6th Intersessional meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Vienna, 16th October 2019
Federico MANOTTI
Public Prosecutor at the Court of Genoa, Italy
Member of the Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism District Directorate in Genoa, Italy
CHARACTERISTICS OF «ARTABAZ INVESTIGATION»

• Delayed seizure of narcotics in Genoa (Italy) with controlled delivery in Roosendaal (Netherlands)
• E.I.O. (European Investigation Order) and Request for Judicial Assistance
• Collaboration between Judicial Authorities and Police Forces of several European countries
• Eurojust intervention
• Concentration of various Countries proceedings in a single Judicial Authority
• CRIME:

Import of large quantities of the narcotic substance (artt. 73 e 80 DPR 309/90) managed by a criminal association (art. 74 DPR 309/90)

• NARCOTIC SUBSTANCE CHARACTERISTICS:

268 kg. heroin with average purity of 64%
Carrier and Route

- ARTABAZ container ship
- DEPARTURE: Port of Bandar Abbas (Iran)
- ARRIVAL: Port of Genoa (Italy)
- Drug hidden in a container, inside maxi bags of bentonite (building powder material)
- From the documents, the goods were formally destined to a company based in the Czech Republic
Container inventory search
International Conventions of reference

• The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime adopted in Palermo (Italy) on 15 December 2000. It came into force on 29 September 2003. As of 2019, the Convention has been ratified by 190 States around the world - It was implemented in Italy by Law 146/2006

• Art.40 «Schengen Agreement» 19 June 1990 (Cross-Border Observation)
Steps

• Seizure of 266 kg of heroin
• Delayed seizure of 2 kg of heroin
• Decision to make controlled delivery
• Telephone interception of the telephone lines of the Genoa Shipping Company in charge of clearing the goods

• Identification of that "Celik", alleged legal representative of the Czech Company goods purchaser. Celik was using Dutch telephone lines

• Mr. Celik gave indications that the place of merchandise destination was the town of Roosendaal in the Netherlands
• Activation of the collaboration between Italian Police and others Polices Forces and different Judicial Authorities

• E.I.O. (European Investigation Order) with the Netherlands, sent through Eurojust
• Problem of identifying the route that would have made the truck and consequently the Countries possibly crossed

• The Italian Police started tailing from the port of Genoa and then all the way long
The route taken by the truck was: Genoa (Italy) – Basel (Switzerland, through Gotthard Pass) – France – Belgium – Netherlands

The request for legal assistance to Switzerland was quickly sent by Eurojust, due to transit in Switzerland

French Magistrate's of liaison with Italy intervention
After crossing France and Belgium the truck arrived in the Netherlands and headed to an industrial building on the outskirts of Roosendaal.
Intervention by the Dutch Police with the arrest of the subjects who were waiting for heroin and were preparing to discharge it.
• Judicial Authorities in three countries with investigations underway
• Eurojust's intervention, which called a coordination meeting
• Decision to concentrate proceedings with the Dutch Judicial Authority as a "mieux placé"