



# Cases from our country


- Motorized plant machines imported from Europe to Finland
- Case Mercedes-Benz 311 CDI
- Case Sahara



# Cooperation between European countries


The case will examine good practices in international cooperation.



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- Finland started to teach vehicle identification on beginning of 2001.
    - Result: numbers of seized vehicles (at that moment Finland was a transit country)
  - Information given out in regional meetings (BSRTF)
  - Norway was interested and started to give out same kind of training
    - Result: 14 luxury vehicles seized in short period of time in northern part of Norway





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- Finland found one vehicle with same identification which Norwegian have seized already.
  - Exchange information between Finland, Norway, Sweden and Germany concerning suspects and vehicles.
  - Result:
    - Norwegian could stop flow of stolen vehicles transit
    - Finland could follow 60 stolen luxury vehicles movement from Germany trough Finland to Russia.
    - Germany informed Finland about stolen vehicle on their way to Finland by ferries.
    - Interpol FormaTrain training in Finland for Baltic and Nordic countries.
    - Movie from Norway



# Motorized plant machines imported from Europe to Finland





# The start of an investigation

- According to a request of an investigation there was a grounds for suspicion that plant machinery imported to Finland have been stolen or misappropriated from Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany.
- During the investigation backgrounds of 28 plant machines (26 motorized construction machines and 2 diesel generators) were clarified.
- The case will examine phases of the investigation, problems concerning an international cooperation and problems of identification of construction machines.





# Initial offences abroad

- **The investigation succeeded to confirm initial offences via Finnish Ministry for Justice, requests for legal assistance sent via Interpol and using personal contacts.**
- **NBI Finland has got from foreign countries 25 reports concerning initial offences. There's missing 3 reports, but there is other material that verify the initial crimes.**





# Modus Operandi

- **The investigation established that a Dutch person has sold to Finland 28 plant machines during a period 1999 – 2003. The machinery was sold to Finnish dealers who resold the vehicles in Finland.**
- **14 machines have been stolen from Belgium, 6 -stolen and 3 misappropriated from Germany and 5 vehicles stolen from The Netherlands.**
- **The machines have been bought in names of inactive companies, that were passive towards tax authorities. After that the machines were resold with notable increase in price.**







# The transport of the machines to Finland and modus operandi

- **The Finnish dealer had a contact to a Dutch company. The Dutch company forwarded an information concerning machines on sale by e-mail or by phone. The Finnish dealer has made purchase decisions and organized resale of the machines in Finland. Also he took care of payments to The Netherlands.**



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- **The loading place of the vehicles in The Netherlands was a small uninhabited horse farm in village Puth of Schinnen municipality.**
  - **There's no advertisements or signboards referring to the company in the farm. The farm is surrounded by a high wall and the entrance gate is locked. From outside of the wall and port is impossible to see to inner court of the horse farm. The farm borders to a large field and there's no settlement nearby the farm. A narrow and winding road leads to the farm from a centre of Puth village.**



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- **The Dutch Police interrogated the owner of the horse farm. He told, that he wasn't aware that mentioned companies have been registered to the address of his farm. He told, that the Dutch suspect stored excavators on his farm and the machines have been picked up there from. Furthermore he stated in the interrogation, that the farm is "uninhabited piece of land with some warehouses".**
  - **The Finnish lorry driver told in interrogation that he had difficulties to get by his lorry to a loading place. According to him the road was so narrow that trucks wheels went almost into ditch and that was difficult to drive into the farms courtyard. The loading conditions were primitive (there was no loading platform in the farm).**
















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- **The bills of freight were handwritten and a VIN-numbers of the machines that have been written in the documents had difference in couple of digits compared to the genuine VIN-numbers of transported machines.**
  - **The bills of freight were brought along with the transported machines in a tin "mailbox" at a rear part or on a side of a trailer all the way from loading place in The Netherlands to unloading place in Finland**
  - **The freight of the machines was paid mainly by a company that was in control of the Finnish dealers.**
  - **In the dealings were used multiple dummy companies in Finland.**





# Value of the crimes

- According to international payment orders seized by NBI Finland 385.436,55 euros (610 000 AUD) were paid via Finnish banks in the period 16.11.1999 – 11.8.2003.
- Total value of stolen machines is approximately **1.039.898 euros ( 1 630 700 aud)**.
  - The sum is calculated on the grounds of reports made by injured parties.



# Machine specification

## VOLVO L30BD1803398



- Stolen from Germany on 28.5.03, value 43.000 € (67 400 AUD)
- Returned to Germany on 15.11.04
- **Reply to request for legal assistance: YES**



# Machine specification

**DIESEL GENERAATTORI  
ATLAS COPCO AIP416545**



- Stolen from Belgium on 2003, value 29.900 € (46 900 AUD)
- **NO REPORT OF AN OFFENCE**, information received from ATLAS COPCO Belgium
- Returned on 10.11.04
- **Reply to request for legal assistance: NO**



# Machine specification

- **KRAMER ALLRAD  
311660410**



- Stolen from Germany on 24.1.03, value 50.000 € (79 000 AUD)
- **Reply to request for legal assistance: YES**



# Machine specification



- Stolen from The Netherlands on 24.- 25.6.2003, value 65.000 € (103 000 AUD)
- Returned
- **Reply to request for legal assistance: NO**





# What we learned

- There is no control (border or custom) in Finland concerning plant machine import.
- It is unnecessary to register plant machine in Finland
- There is hardly no crime prevention in plant machine
- **GOOD PROFIT FOR CRIMINALS**



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# Case Mercedes-Benz 311 CDI (aggravated fraud)



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- **Basic theft report on 2.5.2001**
    - Vehicle MB 313 CDI was stolen from industrial area on street.
    - No witness
  - **Daily work at police**
    - Valuable vehicle (40 000 € / 63 000 AUD)
    - Vehicle model 2000 → IMMOBILIZER
    - Location for key (one with driver, one at home)





– Interrigation

- Buying the vehicle
- Vehicle insurance policies
- Technical condition of the car (including keys)
- Property in the car
- Victim's intention to sell the car
- Events before the car was stolen
- Events at the time the car was stolen
- Events after the car was stolen


» THIS LIST CAN BE FOUND IN INTERPOL'S SECURED WEBSITE

- The list of questions operates in two ways:
  1. You are certain to have some contradicting and conflicting answers to your questions if the victim has committed a fraud
  2. If you find that there are no contradictions or ambiguities, you can be relatively certain that the victim tells the truth and his/her vehicle has really been stolen



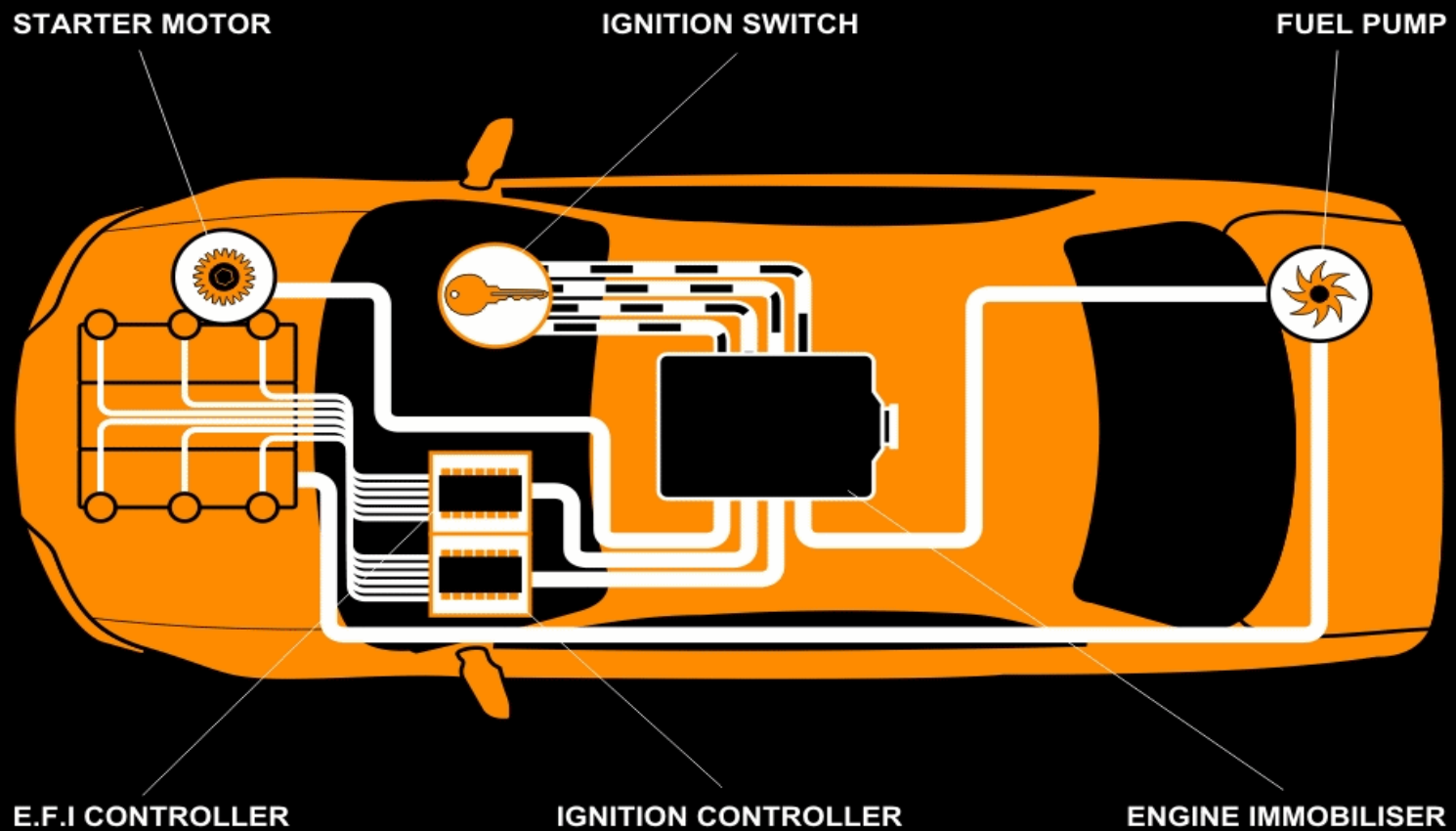
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- From interrogation we got
    - Name for a person who was with "damaged party"
    - No extra key + location for 2 keys
    - How our "damaged party" was moved during the time of an offence
    - Information if our "damaged party" has previous stolen vehicles (had 2 but told only 1)
  - Work in investigation unit
    - Witness interrogation
    - Info concerning immobilizer
    - Info concerning insurance
    - Computer checks
    - **suspicions** → **crime report (attempted aggravated fraud)**
      - By court order we got location of "damaged party"'s phone
      - His financial situation
      - Requested to hear witness again
        - Promised to meet investigator, changed place, changed time, refused to come again
      - Witness was picked-up for hearing from his home → **BIG BREAK**
      - Witness changed his first story and told that he was forced to tell the wrong story
  - Arrested "damaged party"
    - Denied the crime (son of former police officer)
    - Was taken in custody twice → still denied the crime



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- Evidence we had
    - Interrogation
      - Wrong information about his past (we found another truck which was also stolen)
      - Wrong information about his movement
      - Wrong information about his financial situation
      - Wrong information about the insurance
    - Key
      - Not copied
      - No information on manufactory's database
    - Immobilazer
      - » How it works



## What does immobilizer do ?



*\*\*An Australian Standards approved Engine Immobiliser can immobilise two of the four components mentioned above.*

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# What we learned

- We still have missing vehicle
- Keys play the KEY role in investigation were stolen vehicle has an immobilizer
- Statistic shows the number of same kind of vehicles stolen (in this case NONE)
- Financial issues are important → MAIN REASON IN FRAUD CASES



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# Case Sahara





# Starting an investigation

- In a period from January 2007 to March 2007 three Toyota Hiace vans stolen from Vantaa, Finland were found at a port in Belgium (one van at the time).
- During January and February 2007 in Sompasaari port of Helsinki, Finland at two different times were found 7 stolen Hiace vans that were on their way to Luanda, Angola.
- Authorities were wondering what this is.
- Cases of Hiace thefts in Finland were examined.









# Branches of the investigation

## Are there other cases coming?

- **The thefts of Hiace vans continued after the starting of the investigation.**
- **From initial data received from police databases or by means of intelligence and surveillance hints were got concerning several persons involved in the thefts or removing from the country of the said vehicles. The police is now establishing who organises the thefts and who commits the initial crimes (steals the Hiace vans). There are**
  - **African**
  - **Estonian**
  - **Finnish persons****involved in the case.**






# Difficulties/fluency of the investigation

- **For some reason Hiace van thefts have almost stopped at the moment!**
- **Has the fact that we have got back 8 from 10 stolen Hiace vans some influence on the previous?**
- **We have raided car transporters among others in the port of Sompasaari, Helsinki and seized 2 stolen Hiace vans. On our request similar raid was carried out in a port of Travemünde, Germany.**
- **One stolen Hiace van we took back from a parking lot of one suspect because we had no resources to survey it for eternity.**



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- **Two stolen Hiaces was got back from Stockholm port as we got information that two black men entered the ferry and are on their way to Sweden. We arranged a reception of the men in Sweden and they were interrogated by police and vans taken into possession of Swedish police.**
  - **It seems that we have stopped by our active action the activity in question, but we haven't succeeded to establish all offenders.**



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# How many vehicles can be connected in the series

- At the moment 100-105 vehicles.





# Route of the vehicles

- **At first from around Finland loaded into car transporter to Sompasaari port, Helsinki**
- **From Sompasaari by sea to Germany (mostly to Travemünde)**
- **From Germany by land to a port in Belgium**
- **From Belgium again by sea to Africa/Angola**
- **(-unusual route: to drive the stolen vehicle to a ferry departing to Sweden with an intention to drive the vehicles from Sweden to Belgium)**







# Releted crimes

- **Trafficking in human beings**
- **Money laundrening**
- **Drugs trafficking**
  
- **There will raise a problem how we can prove the participation of current offenders in the mentioned series of property crimes and first of all their participation in the older thefts of Hiace vans committed before the starting of the investigation.**





# Ethnic group operating in Finland

- Lithuanians
  - Outboard engine thefts (polish)
  - Shop lifting
  - Vehicle spare part thefts (airbag)
  - Distribution for Forgery of money (Euros)
- Estonians
  - Hand tool thefts
  - Gold robberies
  - Money transportation robberies
- Romanians
  - Transfer for money
- Iraqi
  - Aggravated frauds (valuable vehicles)



