

## Lured into street prostitution: 19 arrests in latest hit against human traffickers

The family-based criminal group was forcing its victims to prostitute themselves on the streets of Girona in Spain

On 9 March, Europol supported the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) and the Service of Countering Organised Criminality Giurgiu within the Romanian Police (Poliția Română) in a hit against an organised crime group involved in sexual exploitation.

The suspects belonged to a family-based criminal group composed of Romanian nationals. They recruited the victims from Romania, luring them to Spain with the so-called 'loverboy method'. Once the victims reached Girona, the members of the criminal gang forced them into prostitution on the streets of the Spanish city. The victims endured harsh living conditions, cold and hunger. Some of them were forced to prostitute themselves while pregnant and at high risk of being infected by COVID in the current pandemic. To prove their 'ownership' over the victims, the criminal gang tattooed them. The suspects collected the money from the sexual exploitation and invested it in high-end vehicles, real estate, luxury goods and drugs. During the action day, officers in Romania discovered pornographic material including content depicting the sexual abuse of a minor.

### **The action day on 9 March 2021 led also to:**

- 16 house searches (2 in Spain and 14 in Romania)
- 19 arrests (8 in Spain and 11 in Romania)
- 18 victims safeguarded (7 in Spain and 11 in Romania)
- Seizures include phones and stolen goods, including jewellery worth some €35 000.

Europol facilitated the information exchange and provided analytical support. During the action day, Europol hosted a virtual command post to coordinate the activities. Europol also deployed an expert to Spain to cross-check operational information in real-time against Europol's databases and to provide technical support with phone extraction capabilities.



In 2010 the European Union set up a [four-year Policy Cycle](#) to ensure greater continuity in the fight against serious international and organised crime. In 2017 the Council of the EU decided to continue the EU Policy Cycle for the 2018 – 2021 period. It aims to tackle the most significant threats posed by organised and serious international crime to the EU. This is achieved by improving and strengthening cooperation between the relevant services of EU Member States, institutions and agencies, as well as non-EU countries and organisations, including the private sector where relevant. Human trafficking is one of the priorities for the Policy Cycle.

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## [Media advisory – Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 22 and 23 March 2021](#)



### **Indicative programme**

**Monday 22 March 2021**

Place:

Justus Lipsius building, Brussels

Chair:

**Ricardo Serrão Santos**, Minister of the Sea of Portugal and **Maria do Céu Antunes** Minister for Agriculture of Portugal

*All times are approximate and subject to change*

from 08.45

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

**10.00**

**Beginning of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council**

Adoption of the agenda

Approval of non-legislative A items

10.10 Approval of A items ([public session](#))

10.15 EU-UK consultations for fishing opportunities for 2021, and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022

12.15 Other business:

14.15 Phytosanitary measures to protect against plant pests ([public session](#))

15.45 Use of biological control agents against pests ([public session](#))

**+/- 17.15**

**Press conference in [live streaming](#)**

17.45 Preparation of CAP strategic plans ([public session](#))

## **Tuesday 22 March 2021**

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

09.00 EU-UK consultations for fishing opportunities for 2021, and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022 (*continuation*)

**+/- 10.00**

**Press conference in [live streaming](#)**

Post 2020 CAP reform package:

10.30 Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans ([public session](#))

14.15 CAP new delivery model + AOB on CAP simplification ([public session](#))

15.45 Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP ([public session](#))

17.30 Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products ([public session](#))

19:30 Other business:

- COVID-19 crisis and wine sector

**At the end of the meeting (+/- 20.15) press conference in [live streaming](#)**

## **Arrangements for the press conferences**

Please note that there will be no physical press conference. EU accredited journalists will be able to ask questions remotely using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous Agriculture and Fisheries Council press conferences do not need to register again.

**Deadline for registration: Monday, 22 March 2021, 16.15**

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants approximately half an hour after the deadline.

[Videos and photos from the event](#)

[Visit the meeting page](#)

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## [#YEYS2021: European young generation takes up challenges and delivers its say on climate change](#)



Concrete proposals were handed to the European Commission's Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans by high school students from all over Europe, who took part in a virtual Youth Summit on Climate organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 18-19 March 2021.

*Young Europeans have a say in the EU's future: without your calls for action the [European Green deal](#) would not have been here , said Mr Timmermans welcoming the event [Your Europe your say 2021](#). I am really impressed at your in-depth understanding of the climate change problem and at the way you presented your proposals to me, this is the way to live, understand each other, it's extremely difficult to hate a person that you can understand, he concluded.*

After two days of lively virtual discussions and debates, over 234 students aged 16-18 participating in #YEYS2021 developed concrete recommendations, which they presented during a final plenary session.

The students had to wear the hat of a stakeholder group in a simulation of a [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (COP) and work together with other groups to create a plan to limit global warming to safe levels of well below 1.5° C by the end of the century. The groups represented real sectors and industries, whose activities and advocacy influence global warming.

The [proposals](#) included:

- Planting city trees and installing vertical gardens
- "Ecological-Manhattan-Project" for the EU, investing vast amounts in new technologies
- Investing in more education for the general public
- Implementing tailor-made policies that respond to each country's specific circumstances
- Supporting afforestation as one of the most efficient long-term solutions in carbon removal
- Introducing hydrogen and biogas while phasing out fossil fuels
- Closing the gap between developed and developing nations

The final plan created by the young Europeans predicted a temperature increase of +1.4°C by 2100, thus reaching the goal of the exercise, and was presented by eight students.

Students were welcomed by **Christa Schweng**, President of the EESC, who said: *I am full of hope for the future of Europe and confident that the next European generation is in good hands. We need a green transition to a green economy that leaves no one behind. To achieve this, we need active citizens. This starts with involving young people.* **Cillian Lohan**, Vice-President of the EESC in charge of communication, closed the event with these remarks: *I hope the experience of YEYS has given you the desire to be active citizens, we need your participation for democracy to be strong. The youth movement has shown that change can come from the streets. Today we help those demands for more action to resonate in the corridors of power.*

During the event, the students had the opportunity to share their ideas and views with different guests, such as the Belgian climate activists **Anuna de Wever** and **Adelaide Charlier**; **Samuel Masse**, President of the European Council of Young Farmers; and **Ska Keller**, Co-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance Group at the European Parliament, who said: *We are not inventing the wheel; there is a lot of research! We know what procedures to adopt and implement at national level! The Climate Law is a very important step! This is really thanks to the outside pressure and youth engagement.*

#### **Background:**

After its cancellation due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the 2021 Committee's flagship event for young people selected 33 schools, one from each of the 27 EU Member States and five candidate countries (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) and one from the UK.

Through this initiative, the EESC aims to ensure that the views, experiences and ideas of the younger generation are taken on board in EU policy-making.

Further details about YEYS 2021 are available on the [event's official page](#).

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## **Forward look: 22 March – 4 April 2021**



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## **Strengthening ties with Slovenia**

During this visit, he had a number of high-level meetings in Slovenian Ministries. These included meetings with Lilijana Kozlovič, Minister for Justice and Aleš Hojs, Minister of the Interior.

He also met with Marko Pogacnik, Chair of the parliament's Committee on EU Affairs, and Blaž Pavlin (MP), Chair of the Justice Committee.