Pol-PRIMETT
Tackling Metal Theft

Ninth Expert User Group Meeting Report

London, UK

Wednesday 5th June 2013

Contents

Welcome and Pol-PRIMETT overview

David Ransom (DR) Pol-PRIMETT Project Director opened the final Pol-PRIMETT conference and EUG9 meeting in London, UK and introduced PUAC, the UK based charity that is the lead partner of Pol-PRIMETT.

Pol-PRIMETT is a three year project, which began in September 2010 and consists of ten partners from the UK, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Spain. Pol-PRIMETT is co-funded by DG HOME, European Commission.

Pol-PRIMETT aims to:
   • Create a police-private sector partnership to reduce metal theft across Europe
   • Improve collaboration between LEAs and the private sector to gain a better understanding of metal theft
   • Create a LEA EUG to improve liaison and to share intelligence and enforcement practices
   • Create a private sector EUG to improve liaison and to share prevention and deterrence practices
   • Create a legacy of collaboration, good practice and a reduction in metal theft

Pol-PRIMETT objectives are to:
   • Improve liaison and co-operation between the private sector and LEAs
   • Reduce risks and improve security for organisations using metal in their daily operations
   • Develop technological and operational solutions to tackle metal theft
   • Identify and prioritise the types of information to be disseminated to stakeholders
   • Influence national and European policy and legislation

Pol-PRIMETT has an 'open door policy' with stakeholders from across the EU and welcomes any organisation to share solutions and good practice to reduce the risk and impact of metal theft. All organisations that attend Pol-PRIMETT events are kept informed of project activities and are encouraged to contribute.

Pol-PRIMETT focuses on six key areas of activities:
   • Legislation
   • Developing good practice guides
   • Developing media strategies
   • Understanding the involvement of OCGs
   • Identifying gaps in knowledge and intelligence
   • Encouraging public – private collaboration

Pol-PRIMETT is keen to promote transnational collaborative working in an effort to avoid duplication, working in isolation or 'reinventing the wheel'. Over the past three years Pol-PRIMETT has facilitated public – private engagement between 13 EU Member States.

There have been eight Pol-PRIMETT EUG meetings since 2010:

Location	Date	No. of attendees	No. of organisations	No of countries represented
Sheffield, UK	November 2010	35	18	5
Rome, Italy	March 2011	48	26	5
Wakefield, UK	June 2011	33	23	6
Sofia, Bulgaria	December 2011	75	31	5
London, UK	March 2012	54	34	9
Athens Greece	July 2012	78	46	9
Valencia, Spain	November 2012	67	43	10
Valencia, Spain	March, 2013	44	31	11

DR stated that 56% of delegates who have attended Pol-PRIMETT EUG meetings have been from the private sector and 44% from the public sector. This demonstrates the good balance between public and private sector representation at Pol-PRIMETT EUG meetings.

DR described that each EUG meeting is split into action based workshops to enable delegates to discuss and exchange good practice and agree on a way forward. Topics covered include:
- Developing legislative recommendations
- Environmental enforcement on metal recycling
- Utilising existing legislation
- Impact of legislative change
- Developing an EU good practice guide
- Developing media strategies
- Involvement of OCGs
- Knowledge and information gaps
- Implementation of DNA solutions
- Tax evasion linked to metal theft and recycling
- Exporting metals and opportunities to detect at ports
- Creating local, national and transnational databases
- Informing the judiciary system of the impact of metal theft

In collaboration with Europol, Pol-PRIMETT has conducted research into variations of metal theft legislation across the EU. Initial findings include:

Member State	Legislation reviewed since 2009?	Cashless?
Austria	x	No
Belgium	✓	No
Bulgaria	✓	Yes
Cyprus	✓	No
Czech Republic	x	No
Denmark	x	No
Estonia	x	No
France	✓	Yes (2011)
Greece	x	No
Hungary	✓	No
Iceland	x	No
Ireland	✓	No
Italy	x	Limited to €1000
Lithuania	✓	No
Malta	x	No
Norway	x	No
Portugal	✓	Limited to €50
Romania	✓	No (rejected April 2013)
Spain	✓	Limited to €2500
Sweden	✓	Voluntary
UK	✓	Yes (2012)

Observations resulting from the research include:
• Some Member States do not have legislation specific to metal theft therefore all incidents are categorised under general theft
• There are wide variations in the way SMDs are licensed – some are managed by the police, government or environment agencies
• Some Member States opted to remove cash from the recycling industry whereas some have introduced a cash limit which ranges from €50 - €2500
• The Police's 'right to enter' SMD premises also varies across Member States
• Metal theft is not recorded separately to other theft in some Member States

Transnational collaboration

Cristina Checchinato (CC) provided an overview of Europol and how they are tackling cross border metal theft.

CC explained that Europol's 2013 Operational Action Plan included a main focus on metal theft. The information gaps that Europol is exploring include:
• Crime hotspots
• Shipping routes of stolen metal
• National vs. international metal theft statistics
• Organised vs. opportunistic metal theft
• Nationalities of the offenders in Member States
• Actual metal theft figures for the EU
• Current levels of exportation of stolen metal and the opportunities to detect at ports
• Influence of metal prices on crime levels
• The approach of individual Member States to tackle metal theft e.g. cashless legislation

There are two types of metal thief – opportunistic and organised. Europol is researching the number of incidents, the amounts of metal stolen and the networks required for both levels of offender.

CC stated that the way metal theft was recorded in some Member States did not enable Europol to retrieve and analyse the hotspots and offending patterns of metal theft across the EU. In some Member States metal theft is recorded as a 'petty crime' as the disruption and economic damage caused as a result of metal theft is not considered. Equally the organised element of some metal thefts is not acknowledged by all Member States.

Europol is helping LEAs by providing operational and analytical support during existing metal theft investigations, recommending a consistent approach to data collection and organising days of action to be conducted across the EU.

In April 2013 Europol hosted the 1st EU Conference on Metal Theft which was attended by 70 delegates including:
• 23 Member States
• Representatives from EUROJUST and Interpol
• 14 private sector organisations

In coordination with Pol-PRIMETT, Europol issued a questionnaire designed to establish the current legislative practices in each Member State. The questionnaire included an overview of legislation currently in place, a date of the most recent legislative review and whether they have adopted the cashless legislation. The results were:

- 22 Member States responded
- 12 had reviewed legislation since 2009
- 10 had adopted (or were planning to adopt) cashless legislation

In May 2013, Europol conducted an EU day of action on metal theft to demonstrate the coordination of LEAs across the EU. Aside from stopping metal thieves, the day of action aimed to detect the transportation of stolen metal, locate stolen goods and introduce penalties for related criminal offences such as tax aversion. 16 Member States participated and a SPOC was identified in each Member State.

CC stated that the only way Europol could tackle metal theft was through a multi-agency approach which shared best practice and knowledge.

Case studies of law enforcement

Major General Rui Moura (RM) provided case studies of how the GNR tackle metal theft in Portugal.

Since 2010 the number of metal thefts in Portugal has tripled (2010 – 4,994 incidents and 2012 – 16,725) and metal theft no costs the Portuguese economy €32m per year.

As in most Member States the main targets for criminals In Portugal are:

- Copper wiring
- Batteries
- Transformers
- Irrigation systems
- Materials from construction sites and abandoned houses
- Railways
- Copper piping
- Roofs
- Earth connections
- Statues
- Church bells
- Memorials
- Grates and manhole covers
- Highway security barriers
- Road signs
- Fencing

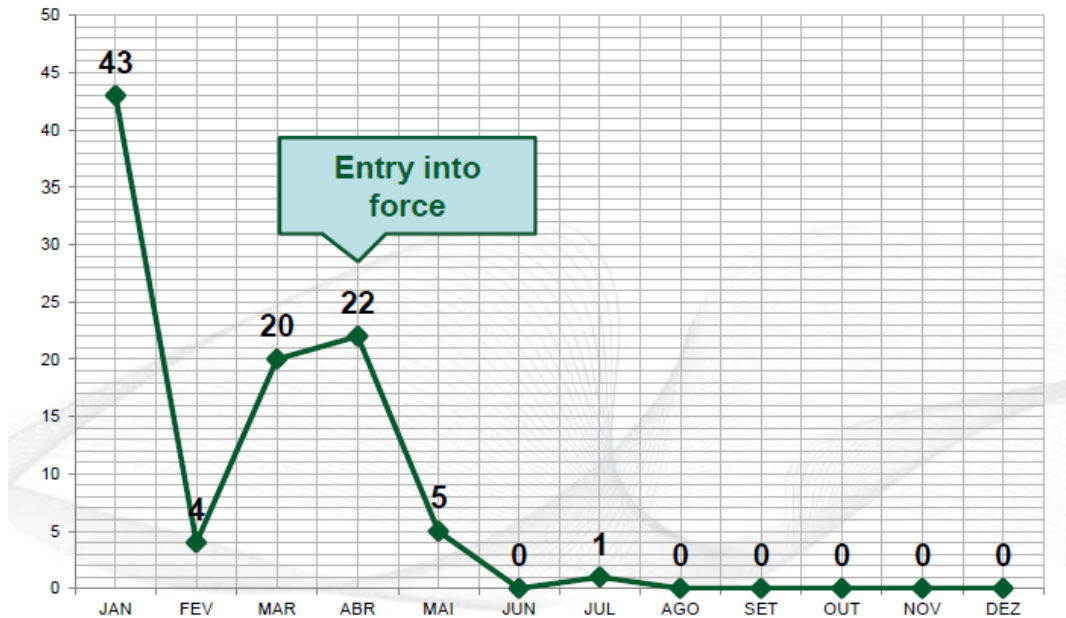RM described that GNR is a national LEA which is responsible for 98% of the roads and highways in Portugal and is tasked which civil protection.

GNR develops partnerships with the private sector to improve communication, liaison and cooperation and to share information and best practice. Through Pol-PRIMETT, GNR has also developed relationships with Europol, Guarda Civil and the Gendarmerie Nationale.

RM described some activities GNR had undertaken to tackle metal theft in Portugal:

1. **Reducing metal theft on farms**
   In Golega, GNR has limited traffic flow on municipal roads between 7pm and 7am meaning only vehicles which have an authorisation pass can travel on these roads. The results are shown below:

2. **Metal theft alarm systems**
   As part of a local partnership with the district of Santarem, GNR has placed a number of alarms (CAP) on telecommunications equipment in metal theft hotspots. If the equipment is stolen an alert (SMS or email) is sent to the GNR situation room notifying them of where the incident is occurring. GNR then sends officers to investigate and patrol the area.

   In December 2011, thieves attempted to steal batteries from a telecommunications antenna which had been equipped with the CAP alarm. GNR responded to the alarm and recovered all the equipment stolen.

   In January 2012, following the activation of a CAP alarm, GNR was able to recover 44 reels of aluminium cabling which had been stolen that day.

   In June 2012, 22 tonnes of copper cabling worth approximately €220,000 was recovered by GNR following a CAP alarm notification.

3. **Tackling theft on the railways**
   The Vendas Novas railway line stretches for 60km across Portugal and is responsible for 93% of all metal thefts on the rail network. Between January and September 2012 117 transformer boxes were stolen from this railway line costing approximately €400,000. Only 3 boxes were ever recovered.

   On the 30th September GPS trackers were placed in 3 boxes along the stretch of railway line. That night the tracker showed that the box began to move from the railway line and down the road. GNR followed the signal and found the box in the possession of two thieves who were then arrested. Since this incident there have been no more thefts of transformers along this part of the railway line.

4. **Regulating the scrap metal industry**

    In December 2012 changes to legislation were introduced to improve the regulation of the scrap metal industry. The changes included:
    - A formal definition of metal theft including handling of stolen metals
    - An increase of enforcement powers for police
    - Mandatory installation of security systems (including CCTV) at scrap metal yards
    - Accurate records of all transactions
    - €50 limit on cash transactions
    - Three day 'tag and hold'
    - Simplification of the process to close an illegal SMD
    - Increased fines

    Within six months of the new legislation being implemented (December 2012 – May 2013) there were:
    - 214 SMDs inspected
    - 85 offences
    - 19 SMDs closed

5. **Operation Linha Segura**

    In an area of Great Lisbon, PT (Portuguese Telecom) cable was being repeatedly stolen, however thieves were only targeting non-active or redundant cable situated between PT hubs.

    Using the intelligence gathered, GNR initiated Operation Linha Segura to catch the OCG and they:
    - Detained 13 Brazilian nationals
    - Executed nine search warrants
    - Apprehended nine vehicles and three heavy duty machines
    - Seized 25 tonnes of copper, 7 tonnes of lead and €30,000 of cash

    Further investigations showed the high level of organisation within the criminal group. There was an insider working for PT who would provide information on what to steal and when. The OCG would wear PT uniforms and used vans with the PT logo on them and only stole on Thursdays and Sunday nights. The large copper cabling with lead insulation was transported to a warehouse, cut down, stripped and shredded before being sold to a legitimate SMD.

    The OCG had stolen approximately €1.7 million in three months.

In conclusion GNR tackle metal theft in a coordinated, three pronged approach:
- Prevention
- Intervention
- Investigation

Going forward GNR plans to improve the way it tackles metal theft by:
- Introducing more public and private sector organisations into the fight against metal theft
- Improving the sharing of information and best practice
- Increasing the awareness and adoption of preventative measures
- Liaising with prosecutors to improve sentencing of metal thieves
- Improving the regulation of SMDs
- Increasing cooperation with other Member States

Pol-PRIMETT research findings

Sergio Bianchi (SB), Agenfor Lombardia provided an overview of the findings from the Pol-PRIMETT research including:

- Confirming the transnational dimension of metal theft
- Identifying the need for cross-border cooperation between LEAs and private sector
- Facilitating cooperation to achieve a global understanding of metal theft and to tackle it effectively
- Understanding the how scrap metal is becoming increasingly important due to the cost of extracting raw materials

As part of the research a current picture of metal theft, an overview of legislation and an offender profile was researched in each Pol-PRIMETT partner Member State.

1. **Italy**
   - As well as cabling metal thieves are also targeting street furniture, artwork, memorials, drain covers, road signs, church roofs and monuments
   - All regions are experiencing varying levels of metal theft
   - Regions most affected are Sicily and Puglia and both these regions have known links to OCGs
   - There is a supply chain linking metal thieves to OCGs within the recycling industry
   - The phenomenon of metal theft has become a permanent feature of the Italian criminal scene

   Metal thieves in Italy fall into three categories – organised, individuals and receivers of stolen metal.
   - **OCGs**
     - Mainly Italians with some non-Italians usually from Eastern Europe
     - Usually led by Italian nationals with knowledge of the surrounding area
     - Members of the group have previous criminal records involving crimes against private property
     - Group members do not have a manufacturing or metal related background
   - **Individual perpetrators**
     - Approximately 50% are Italian citizens with previous convictions for minor theft
     - Remainder are foreign citizens including Romany, Romanians and Bulgarians
   - **Receivers and recyclers of stolen metals**
     - Knowingly receive stolen metals directly from criminal organisations engaged in metal theft

   The Italian Parliament is aware of the continuing problem of metal theft however to date no specific parliamentary action has been undertaken and there are no plans to change legislation in the near future.

2. **UK**
   Metal theft has been a significant problem in the UK recently and affects all public services including rail, utilities and telecommunications in both rural and urban areas. Metal is also regularly stolen from faith buildings, heritage sites and war memorials which has a negative impact on communities. Metal theft is a UK wide issue but Yorkshire and the Humber, West Midlands and the South East are the worst hit regions. It is estimated that metal theft costs the UK economy £770 million per year.

   Metal thieves in the UK fall into two categories – local, small scale, opportunistic and mobile, highly organised, large scale.

3. **Bulgaria**

Metal theft is not an emerging crime in Bulgaria having been prevalent for many years. A serious concern for the police is the high level of reoffending amongst metal thieves.

The scrap metal industry staged a series of protests against the proposed changes to legislation which included:
- Banning the sale of non-domestic metal to discourage the theft of commercial metal
- Ensuring a certificate of origin and a written contract is produced for each transaction
- Introducing cashless transactions
- Limiting the number of SMD

The industry felt the proposed changes to legislation would only impact on licensed SMDs. Additionally the judiciary is not aware of the impact of metal theft so consequently criminals receive lesser punishments.

The offender profile conducted in Bulgaria stated:
- 82% are under 30 years old
- 88% are male
- Uneducated, unemployed Bulgarian citizens
- Reside in the poorer regions
- Willing to travel up to 30 km to carry out the thefts
- Large proportion are Gypsy Roma
- 73% of offenders have previously been involved two or more incidents of metal theft
- 12% of offenders have previously been involved in five or more incidents of metal theft

4. **Greece**

The main concern for the Government is the environmental damage caused by metal thieves burning stolen cables in urban areas – specifically Athens.

Metal thieves can be split into two categories – opportunistic and organised. It is also believed that a high number of offenders are economic migrants.

OTE (Greek telecommunication company) has taken a number of steps to tackle metal theft including:
- Lobbying Government to encourage information sharing between public and private sectors
- Taking legal actions against all metal theft perpetrators
- Installing alarms CCTV, access control systems, electric fencing, security guards and patrols and exterior lighting at substations
- Encouraging cooperation between police, authorities and the private sector to enable the exchange of expertise and good practice
- Analysing crime hotspots to focus security measures efficiently
- Using different types of cable which have a steel core and a copper outer casing, creating an effective but less valuable cable
- Using forensic marking solutions

5. **Spain**

Valencia Local Police has introduced a range of procedures to tackle metal theft including:

- Redefining protocols to assist police officers when inspecting recycling sites
- Implementing new systems of analysis and information processing
- Establishing communication channels within specialised police units
- Training police staff to understand the complexities of metal theft and the OCG networks involved
- Participating in Pol-PRIMETT to establish the transnational picture of metal theft and to share good practice
- Documenting the control of metal from origin across its lifetime
- Implementing a silent warning system which raises an alarm to the police and provides surveillance in hotspot areas
- Implementing a cable marking system to track cable
- Monitoring cable peeling machine purchases in order to track thieves
- Specifying in police reports and administrative complaints:
  - Value of goods stolen
  - Damage to the facilities where the crime has been committed
  - Risk or damage caused by the criminal actions
- Conducting surveillance in areas with a high risk of theft
- Controlling shipments of export
- Conducting inspections of illegal scrap metal yards

The Pol-PRIMETT research identified a number of information gaps including:

- The level of involvement of organised crime groups:
  - The structure of OCGs involved in metal theft
  - Establishing the value of the OCG industry and the profit levels for OCGs
  - OCGs which control the metal theft supply chain from theft to export
  - Identifying individuals who are part of OCGs but that are not involved in metal handling
  - Links to other criminalities including drug and hazardous waste smuggling
- Variations in sentencing of metal theft offenders
- Export of stolen metal – destination, quantity, methodology

The information gaps will be fed into the follow on project – Pol-PRIMETT II and become the framework for future research.

Intelligence and enforcement

John McBride (JM), BTP provided an overview of activities from LEAs involved in Pol-PRIMETT.

The Pol-PRIMETT EUG meetings have facilitated transnational LEA collaboration including the sharing of good practice guides, intelligence and operational methods such as forensic procedures and overt and covert investigations.

Pol-PRIMETT has also enabled BTP to work closely with LEAs from Italy, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, France, Portugal and Ireland.

Examples of LEA activity in Member States

- **UK:**
  - BTP and West Yorkshire Police developed a metal theft toolkit to provide information to front line officers on preventing and deterring metal theft and prosecuting offenders. The toolkit was presented at the third EUG meeting and subsequently has been translated by a number of Member States for use in their own country
  - Operation Tornado was a pilot study in the North West of England which required SMDs to record and retain the identity of each seller and encouraged the enhancement of CCTV systems to capture images of sellers and their vehicles. Within three months there had been a 60% reduction in metal theft and the scheme was rolled out across England and Wales
  - BTP received Government funding to develop a National Metal Theft Fusion Intelligence Unit. The unit included representatives from BTP, BT, Network Rail, the Environment Agency, SOCA and the Highways Agency working together to share intelligence and disseminate it to local police forces. Plans are in place to develop a similar unit in Greece
  - BTP has initiated national metal theft days of action where representatives from the police, the Environment Agency, local authorities and Department of Work and Pensions perform joint inspections of scrap metal yards and itinerant collectors
- **Italy:**
  - Operation Titano II coordinated by GdF aimed to tackle the increase of carousel or VAT fraud in Italy. GdF targeted SMDs under suspicion of carousel fraud and the results were:
    - 21 arrests
    - €26 million confiscated
    - 26 HGVs seized
    - Assets from four companies seized
    - Eight cars seized
    - Eight houses repossessed
    - Seized in excess of ten tonnes of scrap metal
- **Spain:**
  - Mechanisms have been installed to detect metal theft in vulnerable areas and send information to district and national police units for analysis
  - Valencia Local Police has conducted surveillance of metal theft hotspots
  - A specialised police unit to protect the environment has been developed called the Green Patrol. The Green Patrol conduct inspections of scrap yards to ensure metal is stored in compliance with environmental legislation
  - Valencia Local Police held a DNA solutions workshop for over 70 delegates to identify implementation solutions
- **Portugal:**
  - Operation Safety Camp was coordinated by GNR to inform and alert farmers across Portugal on the issue of metal theft. GNR held meetings and information sessions with farmer associations and individual farmers, conducted door-to-door interviews with farmers and produced hand-outs

Prevention and deterrence

Simon Davies (SD), BT described how the private sector has participated in Pol-PRIMETT and shared good practice identified.

SD stated that when tackling metal theft it essential to:
- Adopt a multifaceted approach
- Understand the risk and reward for the criminal
- Understand and manage the risk for the organisation
- Engage and utilise any support available
- Develop a security based approach to preventing metal theft
- Gain knowledge of consequences in order to create a deterrence

Preventing metal theft can be active or passive. BT uses a range of techniques including forensic marking, trap devices and RABIT – an alert system which informs police when cabling has been cut. Alert systems similar to RABIT are being adopted across the EU including Wirewatch in Spain, CAP in Portugal and the Metal Theft Alert System in Greece.

BT works in partnership with the public sector to deter metal theft by sharing intelligence with the FIU, liaising with the Magistrates Association to improve sentencing of offenders and participate in days of action.

National public-private partnerships have been developed in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and the UK specifically to tackle metal theft by sharing information and intelligence.

BT has developed a metal theft identification booklet which assists SMDs and police identify BT cable. Similar guides have been produced by Railpol, Bulgarian Association of Recyclers, Policia di Stato (Italy) and the Local Government Association (UK).

The faith and heritage sector has also participated in Pol-PRIMETT and shared good practice including an overview of the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), impact statement templates, guidance on protecting religious and heritage buildings and marking systems specifically designed for the faith and heritage sector.

In conclusion SD stated:
- The most effective prevention and deterrence techniques tipped the balance of risk and reward against the criminal
- It is important to reach out and engage with industry and the public sector as metal theft is everyone's problem
- Use forums, such as Pol-PRIMETT to build a network

The recycling industry

Ross Bartley (RB) provided an overview of BIR and the types of materials they manage including ferrous and non-ferrous metals, textiles, paper, plastics, stainless steel and special alloys and tyres.

BIR is the international voice of the recycling industry and maintains close contact with bodies such as the United Nations, OECD, International Chamber of Commerce and the EU. BIR develops public awareness of the economic and environmental contributions of its members. On many occasions, BIR representatives participate actively in working groups drafting legislative texts or issuing position papers.

BIR also works closely with related European federations and trade associations involved with recycling issues.

At a national level, BIR provides its members with a range of information on market developments and legislation. As a consequence, BIR impacts on thousands of SMDs which employ over 1.5 million people.

BIR is a keen supporter of Pol-PRIMETT and will continue to support Pol-PRIMETT II through its European federation – EUROMETREC.

RB stated that the legal international trade in scrap metal has flourished for thousands of years and that the volume of stolen metal in international trade is estimated at less than 1% - making it very difficult to identify.

Metal is stolen from telecommunications, utilities, faith and heritage sites, street furniture, railways, building and construction sites and manufacturing companies. However it is the collateral damage from incidents of metal theft from critical infrastructure that draws the attention of the public, press and politicians.

Other issues stemming from metal theft include social and environmental issues such as those caused by cable burning. BIR believes it is in the interests of metal recycling federations - to do as much as can be done to minimise if not eradicate metal theft.

RB outlined the 'poor' ideas that had been posed to eliminate metal theft including:
- **Tag and hold:** As scrap yards purchases of large quantities of scrap metal and end-of-life goods per day amounting to many tonnes, it is impossible to label and separately store each lot. 'Tag and hold' as this is sometimes called is a high administrative burden and logistical menace
- **Burdensome technical / administrative requirements:** Requiring companies to duplicate purchase / sale record keeping and reporting – can technology reduce record keeping?

In contrast RB also identified suggestions which were deemed a good idea by the industry:
- All scrap yards and metal works should be either be permitted and / or registered. In addition a national, publicly available database should be established
- National databases would enable authorities to collaborate - police, customs and environment agencies - to identify and close illegal scrap yards
- Recording the identity of each seller by using 'police books', improving CCTV and agreeing that 'no identification means no cash'
- Selecting the payment method for scrap purchases. These proposals must to take into account the national differences such as infrastructure
- Removing cash from the industry to deter the opportunistic thieves. There is an additional benefit of reducing the amount of cash stored on company premises
- Cash limits e.g. limit total paid to individual sellers per year
- A comprehensive 'no-buy' list i.e. beer kegs, manhole covers, new road signs, sculptures, commemorative plaques

The network created by Pol-PRIMETT has an important role in tackling metal theft including:
- Promoting technological solutions to protect metal
- Disseminating information
- Promoting codes of conduct, best practice and guidelines

OCGs are and will remain a high concern for LEAs tackling metal theft. The aim of Pol-PRIMETT II is to develop knowledge and collaboration designed to tackle OCGs.

In conclusion, RB stated that:
- Damage caused by theft of metal from utilities is out of proportion to the value of the metal stolen
- Owners of metal should do more to protect their assets
- LEAs should identify and catch thieves, collaborate locally, nationally and internationally with organisations such as Impel and work with SMDs and trade associations regarding codes of conduct, best practices, guidelines and legislation
- Form an agreement not to buy burnt cable (including foundries and smelters)
- Seek harmonised practices and legislation which benefit the public, LEAs and legitimate SMDs
- Establish national public databases of permitted and registered recyclers
- Fully implement existing laws and legislations
- Identify and close illegal scrapyards

Legacy of good practice

DR highlighted the impact that metal theft has on EU Member States:
- Industries most susceptible to metal theft throughout the EU are railway, utilities and telecommunication companies
- In the UK, Belgium, Portugal and Italy individuals have lost their lives attempting to steal metal
- Metal theft costs the UK economy an estimated £770 million per year
- Copper theft in Italy has increased by more than 70% from 2009 to 2011
- ΟΣΕ – the Greek National Railway Company has suffered €12 million worth of damage since 2010
- Proposed legislative changes in Bulgaria has led to the scrap metal industry staging national protests
- Thefts of memorial copper vases from Italian cemeteries are increasing
- Sections of motorway in Spain were without light after a succession of cable thefts
- An OCG in the Czech Republic dismantled and stole a 10 tonne bridge and 650 feet of railway track without being caught

Pol-PRIMETT has enabled the public and private sectors from ten EU Member States to share good practice and improve understanding of how to tackle metal theft. This has included LEA's sharing methodology to identify metal thieves, awareness raising with judicial authorities and the development of an the EU Good Practice Guide.

The aim of the project is to develop a public – private partnership to tackle metal theft. This partnership provides opportunities to define and redefine problems rather than accepting predefined and ready-to-use solutions.

The benefits of cross-sectoral working are:
- A collaborative approach to problem solving
- More responsive services
- Joined up effort
- Swifter and more accurate communication
- 'World view' of a problem
- Service and efficiency improvements
- Reputational gain
- Sharing of best practice

By creating this partnership, Pol-PRIMETT has been able to:
- Map legislation in Member States
- Provide models of public-private collaboration
- Facilitate LEA to LEA interaction
- Facilitate LEA to private sector interaction
- Bring the recycling industry into the debate
- Research the phenomenon in five Member States
- Establish a picture of metal theft in ten Member States

Pol-PRIMETT II

Steve Welsh (SW), SOCA described the future of Pol-PRIMETT.

Funding for Pol-PRIMETT ends in September 2013. SW confirmed that DG HOME had agreed to fund a follow on project– Pol-PRIMETT II. The new partnership will be led by SOCA and include organisations from eight EU Member States – Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK. The project will also receive support from Europol, Railpol and EUROMETREC.

Pol-PRIMETT II will aim to:
- Understand the involvement of OCGs within metal theft
- Identify good practice examples of legislation and voluntary codes of practice
- Develop and share good practice, awareness raising, prevention and enforcement techniques to reduce and deter metal theft
- Identify gaps in knowledge and intelligence
- Encourage public – private collaboration

The kick off EUG meeting will be held in London and hosted by SOCA followed by a further five EUG meetings and two conferences in Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria, France and the UK.

Further details of the next meetings will be issued to all stakeholders shortly.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Acronyms

ARCH	Alliance to Reduce Crime Against Heritage
BIR	Bureau of International Recycling
BT	British Telecom
BTP	British Transport Police
CCTV	Close Circuit Television
DG HOME	Directorate-General Home Affairs
EU	European Union
EUG	Expert User Group
EUROMETREC	European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation
FEDEREC	Fédération des Entreprises du Recyclage
FER	Federación Española de la Recuperación y el Reciclaje
GdF	Guardia di Finanza
GNR	Guarda Nacional Republicana
GPS	Global Positioning System
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
OCG	Organised Criminal Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OTE	Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation
Pol-PRIMETT	Police – Private Partnership to Tackle Metal Theft
PT	Portuguese Telecom
PUAC	People United Against Crime
RABIT	Rapid Assessment BT Incident Tracker
SMD	Scrap Metal Dealer
SMS	Short Message Service
SNCF	Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français; 'French National Railway Corporation'
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
UK	United Kingdom
VAT	Value Added Tax

Appendix 2 - List of participants

First name	Surname	Organisation	Country represented
Paul	Abbott	MTRS	UK
Angel	Albendin	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Nadya	Alexandrova - Sabotinova	Bulgarian Association of Recyclers	Bulgaria
Matt	Ashby	University College London	UK
Bernie	Auguste	BT	UK
Ross	Bartley	Bureau of International Recycling	UK
Douglas	Bell	British Transport Police	UK
Sergio	Bianchi	Agenfor	Italy
Tish	Birch	UK Border Force	UK
Carolin	Buettner	DB	Germany
Larissa	Cesar	Home Office	UK
Cristina	Checchinato	Europol	Italy
Jacques	Colliard	UIC	France
James	Coomber	Metropolitan Police	UK
Paul	Crowther	British Transport Police	UK
Simon	Davies	BT	UK
Graham	Davy	BMRA	UK
Geoffroy	de Premonville	SNCF	France
Francois	Despres	Gendarmerie Nationale	France
Jose Luis	Diego	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Miquel	Dominguez	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Alison	Evans	British Transport Police	UK
Franco	Fiumara	Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane	Italy
Robin	Forrest	SNCF	France
Jereon	Francois	Elia	Belgium
Alicia	Garcia-Franco	FER	Spain
Christopher	Gemmell	European Commission	EU
Katie	Gunn	Serious Organised Crime Agency	UK
Peter	Harrison	National Grid	UK
Ed	Hawkins	Avon and Somerset Police	UK
Andy	Hayes	Humberside Police	UK
Marilyne	Hopkinson	People United Against Crime	UK
Attilio	Ingravalle	Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane	Italy
Tim	Innes	South Yorkshire Police	UK
Bo	Janzon	Osprey Group	UK
Nigel	Johnston	Lead Sheet Association	UK
Rayna	Karcheva	European Institute	Bulgaria
Paul	Keay	Environment Agency	UK
David	Knight	Church of England	UK
Hans	Kuyper	KLPD	Netherlands

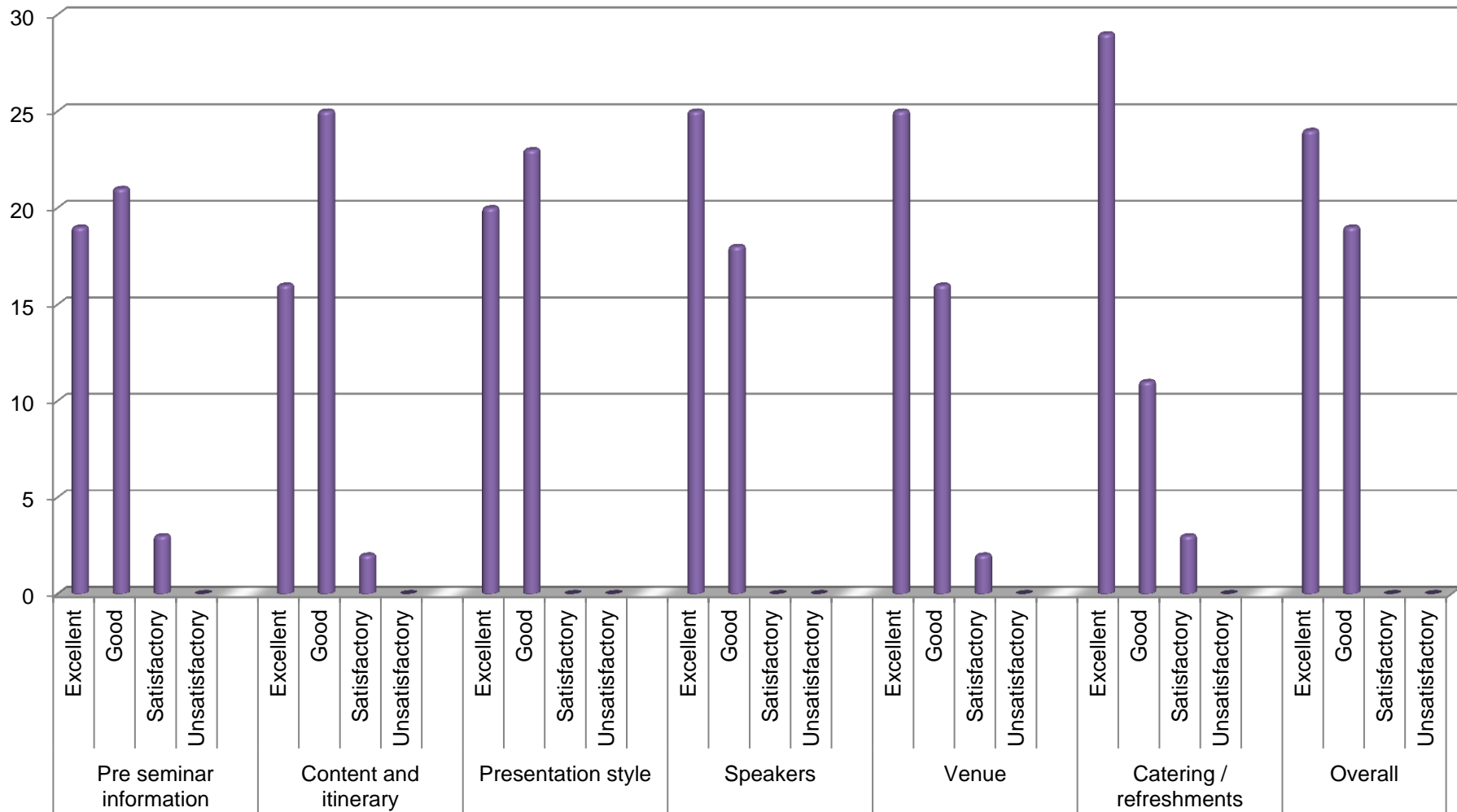|			
John	Laene	Railpol	Netherlands
Robert	Lifchitz	FEDEREC	France
Felix	Lindberg	Swedish Recycling Association	Sweden
Ken	MacKenzie	British Metals Recycling Association	UK
Martin	Malloy	Serious Organised Crime Agency	UK
Florian	Manet	SNCF	France
Marco	Mazzucco	Federal Judicial Police	Belgium
John	McBride	British Transport Police	UK
Stephen	McCormilla	UK Power Networks	UK
Andy	Millican	HMRC	UK
John	Minary	Osprey Group	UK
Francois	Moreau	SNCF	France
Rui	Moura	Guarda Nacional Republicana	Portugal
Gill	Murray	British Transport Police	UK
Ibby	Oke	British Transport Police	UK
Mairtin	O'Riada	Metropolitan Police	UK
Lubov	Panayotova	European Institute	Bulgaria
Helen	Parr	People United Against Crime	UK
John	Power	Serious Organised Crime Agency	UK
Kazmierz	Poznanski	IGMNiR	Poland
Richard	Pugh	Home Office	UK
Digby	Ram	Osprey Group	UK
David	Ransom	People United Against Crime	UK
Bernie	Rickinson	IOM3	UK
William	Seijkens	KLPD	Netherlands
Panayiotis	Skiadas	Sevian	Greece
George	Sofianos	ERFC	Greece
Susana	Sola	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Lucy	Straker	People United Against Crime	UK
Marek	Suchowolec	Drop Company	Poland
Robin	Sundman	Secrab Research	Sweden
Marco	Tiseo	Telecom Italia	Italy
Angela	Ventura	Enel	Italy
Ivan	Vidolov	Bulgarian Ministry of Interior	Bulgaria
Steve	Welsh	Serious Organised Crime Agency	UK
Douglas	Weston	Lead Sheet Association	UK

Appendix 3 - Evaluation

The information below is based on the feedback received from delegates who attended the EUG9 / Conference.

Summary of findings

- 76 delegates attended the EUG meeting and 43 evaluation forms were completed. This is a 57% response rate

- Overall responses ranged from 'excellent' to 'satisfactory' with the average response being 'excellent'

- Speakers and catering/refreshments received the highest average score of 3.6 = 'excellent'

- Comments included:
  - Being a speaker I cannot rate as excellent but was a very good meeting
  - Well organised event with thought given to regional needs
  - A hand-out or access to presentations
  - Great location, good speakers and effective networking
  - Thank you for the great work so far – Europol is looking forward to strengthening our cooperation in Pol-PRIMETT II. Good luck!
  - Thank you to PUAC for the excellent in management
  - Venue was a first class setting with excellent food and refreshments. Another good conference, strengthening relationships and building trust – great foundations for joint working
  - Really useful
  - A five minute Q&A after each talk, if you leave it to the end people forget. Lunch and networking session was just a bit too long
  - UIC would like to be more involved in Pol-PRIMETT II

- Recommendations for future topics and activities were:
  - Relationships between organised crime and metal theft
  - Intelligence sharing
  - Organised crime
  - Holistic analysis
  - Partnerships
  - More private sector input
  - Some examples of successful partnerships in other areas to show best practice and provide evidence of results achieved
  - An event dedicated to copper theft in transport networks (both long distance and urban networks)
  - Develop an app for Android, Blackberry or Apple with an e-copperbook
  - A database and maps of metal theft across Europe
  - Emphasis on border checking in relation to exports from UK ports and their proposed destinations
  - An international database shared with all European police forces
  - Catalytic converters
  - Speakers from local police forces
  - Looking at future trends

The graph below summarises the responses received:

There were 76 delegates who attended the EUG meeting and there were 43 responses.

Summary information

4= Excellent, 3= Good, 2= Satisfactory, 1= Unsatisfactory

	Median response	**Range**	**Mean**
Pre-meeting information	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.4
Content and itinerary	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.3
Presentation style	Excellent	Excellent – good	3.5
Speakers	Excellent	Excellent – good	3.6
Venue	Excellent	Excellent – satisfactory	3.5
Catering / refreshments	Excellent	Excellent – satisfactory	3.6
Overall	Excellent	Excellent – good	3.6

The presentation style and speakers responses varied from 'excellent' to 'good' with the average response being 'excellent'. The pre-meeting information, content and itinerary, venue and catering/refreshments varied from 'excellent' to 'satisfactory', with the average response being 'good' or 'excellent'.
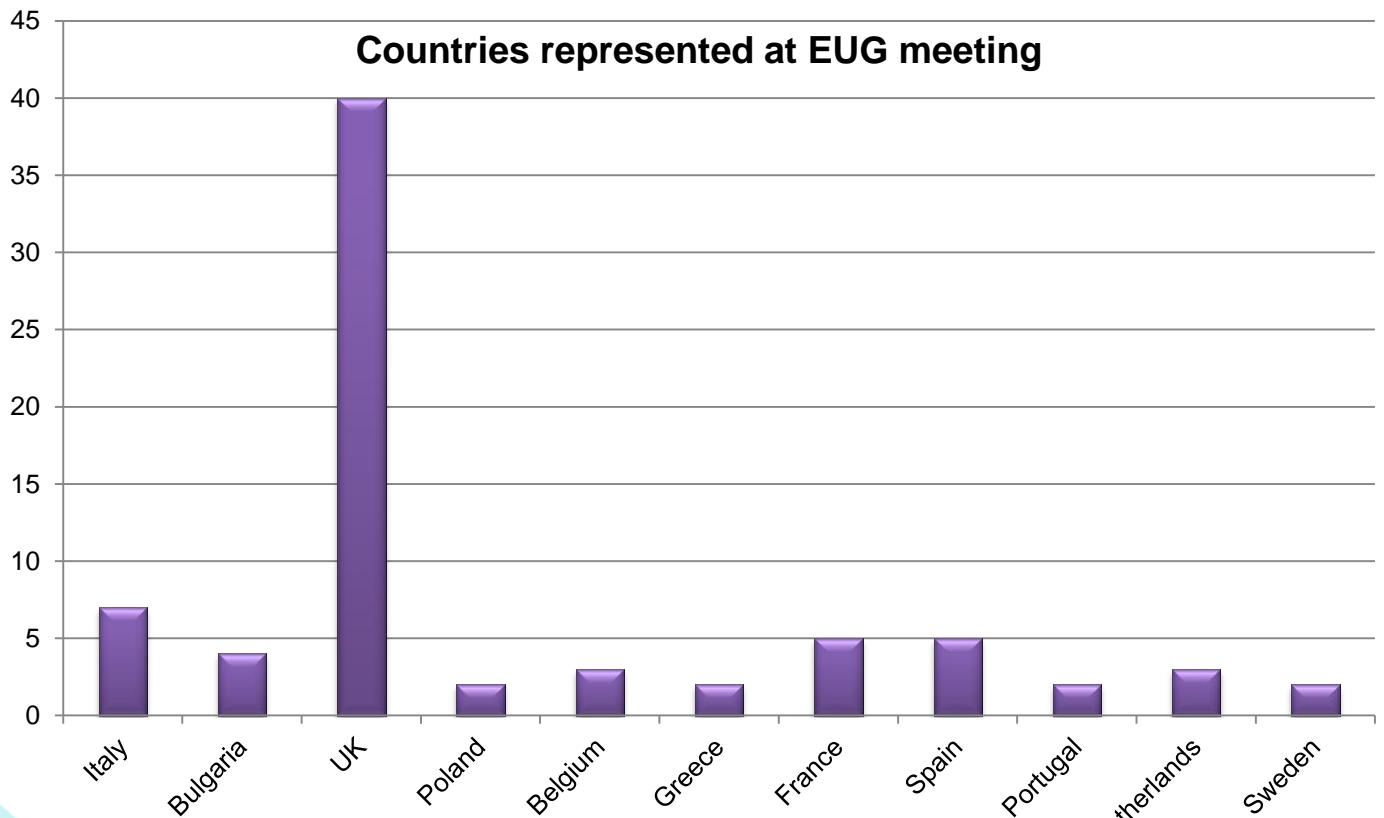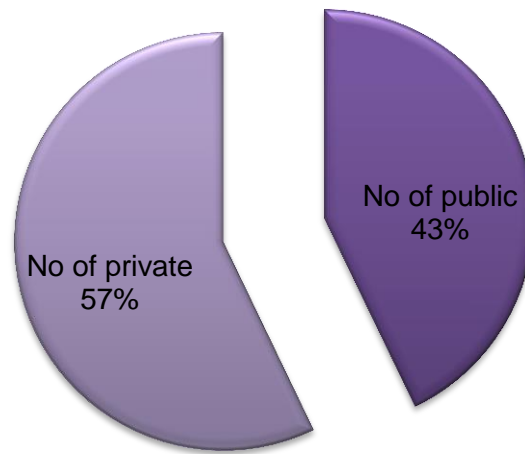
Based on the mean score delegates were most positive on the speakers and catering (3.6 = 'excellent'), and least on the content and itinerary which received a score of 3.3 = 'good'.

Overall the event was rated as 'excellent', with responses ranging from 'excellent' to 'good'. The overall mean was 3.6 = 'excellent'.

Appendix 4 - Analysis of delegates

No of delegates	76
No of organisations	51
No of countries	12
No of public	34
No of private	42

Split of public and private representatives

No of private 57%

No of public 43%

Countries represented at EUG meeting

(Bar chart: Italy 7, Bulgaria 4, UK 40, Poland 2, Belgium 3, Greece 2, France 5, Spain 5, Portugal 2, Netherlands 3, Sweden 2)

Appendix 5 – Pol-PRIMETT EUG9 meeting presentations

Appendix 5 is available in the Stakeholder Area of the Pol-PRIMETT website – www.pol-primett.org.

Please email pol-primett@people-united.org if you experience any problems with the website.

Pol-PRIMETT
Tackling Metal Theft

www.people-united.org

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