



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate A : Internal Security
Unit A2 : Fight against organised crime
Head of Unit

Brussels, 15 JUL. 2010
HOME/A2/MR/at D(2010)11003

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Dear Sirs, Representatives of construction and equipment associations,

Thank you for your letter sent on 2 June 2010 in which you brought our attention to construction equipment thefts. You also mention a list of topics that, in your view, would deserve to be debated at EU level so as to raise awareness on this emerging form of organised crime. As your request refers to organised crime, our Director General asked me to reply on his behalf.

DG Home Affairs is aware of the phenomenon you described. According to our information, it can broadly be considered as generally linked with metal and cargo theft organised crime rings. Yet, construction equipment thefts remain mostly unknown. That is why we welcome your efforts in better raising awareness on the issue. Indeed, tackling this new illegal market requires first and foremost better knowledge.

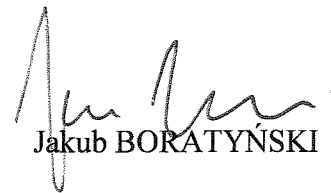
As you are well aware, DG Home Affairs is not an operational service. Moreover, within the limit of our competences, we need to focus our limited resources on the implementation of the Stockholm Programme which defines the framework for EU police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy for the period 2010–2014.

In this context, since DG Home Affairs regularly offers funding possibilities (see http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm), you might therefore consider a project proposal on construction equipment thefts.

We are thus ready to consider a meeting on construction equipment thefts and ways DG Home Affairs can address issues of mutual interest at some point after summer break. Representatives from DG Enterprise and Industry will be invited to join us as well.

Please contact Mickaël Roudaut, our policy officer in charge, for necessary follow-up (mickael.roudaut@ec.europa.eu).

Yours Sincerely,



Jakub BORATYŃSKI

CC : Ian Fraser, DG ENTR, Unit I4;
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