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# RAILPOL

## European Association of Railway Police Forces Annual review 2019

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## 1. Introduction

2019 has become a year in which RAILPOL further expanded in its membership and operational activities.

Slovenia, Austria and Greece became new members and the membership of Poland is an ongoing process. RAILPOL is an operational association. This expresses itself, among other things, by organising on International level, the Rail Action Days and Week, exercise for public order/riot teams and activating the Real Time Information Line during major events. RAILPOL is aware that contact with the public is important. RAILPOL is active on social media and released a promotion video, showing the association and its operational activities. This video can be found by clicking the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1PlekZQBfA>

The police occupy a central position in society and are constantly adapting to meet the demands made on them by politicians and the public.

Combatting crime is a core function of governance and a core task of each national police force. Due to the characteristics of stations, trains and railway infrastructure, policing in the railway environment requires a specialised approach.

The key principals of RAILPOL are described in its mission and vision;

### **Mission:**

*“The mission of RAILPOL, is to strive for a safe and secure rail-transport by establishing cross-border law enforcement co-operation on the main European railway corridors.”*

### **Vision:**

*“RAILPOL is the platform for cross-border law enforcement co-operation to tackle transnational crime and other security issues in the European railway environment.”*

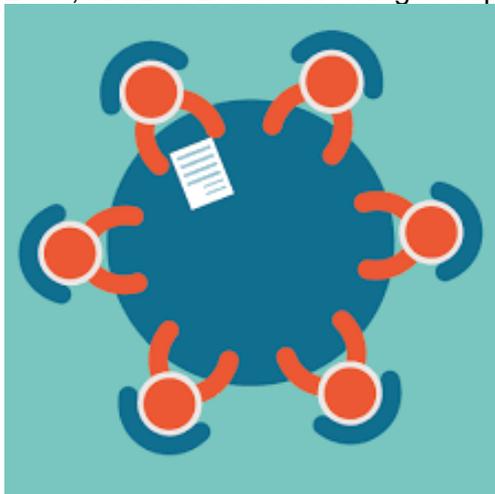
RAILPOL does not ride on one track. Security is not only a police task, co-operation with the other partners/stake holders is a major element in our strategy. Looking for a multidiscipline approach, is always on our agenda. Some examples are participating in EU projects like SHERPA and PROACTIVE, the co-operation with COLPOFER, the security services of the railways, UIC, the international organisation of railway operators as well providing advice/support to the European Commission with RAILPOL's expertise related to policing of the railway environment. Also, the co-operation with the other police networks on the European infrastructure like TISPOL and AIRPOL is getting more and more concrete. This annual review provides the most important achievements of RAILPOL in 2019.

On behalf of the RAILPOL Management,

A.J.H.M.(John) Laene  
Secretary-General RAILPOL.

## 2. Working Groups.

RAILPOL is an operational association with its back bone, the Working Groups. In 2019, RAILPOL had 5 Working Groups, namely;



- Crime and Illegal Migration;
- Public Order;
- Counter Terrorism;
- Police Investigations in Railway Accidents and other major Incidents;
- Strategic Analysis.

Each Working Group organised yearly 2 meetings of one and a half day each. Because of the complicity, the Working Group Strategic Analysis had their meetings for two and a half day. During these meetings, they exchanged best practices and shared information but also draw up recommendations, analyse reports and organised joint International days of action.

All RAILPOL members are represented in one of more Working Groups.

Under this paragraph you will find some details of the activities of the Working Groups.

### 2.1 Crime and Illegal Migration



The Working Group on Crime and Illegal Migration aims to contribute, together with the participating Member States, to combating organised cross border and national crimes and phenomena committed within the European railroad environment. They set out to find solutions for- and exchanging best/good/bad practices. They also exchange current affairs for monitoring the influx of migrants and their way of traveling through Europe.

During their meetings in 2019, the Working Group discussed the next main topics

- Update/new phenomena on general crime;
- Monitoring the general migration situation.
- Inventory of the migrants in freight trains as well the use of technical detection devices;
- Inventory of crimes related with graffiti and investigate cooperation with railway companies;
- New method for accelerating the handling of suicide on the railways;
- Evaluation of the Rail Action Days (24 blue) and preparing two new Rail action Days in 2020.

## 2.2 Public Order



The Working Group Public Order deals with the examination and exchange of “best practices”, measures and information related to public order issues (e.g. demonstrations, sports events) within the railway environment. The specific infrastructure needs special attention. There is always the aspect of safety. The focus of this Working Group lies in determining and studying causes of public disorder and hazards due to mass transits during different events and how law enforcement units could handle these situations more effectively.

During the meetings in 2019, the Working Group accomplished:

- Concept RAILPOL manual “Characteristics of national football supporters”.
- Joint operation on trains with Romanian and Hungarian Police organized by members of the WG on occasion of the visit of the Pope in May 2019 in Romania;
- Execution of the public order exercise “RAILEX IX” 2019, evaluation of “RAILEX VIII” 2018.

They handled the following topics:

- Exchange of information on new equipment used by public order teams like video equipment and use of drones;
- Sharing of experiences/ police measures during mass demonstrations in France (“yellow vests”) and mass events in Hungary and Romania;
- Preparation of “RAILEX X” in 2020;
- Sharing of experiences about “forms of operations with Special Forces and joint patrols in the railway environment” as well as cooperation with neighboring authorities and organizations in the legal frames;
- Exchange about national police preparations on strategic level of the EURO 2020 as well tasks and draft for several critical scenarios related to EURO 2020.

## 2.3 Counter Terrorism



The railway system goes along with the trend of terrorism in Europe and has been the target of terrorist attacks. Being a public, open and crowded environment, it offers an ideal opportunity for terrorists. The role of the Railway Police Forces is usually related to the three pillars of security in railway environment: deterrence, detection and resilience.” Therefore, there is an alignment of the WG CT’s work, with the areas related to these pillars. The work of the Working Group attends to provide preventive and affordable solutions to reduce the terrorist threat and risk in the railway environment. Since security strategies should include prevention and response, the Working Group is a relevant platform in regard to the sharing of preventive measures to allow countries to adapt solutions that may contribute to the common European security.

During the 2 meetings, they conduct:

- Recommendations regarding Active Attacker Protocol;
- Recommendations regarding Behavioural Assessment;
- Recommendations regarding Cyber Security.

The working group also worked on the topics of:

- Evaluation of the Rail Action day's in 2019 and preparing two Rail Action Days in 2020.
- Active attacker.
- Cyber terrorism
- Behaviour detection technics.
- Explosive detection (detection dogs)
- Threat manual (in combination with WG Railway Accidents)

## 2.4 Police investigations in railway accidents and other major incidents



The Working Group (WG), deals with the police investigation in rail accidents and incidents. Furthermore, the WG analyses and evaluates the development and structure of the railway sector with its operational interoperability in Europe. The work of the group is focused on best practice / exchange of experience in rail accident investigations but also in analysing and assessing threat scenarios in the railway system in Europe. In this context the WG considers, that security and safety are linked in the field of railway transport, and therefore a strong co-operation with the different involved stakeholders is needed.

During the Working Group meetings, they conducted;

- A leaflet "Transport of dangerous goods";
- A manual "Suicides on rail premises";
- The "Railway Accident Investigator" (Information letter)

Next to the above, they worked on the items;

- Creating a manual on "Threat scenarios in the railway environment" (in combination with the WG Counter Terrorism)
- Evaluation of the Rail Action Week 2019 and preparing the Rail Action Week 2020.
- Manual "Case studies"
- Starting on the topic "Digitalisation – Cyber-crime"

## 2.5 Strategic Analysis



The WG Strategic Analysis, focused is activities to provide the RAILOL members and the Working Groups with useful information in order to plan priorities, strategies and activities by a deep analysis of criminality, its trends and the growth over the years.

The information acquired during the analyses helps in creating a product that informs and drives intelligence-led policing and international co-operation between all RAILPOL partners. It also contributes to reduce the international threat faced by the railway networks throughout Europe by providing the members with useful information to develop strategies and to plan police measures.

During- but also outside these meetings the members of the working group compiled a

- RAILPOL general report 8 (period 2012-2018). An Analysis (Report) of criminality in the railway environment with a focus on the main crimes who affect this specific area of mobility, their trends, as well increasing and decreasing during the last years.
- Dept analysis on the topic of “Organised and Travelling Criminality within the railway environment”. (period 2016-2018). A detailed report considering detection of criminal trends and phenomena and, if necessary, to investigate them more deeply, with a special focus on the occurrences that seem to be common problems.

## 3. Operational results

RAILPOL is an operational association. Operational activities in the field is one of our major goals. During the past years, RAILPOL expanded and professionalised these operational activities with increasing results. Explanation as well as some results are showed below.



## **RAD/RAW**

In 2019 RAILPOL held several Rail Action Days (**RAD's**) and a Rail Action Week (**RAW**). During the **RAD's** the participating countries worked on one specific topic, like aggression, drugs, weapons, explosive detection, ID checks etc. Beside the common topic, participants worked on their own National priorities. Despite they are not a member yet, the Polish railway police participated also, like in 2018, in the RAD's and week.



The **RAW** focused both on security and safety, like actions at level crossings, information at schools, alcohol testing of railway staff but also checks on critical infrastructure and of transport of dangerous goods.

## **RAILEX**

Another operational activity was RAILEX IX, a major exercise in the railway environment, with participation from public order units from several countries. This successful exercise was held in Romania, organised in cooperation with our Romanian member. During RAILEX the public order units worked together on several scenario's in the railway environment like transporting football fans, demonstrators and terrorist attacks. RAILEX is also a perfect platform to exchange tactics and technics.



## **RTIL**

In 2019, RAILPOL activated on some major events the Real Time Information Line (RTIL). Goal of this RTIL is to provide the participating countries with real time information about the amount and behaviour of football fans/demonstrators traveling by train. The RTIL can also be used after a major accident/incident or terrorist attack. In 2019 the RTIL was activated during the G7 summit in France and the WC ice hockey in Slovakia.



## OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES RAILPOL







Intervention on train



Public Order intervention



Escort of football fans



Rail blockade

## 4. Management



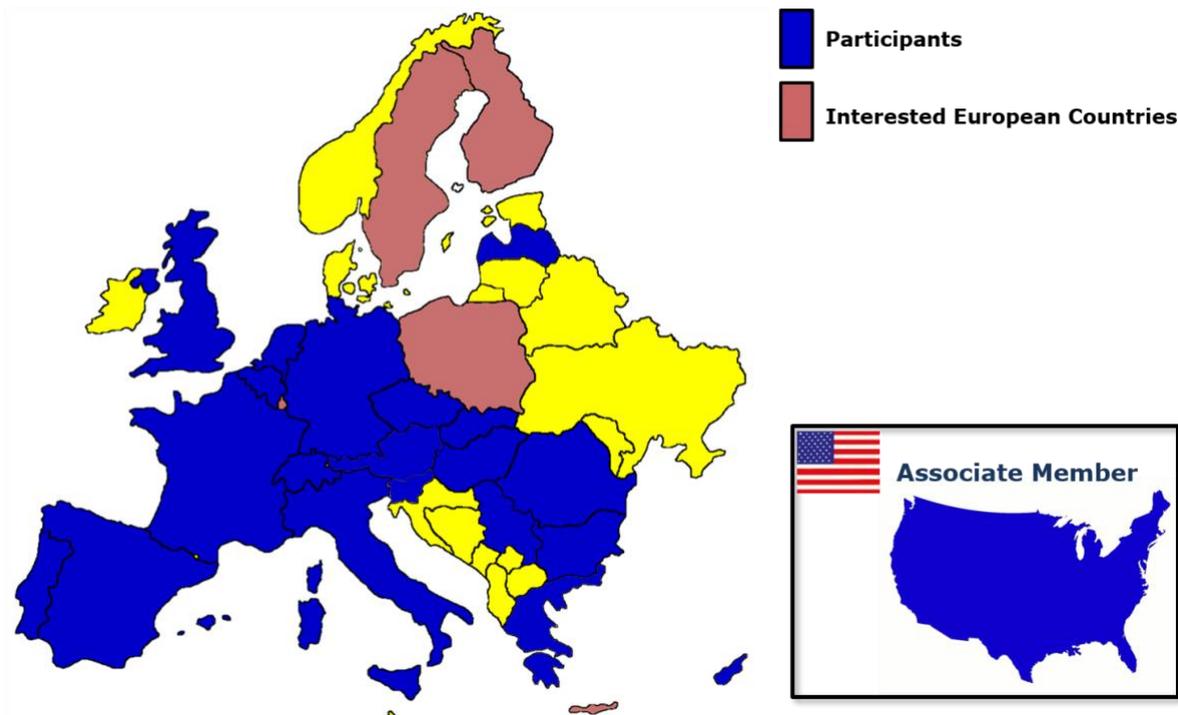
The RAILPOL Management consist of 4 persons: The President, the Secretary-General, the Chief operations and the Office manager.  
The complete RAILPOL Management is made available and financially supported by the National Police of The Netherlands.

Next to the RAILPOL management, the National Police of The Netherlands provides financial support to the RAILPOL activities as well act as legal partner by the subvention application.

### 1. General.

In 2019 RAILPOL expanded again and consist now of 23 members from different European countries including two associated members from the United states. Slovenia, Austria and Greece are the newest members. The membership of several other interested European countries is still in progress.

### Participating Countries RAILPOL – May 2019



## 2. Activities.

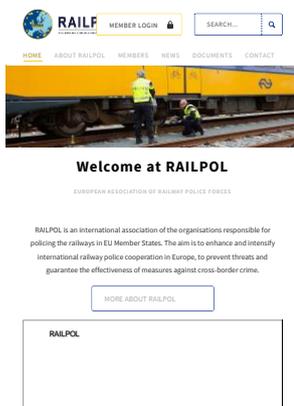
### 2.1. Internal.

To manage and to coordinate the internal aspects of RAILPOL, the management organised and/or participated in several meetings

- Meetings Strategic Council (Heads of service)
- Meetings Coordination Group (management and chairs Working Groups)
- Meetings Working Groups
- Meetings Management Team
- Meetings coordination Website (management/supervisor/website provider).

At the Autumn Strategic Council meeting, the members agreed with the strategic goals for the period 2020-2022.

**Communication** is an important topic within RAILPOL. To inform the RAILPOL members we disseminated regular newsletters, shared information on the website and used facebook to get into contact with the public



### Questionnaires

As already mentioned above, sharing information and exchange best practises are important aspects within the RAILPOL association. One of the means to accomplish those aspects is the use of questionnaires among the RAILPOL members. On request of different members, RAILPOL held several questionnaires in 2019 on specific items like, crime in freight, security/safety on platforms, but also on dangerous goods, and crime. The outcome of these questionnaires was shared among all RAILPOL members and thus giving them the opportunity to implement this within their own organisation.



## Financial

Starting from 1 July 2018, for a period of 24 months, RAILPOL received a direct grant from the European Commission. This subvention will cover a large part of the costs made by RAILPOL to execute all her activities.



## 2.2. External.

The RAILPOL initiative to establish a cooperation between the police networks working on the European infrastructure, the so-called European Cooperation on Policing Mobility (ECPM), is getting more concrete. Besides strategic cooperation, further steps will be taken in the future to come to operational co-operation



## Co-operation

RAILPOL strives for co-operation with different stakeholders and other police organisations/networks. In 2019 members of the Management represented RAILPOL during several meetings to give presentations, to exchange information, giving advices as well investigating closer cooperation.

The following organisations were visited and/or conferences were attended.



## 5. Final comments.

### 1. General.

Like former years, 2019 was a year in which RAILPOL focused on the operational aspects of policing the railway environment. Security is not only a police task but a multidisciplinary one, with other responsible parties. RAILPOL is and will focus on the co-operation with stake-holders, the European Commission and support other European projects on security in the railway environment.



RAILPOL is a successful association. Some indicators are:

- The increasing membership of RAILPOL;
- The types, numbers and results of control operations;
- The development in relation to joint trainings;
- The exchange of good practice and information;
- The evaluation by the strategic Council on the impacts of activities and results.

### 2. Future.

RAILPOL will stay active to improve the regular police work in the European railway environment. RAILPOL will do this by aligning its activities with the changing security situation in Europe. Especially focussing on protecting soft targets, public spaces and critical infrastructure, but certain also on illegal migration, cybercrime and mobile organised crime groups. New challenges are waiting like expanding the RAD's and other operational activities i.e. setting up a graffiti task force with the railway operators., a closer co-operation with the other police networks and upcoming major events like the EURO 2020. RAILPOL again, applied for (financial) support from the European Commission.

RAILPOL remains now and for the future a solid network with active members, support from the European Commission and promoting public-private partnership.

In this way we want to make Europe more secure and we are ready for it.  
*“RAILPOL is on the right track”*

