

Eurojust : Judicial Coordination and Its relationship with European Police Cooperation

Introduction

Eurojust constitutes one of the pillars of criminal judicial cooperation within the European Union.

Established to strengthen coordination between national authorities dealing with complex cross-border cases, the agency addresses a structural necessity: adapting prosecution mechanisms to organized crime that transcends state borders.

Eurojust is part of the progressive construction of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, fostering a balance between national sovereignty and European coordination.

European Legal Framework

Eurojust's mandate is based on Regulation (EU) 2018/1727, which modernized its functioning and clarified its competencies.

This legal framework defines Eurojust as an agency with legal personality, tasked with supporting and strengthening coordination and cooperation between national authorities responsible for investigations and prosecutions concerning serious forms of crime affecting multiple Member States.

The agency does not possess autonomous investigative or prosecutorial powers.

It acts in support of national authorities, in compliance with:

- the principle of subsidiarity;
- the sovereign competencies of Member States.

Operational Functioning

Each Member State appoints a national member to Eurojust, typically a judge or prosecutor.

When a complex cross-border case is identified, the agency may:

- organize coordination meetings;
- clarify jurisdictional competences;
- synchronize proceedings;
- define a common strategy.

Eurojust also facilitates:

- the execution of mutual recognition instruments;
- the resolution of conflicts of jurisdiction;
- the establishment of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).

Institutional Interaction

Eurojust operates within a complementary institutional ecosystem.

It cooperates closely with:

- Europol, which provides analytical support;
- national competent authorities;
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), within its areas of competence.

This functional distribution reflects a specialization of roles: operational support for Europol, judicial coordination for Eurojust.

There is no supranational hierarchy between these actors.

Structural Contributions

Eurojust enables:

- the prevention of jurisdictional conflicts;
- the avoidance of parallel proceedings;
- greater coherence in prosecutions;
- anticipation of challenges related to the collection and admissibility of evidence.

Its work contributes to improving the overall effectiveness of the European criminal justice response to transnational crime.

Limitations and Constraints

The effectiveness of Eurojust depends on:

- active cooperation from national authorities;
- convergence of criminal policy priorities;
- compatibility of legal systems.

The agency cannot impose its recommendations.

Structural differences between criminal justice systems may limit the scope of coordination.

Coordination with the European Public Prosecutor's Office requires ongoing clarification of roles to avoid overlaps.

European Institutional Balance

Eurojust illustrates a model of functional integration characteristic of the European Union.

The agency strengthens judicial cooperation without establishing a general European Public Prosecutor endowed with centralized powers.

Criminal law powers remain exercised by national authorities.

The European level ensures a role of coordination and support.

This balance reflects a pragmatic approach: enhancing effectiveness in combating transnational crime while preserving national sovereignty.

Key Legal References

- Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 on Eurojust
- Mutual recognition instruments in criminal matters
- Provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union relating to the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

SEEEI Methodological Approach

This analysis is based on a methodological approach grounded in the examination of European legal frameworks and open-source materials.

Its purpose is to clarify institutional mechanisms and the balance of European judicial cooperation, without normative or operational intent.

Transparency & Public Understanding

Eurojust is not a general European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Decisions to prosecute remain the responsibility of competent national authorities.

The agency facilitates coordination but does not replace national courts.

The legal texts governing its action are accessible via the institutional portals of the European Union.