthetic drugs)

- The background of the debate: the problem of coffeeshops and the cannabis problem
- The arguments of advocates and opponents: a political deadlock
- The Third Way: a “solution” for the European Union

The (containment of) organized crime problems in Amsterdam's city center

The developments in the years 1996-2006

The efforts of the local authorities

- The analysis by the Research-Group Fijnaut in 1995-1996
- The problem is above all a local problem and asks for a local answer
- The establishment of special departments in the local administration
- The limited success of (criminal and fiscal) law enforcement
- The administrative efforts to reduce the problem until 2007: the acquisition of real estate, the screening of applicants for licenses
- The need of a more integrated approach

The national impact of "Amsterdam"

- The model for other cities and regions: the Euroregion Meuse - Rhine
- The BIBOB-Act 2003: local screening and national advise

The developments in the years 2007-2015

- The cry of distress by the mayor: all hands on deck
- The Emergo project: the reduction of power
 - . a common national experiment:
 - . integration of information and action
 - . the ends: identification of/action against criminal power structures
 - . the legal, technical and organizational problems
 - . the execution of the project: from test borings to key figures
 - . the output and the outcome
- The 1012-project: the reduction of opportunity
 - . the reform of the zoning plan
 - . the reduction of the criminogenic markets: window prostitution, coffeeshops a.o.
 - . the strive for a more balanced economy and a more multifunctional society in the "red light district"
 - . the investments in "infrastructure" (subway) and "suprastructure" (the red carpet)
 - . the revision of the local by-laws in questionable economic sectors
- The national impact of both initiatives

The EU dimension in the Dutch/Amsterdam approach of organized crime

- The resemblance to the approach in other Member States: not that "Dutch"
- The acknowledgement and advancement of this development by the European Union
- The important role of the Luxemburg Court of Justice: the "frontdoor-problem" of the coffeeshops and the language command by brothels keepers