

## Prison sentences for the leaders of a car theft gang and confiscation of criminal proceeds

An organised crime group (OCG) coordinated from a base in Lithuania had been operating in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. The thieves cracked the locks of high-end, luxury keyless cars using radio wave extenders and then transported them in trucks through the Czech Republic and Poland to Lithuania. The leaders in Lithuania communicated in code language with the gang members on the ground in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Close cooperation between the German and Lithuanian judicial and police authorities, coordinated through Eurojust, led to the arrest of eleven OCG members.



**June 2020** – Based on solid evidence, the Regional Court of Heilbronn in Germany sentenced the eleven members of the criminal organisation to **imprisonment**.

The two leaders were convicted to serve prison sentences of seven years and nine months and five years and nine months respectively. **The judgments were final.**

The Court also ordered the **confiscation of the proceeds of the crimes**, the highest single amount being EUR 584 960.

Several **properties were seized** in Lithuania.



**December 2018** – A **coordinated action** resulted in the simultaneous arrests of eleven suspects. The two gang leaders and five gang members, who had been arrested in Lithuania, were transferred to Germany to face trial.



**2018-2019** – Two coordination meetings were organised by Eurojust in June 2018 and November 2019, facilitating exchanges of information and the execution of *European Investigation Orders* and requests for *Mutual Legal Assistance*.



**September 2018** – A Joint Investigation team was set up with funding and support from Eurojust and analytical support from Europol. The constantly changing plans of the OCG were gradually mapped out, including by means of interception, which led to the identification of additional suspects and exposed various facts relating to the crimes.



**W**ithout the joint investigation team, this process and its successful conclusion would not have been possible. We have seen the advantages of this kind of cooperation in investigations on many occasions and that is what really enabled us to move forward in this case.

**Mirjam Weisenburger**  
Heilbronn Senior Public Prosecutor