

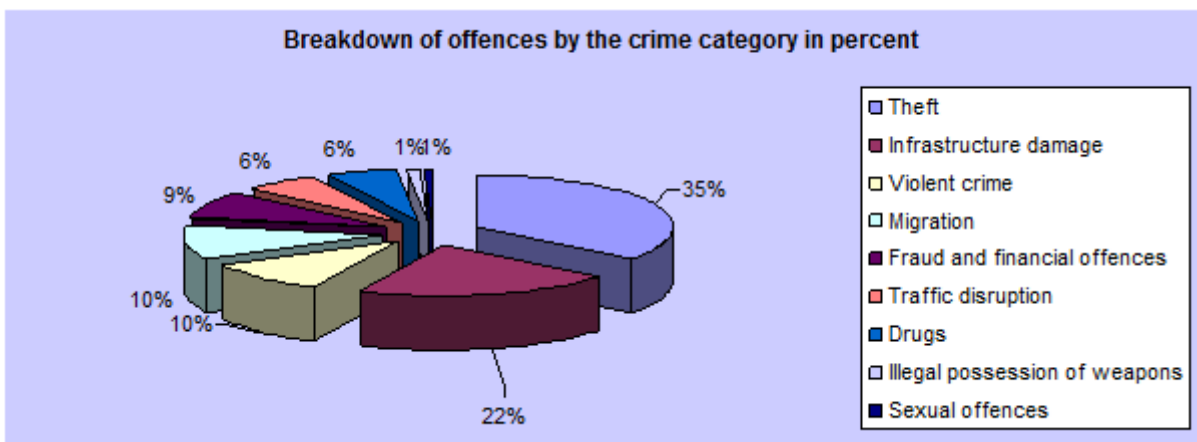
PRESS RELEASE

FIRST IMAGE OF CRIME ON EUROPEAN RAILWAY ENVIRONMENT

**Theft is the largest criminal phenomenon on railway environment in Europe. This emerges from an analysis made by the working group strategic analysis within RAILPOL, the European network of railway police forces. On the second place in the analysis infrastructure damage is found which includes among other things graffiti, vandalism and sabotage. Third place is shared by migration and violent crime.**

The analysis shows that crime in general in European railway environment is slightly increasing with 5.4% in 2011 compared to 2010. The criminal phenomena for which the increase is the most important (in percentages) are theft of transported goods, metal theft, migration, violence against police officers and violence against railway staff.

In the year 2011, participating countries reported a total of 386,269 offences on railway environment. Almost 20,000 offences more than the year before. The average number of offences in relation to 1,000,000 passengers is 50.5 offences.



### **Some significant conclusions about crime on European railway environment in 2011:**

- Over 9.000 persons illegally entered Europe by train (only data of 6 countries)
- Almost 30.000 persons were discovered in railway environment, staying illegally in Europe (only data of 6 countries).
- 0.6 persons per 1,000,000 passengers carried a weapon in the train (meaning any kind of weapon: fire weapon, knife of other). Only few of these weapons were firearms
- Violence against police officers as well as violence against railway staff is seriously increasing with 27.8% and 16.7% respectively
- The number of cases of metal theft on railway environment increased in the year 2011 by 49.2% (+5,409 cases) compared to the year 2010 from 11,003 to 16,412. The battle against metal theft will become one of the most important ones in the next few years.
- The average of violent crime in relation to 1,000,000 passengers is 5.2 cases. Violent crime includes bodily injury, physical aggression, violence against police officers and railway staff and bodily injury.
- In 2011, 78 people died a violent death on European railway environment. This meant a decrease of 13.3% or 12 persons compared to 2010
- The average of drug related cases in relation to 1,000,000 passengers is 2.7 cases (2010: 2.6).
- The average of sexual offences in relation to 1,000,000 passengers is 0.3 offences (2010: 0.3).

### **About RAILPOL**

RAILPOL is an international network of the organizations responsible for policing the railways in EU Member States. The aim is to enhance and intensify international railway police cooperation in Europe, to prevent threats and guarantee the effectiveness of measures against cross-border crime.

Within RAILPOL, several working groups are active such as counter-terrorism, crime, railway accidents and Public Order. The analysis “crime on European railway environment” is developed by the working group strategic analysis.

### **About the analysis**

The analysis “crime on European railway environment” covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2009 till the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011. The whole period is divided into periods of half a year.

Eleven European countries, members of RAILPOL, participated at the analysis: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and UK. It is important to know that not all European countries contributed to this analysis.

However not all countries participated, it is the opinion of the working group that this analysis gives a realistic view on crime on European railway environment.

The analysis gives a general overview of crime and does not give any details as to the situation in the different participating countries.

