



# Annual Report **2016**

AMBER Alert Europe



The European Child Rescue Alert &  
Police Network on Missing Children  
As supported by European Parliament WD 7/2016

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[488692317424-44](#)  
and is recognized by the Dutch  
government as foundation (stichting)  
with charitable status ("ANBI")  
RSIN: 852414183

*Beek, June 26th 2017*

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# Welcome letter

Dear friends,

2016 was another big year for AMBER Alert Europe, maybe even the biggest since its inception in 2013. Throughout the year AMBER Alert Europe stayed committed to improving the protection and recovery of missing children across Europe to ensure that all children are saved regardless of the geographical borders.

Around 20% of all missing children cases, are cross-border in nature. This number reiterates one of the cross-border challenges Europe is currently facing and strongly justifies the need for an improved approach. Protecting our children is something that connects us all, no matter what country we are from or what political party we represent.

In 2016, 465 Members of the European Parliament signed the Written Declaration to save more missing children, strongly calling on the European Commission and European Council to adopt AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan.

The police do a difficult and demanding job that does not always allow them to focus on specific issues. AMBER Alert Europe does have this time and opportunity - this is why we exist - and our aim is to support and compliment what the police do. We can look for good practice and then share it as widely as possible, for the maximum benefit. I have had the privilege of working in law enforcement since 1971 and want to continue to use my experience, to add value to what is done to protect and save children. We have been very fortunate in being able to introduce the subject of missing children and Child Alerts onto the agendas for three

Following this Written Declaration, we were grateful for the strong support by numerous Member States which was demonstrated during the Dutch Presidency Initiative, the Joint Declaration of the nine Salzburg Forum Member States, the announcement of AMBER Alert Malta and the launch of AMBER Alert Luxembourg.

We are proud of our accomplishments, but are already looking forward to the year ahead of us. The vision for AMBER Alert Europe is clear: we are dedicated to improving the better use of citizens' assistance and strongly promote effective cooperation across borders to save the lives of missing children as quickly as possible and with respect for the privacy of the child.

We owe our progress to your continued support and engagement. Your help is crucial and will prevent children from harm or even save their lives.



**Frank Hoen**

President AMBER Alert Europe

successive EU Presidencies. It was a privilege to share a platform with Maltese Government Minister Carmelo Abela, when we addressed a packed audience from the community about issues relating to missing children. I believe that much can and has been done through the efforts of our organisation and I look forward to sharing my knowledge that will benefit communities across Europe in the year to come.



**Charlie Hedges**

Missing Children Police Expert Group Coordinator

# Introduction

When an injured child is being rushed into the emergency room a quick intake assessment will take place. This enables medical staff to quickly identify risk and potentially save a child's life. This process is commonly referred to as triage.

## **A similar process is critical when a child goes missing and the child's life or health is at serious risk of harm**

250 000 children are reported missing in the EU each year. <sup>1</sup> Sometimes, the life of a missing child is in imminent danger. In these cases, every minute counts and immediate action is required. Extensive research shows that in 76% of abduction cases where a child was killed, the child was killed within three hours after the abduction. <sup>2,3</sup>

## **Protection of missing children**

Dedicated to the protection of missing children, AMBER Alert Europe trains law enforcement, connects law enforcement across borders and helps law enforcement connect with the public when the police believe the public can help save the child's life.



## **The European Child Rescue Alert & Police Network on Missing Children**

AMBER Alert Europe is an international not for profit organisation with 23 members (law enforcement, Ministries & NGOs) in 16 countries. Its Police Network consists of over 40 experts representing law enforcement from 14 EU countries. The goals of AMBER Alert Europe are backed by 465 Members of the European Parliament: most successful Written Declaration since 2011.

<sup>1</sup> 'Missing children in the European Union, Mapping, data collection and statistics', research conducted by Ecorys for the European Commission, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation', Washington State Office of the Attorney General & US

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 2006 – research based on large numbers of real cases

# Background

In November 2008, AMBER Alert Netherlands was launched together by social enterprise Netpresenter and the Dutch police. Presently, the Dutch AMBER Alert reaches more than 12 million Dutch citizens. AMBER Alert Netherlands has become a prime example of how citizen sourcing can work; in 75 percent of the AMBER Alerts, the child was successfully recovered. AMBER Alert Netherlands forms an integral part of the Dutch police services.

## AMBER Alert Europe

Drawing upon the Dutch experience, and in the conviction, that it should not matter where a child comes from for its chances to be found, AMBER Alert Europe was launched in March 2013 by a group of specialists in law enforcement and IT services with the following goal:

- to be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of missing children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe;
- to undertake any further actions necessary related to achieving or advancing above-mentioned goal, in the broadest sense.

## Current goals and way forward

AMBER Alert Europe's current agenda and future actions are shaped by its 5-point plan that serves as a stepping stone in improving mechanisms to save more missing children.

1. A bigger, stronger AMBER Alert network
2. More flexibility in issuing alerts
3. Better cross-border information sharing
4. Better cross-border police co-operation
5. Border checks on children's passports



# 01

**Strong support  
European Parliament**

# 1. Strong support European Parliament: most successful written declaration since 2011

In 2008, the European Commission called on the Member States to introduce and develop national AMBER Alert systems and improve cross-border coordination. Currently only 17 Member States have a system of which only 8 have been used more than once.

## Most successful Written Declaration since 2011

Too little progress has been made since the recommendations on child alerting were introduced in 2008. Together with 18 colleagues, representing the 6 biggest political European parties, Member of the European Parliament Tomas Zdechovsky (CZ, EPP) filed a Written Declaration. The declaration called on the European Commission and the European Council to subscribe to and adopt AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan.

A great majority of 465 Members of the European Parliament from all 28 Member States and all 9 political groups support AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan and call for better

European cooperation on saving the lives of missing children. The Written Declaration is the most successful Declaration since 2011.

Mr. Zdechovsky, Member of the European Parliament and initiator of this Declaration, is proud of this historic result and proposes the first step: "We call on the European Commission and European Council to adopt AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan. This is crucial to improve European cooperation in saving the lives of endangered missing children".

## 5-point plan

AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan was introduced on May 20th 2015, by Dr. Kay Swinburne MEP (UK, European Conservatives and Reformists). The 5-point plan was introduced during a high-profile event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During the event Dr. Swinburne, backed by her British Conservative colleagues and 160+ MEPs, called for a stronger European AMBER Alert network.



**"This declaration helps use the opportunities that the EU offers regarding international protection of minors, to find lost or kidnapped children, and thus, save lives. These are exactly the types of actions with which we can bring the EU closer to the citizens because they can see and experience the benefits of European cooperation in their everyday lives."**

Kinga Gál (MEP)





**This is why I have given my full support to this initiative, both as an MEP and as a mother. This is another clear example of the importance and benefit of cooperation and understanding between member states.**

Roberta Metsola - MEP



**465 MEPs have now signed WD backing Amber Alert's 5 key points to save endangered missing children <http://www.amberalert.eu/projects/policy/> ...  
**@AmberAlertEU****

Anthea McIntyre - MEP



**European Parliament adopts action plan to save missing children in most successful Written Declaration since 2011**

Caterina Chinnici - MEP



**Rekordna podpora za pisno izjavo v EP po letu 2011 #AmberAlert @PatricijaSulin @TomZdechovsky**

Robert Velikonja - MEP



**Jedna z nejúspěšnějších written declaration, kterou EP bude projednávat ve středu-@AmberAlertEU #missingchildren**

Tomáš Zdechovský - MEP



# 02

**5-point plan in 2016**

## 2.1 A bigger, stronger AMBER Alert network

AMBER Alert Europe's ultimate goal is to improve the protection of endangered missing children in Europe and support the EU recommendations for all Member States to have child alert systems that are interoperable with other Member States. Currently 18 European countries have alert systems in place of which 9 have been used at least once. These systems are currently not interoperable with other European AMBER Alert systems.

AMBER Alert Europe actively works with Member States to assist them both with the development of alert systems and further improvements of already existing systems. AMBER Alert Europe also promotes the idea of using this technology for publicly sharing endangered missing children on the platform that do not meet the necessary criteria for triggering an alert.

### **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg launches national AMBER Alert system**

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg teamed up with AMBER Alert Europe and successfully launched an AMBER Alert system on April 28th, 2016. Following the example of the Netherlands and Slovak Republic, Luxembourg became the third country to have an alert system provided by AMBER Alert Europe. AMBER Alert Europe actively advised and instructed the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the development of the system and facilitated contacts between the Luxembourgish police experts and the Dutch Police.

In line with the Dutch system, the Luxembourgish police will use the system when the police fear the life of an abducted or missing child is in imminent danger. In addition to AMBER Alerts, parts of the system will be used to find endangered missing children.

### **A bigger network of connected citizens and organisations**

The more people are on the lookout for a missing child, the greater the chances the child is recovered safely. The success of AMBER Alert systems extensively depends on voluntary cooperation of citizens, governments, and public & private organisations across Europe.

### **Managing the development of technology modules**

AMBER Alert Europe manages the development of technology modules through citizen sourcing and facilitates the sharing of these and other relevant technological innovations, as well as standardised communication protocols. For example, AMBER Alert Europe continuously innovates the AMBER Alert platform by adding new tools, such as online advertising and the Facebook integration. In 2016 AMBER Alert Europe started a cooperation with Victim Support Europe. Victim Support Europe automatically displays active AMBER Alerts on their website.

## Privacy

Privacy is at the core of the work of AMBER Alert Europe. AMBER Alert Europe actively shares good practices between police experts and calls for the cautionary use of social media.

A quick risk assessment by trained experts is crucial to quickly define who is at risk and in need of immediate help. Once the risk is qualified, the right instruments to safely recover the child should be deployed. Social media is one of those powerful instruments.

Together with its experts, AMBER Alert Europe compiled a list of issues that should be taken into consideration when using (social) media to find missing children.

## Coming up

On August 1st 2016, Carmelo Abela, the Minister of Home Affairs and National Security in Malta, announced that Malta will launch a national AMBER Alert system during its Presidency of the European Council, taking place in the first half of 2017. "The system will allow the Police to make use of a structured, efficient and rapid arrangement to make the public aware when the life of an abducted or missing child is feared to be in imminent danger", said Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Carmelo Abela. The public will thus be in a better position to assist the Police so that a missing child facing impending and serious peril is found as quickly as possible.

In 2017, AMBER Alert Europe will continue its partnership with Facebook. AMBER Alert Europe will coordinate the partnership between AMBER Alert Malta, AMBER Alert Luxembourg and Facebook to automatically display AMBER Alerts in the news feeds of Facebook users in that specific country.

## Luxembourgish Minister of Justice and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Internal Security sign up for AMBER Alert Luxembourg



## 2.2 More flexibility in issuing AMBER Alerts

AMBER Alert Europe has been an advocate for amending the current criteria. AMBER Alert Europe calls for amending the current criteria for issuing child alerts by adding the possibility to issue an alert when law enforcement specialists have assessed that the child's life is in imminent danger.

### **First research on the usefulness of child alert systems in Europe**

The exploratory study on the usefulness of child alert mechanism published by AMBER Alert Europe and The Centre for the Study of Missing Persons examines the AMBER Alert systems in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Poland.

In a declaration adopted on 2 September 2008, the European Parliament called on the Member States to launch AMBER Alert mechanisms and to conclude cooperation agreements to allow for cross-border alerts. They set the minimum common criteria to be:

1. The victim is a minor (under 18 years of age);
2. It is a proven abduction or there are clear elements indicating that it could be the case of abduction;
3. The health or life of the victim is at high risk;
4. Information is available which, once disseminated, will allow the victim to be located;
5. Publication of this information is not expected to add to the risk facing the victim.

However, this study confirms that in the best interest of a child some systems are not only used for abduction cases. The UK, The Netherlands and France have already issued alerts for non-abduction cases because specialists assessed the child's life was in imminent danger.

### **Global framework for setting up AMBER Alert systems**

AMBER Alert Europe partnered with ICMEC (International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children) and designed a 14-point framework to be considered when developing an alert system. AMBER Alert Europe advocates for flexible criteria for when to trigger an alert:

1. The child is under 18 years old;
2. There is information to indicate that the child is in imminent danger of serious harm or death; and
3. There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist police in locating the child.

The final decision for when to issue an alert must always be taken after a thorough risk assessment is carried out. Therefore, risk to the child rather than the circumstance should take precedence when the authorities consider to issue an alert.

### **Coming up**

AMBER Alert Europe will continue advocating more flexibility in issuing AMBER Alerts. More research and relevant training programs will be developed in 2017 to support law enforcement agencies and provide them with the right tools to quickly assess risk in the context of missing persons.

## 2.3 Better cross-border information sharing

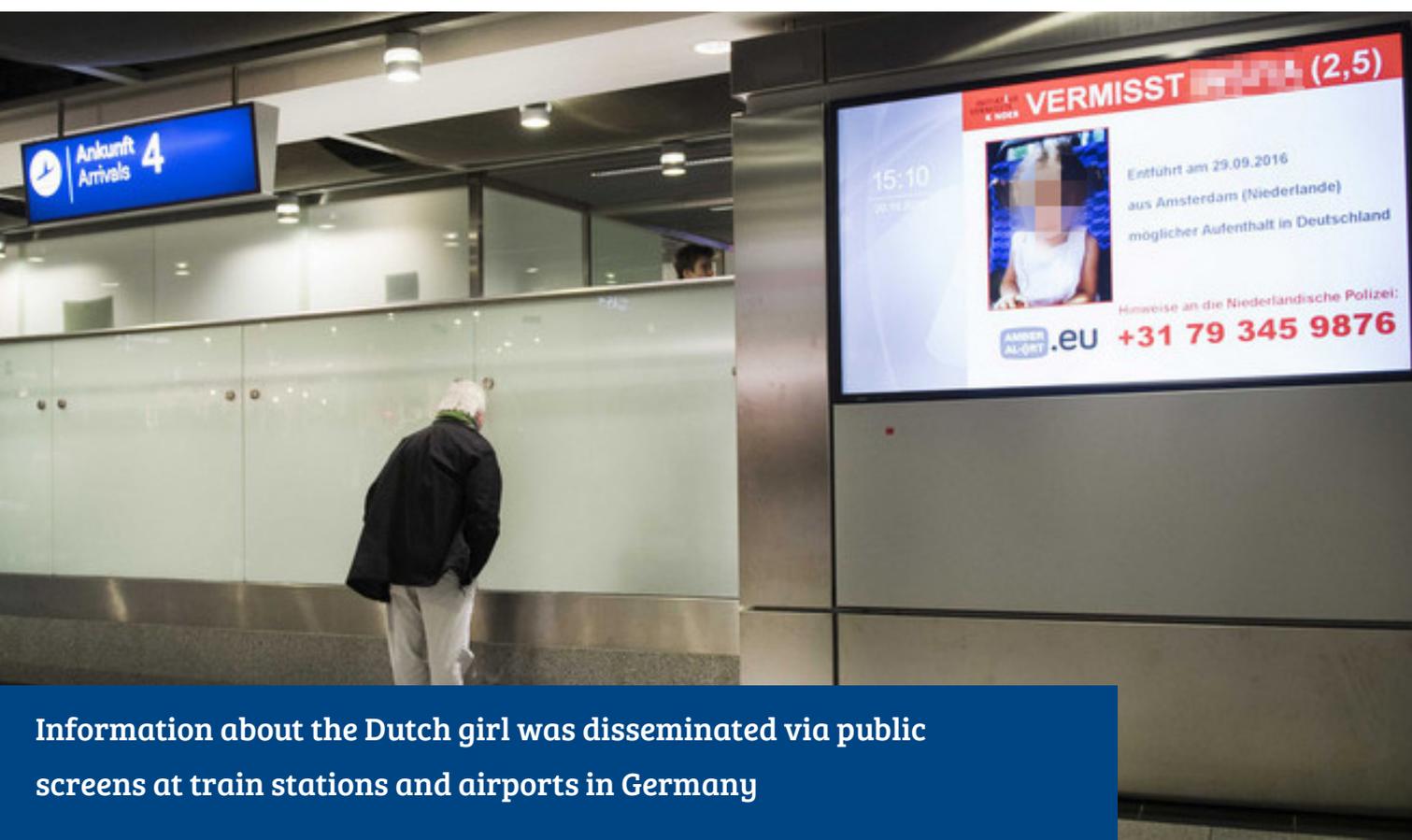
Every endangered missing child should be found as quickly as possible and this must not be inhibited by them crossing the border. The search for missing children often stops at the internal borders of EU Member States. In recognition that border cities and regions account for 37.5% of the EU population, AMBER Alert Europe advocates for better cross-border information sharing in case of an (extremely worrying) child disappearance. Therefore, AMBER Alert Europe encourages the development of protocols and practices to ensure that when a child is at risk in a border area, or law enforcement suspects the child may have crossed the internal border, law enforcement agencies and the public in the other country are informed immediately.

### Successful collaborations among law enforcement

At the request of national law enforcement agencies, AMBER Alert Europe assisted in disseminating information about missing children across borders. For example, in case of a Dutch AMBER Alert (abducted in the Netherlands and located in India) and a German missing boy (abducted in Germany and recovered in Spain). Following the abduction of a 2.5-year-old girl from Amsterdam, information about the girl was displayed in public places across Germany because the police suspected the child was in Germany.

### Dutch Presidency Initiative

On May 25th, International Missing Children's Day, the Dutch Minister of Justice and Security, organised a European conference during their Presidency of the European Council. The conference brought together experts from 25 European countries, the European Commission, Interpol and NGOs and was intended to further enhance cross-border cooperation. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the creation of non-binding guidelines for cross-border citizens' assistance.



Information about the Dutch girl was disseminated via public screens at train stations and airports in Germany

### Euregional cooperation

In collaboration with the Euregion Meuse-Rhine and the Province of Limburg, a cross-border project with the principal goal of recovering endangered missing persons has been developed. Twenty (regional) media outlets in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany signed up to be quickly informed when a vulnerable person is missing in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine. In 2016, Information about 4 missing children was shared with all partners involved.

### Best practices across Europe

Police in Switzerland and Germany teamed up for the investigation in search of a 12-year-old Swiss boy. During the investigation, the Swiss authorities tipped off their German counterparts and signalled that a man living in Düsseldorf may have been behind the child's disappearance. Fortunately, after storming the man's apartment, the boy was recovered safely. This case proves the importance of immediate cross-border information-sharing between European police forces to guarantee a quick recovery of a missing child.

### Coming up

AMBER Alert Europe will continue and expand its Euregional pilot projects. Together with law enforcement agencies from all over Europe conferences and meetings will be organised to further enhance cross-border information sharing, for example during the Salzburg Forum Law Enforcement Expert Meeting on Missing Persons that will be organised by the Ministry of the Interior in the Czech Republic and AMBER Alert Europe in May 2017 in Prague, the Czech Republic.



**"As the current EU president we have the chance to improve European cooperation and find missing persons more quickly."**

Ard van der Steur, Minister of Justice and Security



## 2.4 Better cross-border law enforcement cooperation

AMBER Alert Europe believes that when a child's life is in danger, law enforcement should be able to immediately initiate an immediate cross-border action. Therefore, AMBER Alert Europe created and has been expanding its informal European Police Network in the field of missing children and child alerting. Over 40 experts from 14 European Member States share contact information and best practices to support each other in missing children cases.

### **Platform for police experts on child alerts & missing children**

AMBER Alert Europe developed an online platform for Police Experts on Missing Children. AMBER Alert Europe actively works on the expansion of its members. The platform provides experts an always up-to-date overview of relevant information on AMBER Alert systems in Europe and contact information for their European counterparts. This enables experts to quickly contact or consult colleagues to request an AMBER Alert or advice on cases of missing children.

AMBER Alert Europe's also created a training platform for law enforcement experts. Law enforcement professionals are able to educate themselves and spread the knowledge about topics related to missing children and child alerts from AMBER Alert Europe's publications.

### **Dutch Presidency Initiative**

On May 25th, International Missing Children's Day, the Dutch Minister of Justice and Security announced a European police network for missing children experts. The network, initiated by AMBER Alert Europe, was announced during a conference of the NL Presidency attended by European law enforcement experts from 25 European countries, European Commission, Interpol and NGOs.

This initiative is designed to improve cross-border cooperation and find missing children quickly. The new network provides a platform for police experts in the field of child alerting and missing children. It provides experts access to up-to-date information and the ability to quickly contact, or consult colleagues across Europe, in cases of missing children. This forum for better European cooperation will simplify and speed up actions in locating and recovering children who go missing across internal borders.

EU Conference Missing Persons: Missing Information  
Wednesday 25 May 2016, Amsterdam The Netherlands



### Salzburg Forum agrees on enhanced cooperation to save missing children

On November 3rd and 4th, Ministers of the Salzburg Forum adopted a Joint Declaration which acknowledges the urgent need for new solutions and improvements in the search for missing children, including a better use of citizens' assistance and an effective inter-agency cooperation. The Joint Declaration was signed by Ministers of Interior Affairs from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

### Expert meeting on saving missing children in 2017

To further develop these ideas and support law enforcement, the nine Ministers welcomed the idea of organising an expert meeting in the first half of 2017. During this meeting the notion of a quick risk assessment to qualify the risk of a missing child will be discussed. "I hope we will be able to meet on an expert basis and prepare some changes which would enhance our cooperation when child goes missing on any of the Member States territory", elaborates Milan Chovanec, Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

### Nordic Countries and Switzerland exchange best practices on missing children with AMBER Alert Europe

On March 3rd, AMBER Alert Europe was consulted by the 1st line managers of the Nordic Countries, participating in their meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. This meeting brought together law enforcement professionals from five Nordic countries; Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland. On August 12th, AMBER Alert Europe was consulted by the Federal Police in Switzerland. The meeting brought together specialist from the Federal Police, SIRENE and the Federal Office of Justice in the field of missing children. Aim of these meetings was to exchange good practices to improve protection of endangered missing children in Europe.

### Coming up

AMBER Alert Europe will continue to expand its informal police network for missing children experts. The main goal of this network is to exchange contacts and best practices. This will be stimulated by organising trainings and expert meeting, for example during the Salzburg Forum Law Enforcement Expert Meeting on Missing Persons that will be organised by the Ministry of the Interior in the Czech Republic and AMBER Alert Europe in May 2017 in Prague, the Czech Republic.



**"When a child goes missing, quick and effective cross-border information exchange between national law enforcement authorities and other expert bodies is therefore crucial. Since every endangered missing child deserves an equal chance of being found as quickly as possible, this must not be inhibited by them crossing borders."**

Milan Chovanec, Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic



## 2.5 Improving the identification and protection of children at borders

An early assessment of a missing child report to determine the urgency of the investigation is critical. To identify and protect children at EU external borders, Member States should make every effort to immediately enter endangered missing children in the Schengen Information System (SIS II). Furthermore, border guards should be actively informed of endangered missing children and AMBER Alerts by law enforcement agencies. Raising awareness and providing practical guidance for border guards is essential to identify and protect children that may be at serious risk of harm such as trafficking, smuggling and abduction.

### **Revision of the Schengen Information System**

The Schengen Information System (SIS) is a large-scale information database that supports external border control and law enforcement cooperation in the EU and Schengen associated countries. The current version of SIS (SIS II) enables competent authorities, such as police and border guards, to enter and consult alerts on certain categories of wanted or missing persons, lost or stolen property.

In 2016, the Commission carried out a comprehensive evaluation of SIS, three years after the entry into operation of its second generation and put forward a legislative package containing several proposals aimed at responding more effectively to the pressures at the EU external borders.

One proposal which has been strongly advocated by AMBER Alert Europe is the inclusion of preventive alerts for children who are at high risk of being harmed besides abduction. We support broadening the scope of preventive alerts to besides (parental) abductions include children that are at high risk of going missing, for example minors who go missing and are suspected to travel to IS territory.

AMBER Alert Europe also supports the proposed reinforced checks, categorisation of SIS alerts and the use of biometrics in terms of accelerating the investigative process into finding missing children. AMBER Alert Europe actively continues advocating positive improvements to SIS in the context of prevention and recovery of missing children. These efforts will be relentlessly pursued throughout the revision process of SIS.

### **Coming up**

AMBER Alert Europe will continue to promote further improvements of the Schengen Information System, especially the inclusion of preventive alerts for children at risk.



**03**

**Missing Children  
Day 2016**

### 3. Missing Children Day 2016: European wide prevention campaign to keep children safe

Short animated videos developed by missing persons police experts from all over Europe teach parents how to keep their children safe. The campaign was launched by AMBER Alert Europe on May 25th, International Missing Children's Day. Germany, Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Serbia, Portugal and the UK are among the first countries to run the campaign.

The videos are the latest addition to AMBER Alert Europe's Missing Children Training Centre. In this center, law enforcement experts in the field of missing children share their knowledge and expertise with law enforcement professionals, parents and children.

The main goal of AMBER Alert Europe's international campaign is to share good practices from experts from all over the world. To keep children safe, it is important that as many people as possible are aware of what to do when their child goes missing.

**European wide prevention campaign to keep children safe**

[amberalert.eu/missing-children-training](http://amberalert.eu/missing-children-training)



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF  
**MY CHILD IS  
MISSING?**



# 04

## Statistics

## 4. Statistics

AMBER Alert Europe is collecting data on missing children publicised by law enforcement authorities. The aim of this data collection is to gain better knowledge into the number of missing children publicly shared by law enforcement or police mandated organisations and the use of AMBER Alert systems in Europe.

The data in this report is collected by AMBER Alert Europe by daily monitoring of law enforcement and police mandated organisations' websites from 22 European Union (EU) Member States and Switzerland. Naturally, the collected data does not represent the total number of children who go annually missing in Europe.

### Overview of the Main Results

#### *AMBER Alerts*

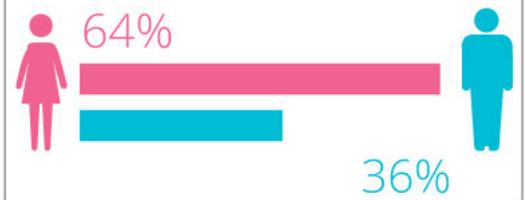
- 29 AMBER Alerts were issued in 5 countries;
- The AMBER Alerts involved 33 children;
- The average age is 10 years old;
- In 83% of the cases the children were recovered within 24 hours after issuing the AMBER Alert;
- 13 abductors were involved in 8 AMBER Alert cases of which 8 had a known relationship with the children;
- The Czech Republic issued the majority of AMBER Alerts with 55 percent (n=16);
- The highest number of AMBER Alerts were issued in July (n=5) and August (n=5).

#### *Missing Children*

- AMBER Alert Europe mapped 3,536 missing children in 22 EU Member States and Switzerland;
- 73% of missing children were recovered within one month after having been reported missing.

**29** AMBER ALERTS  
IN THE EU IN 2016  
FOR **33** CHILDREN

In **2015** there  
were **29**  
AMBER Alerts



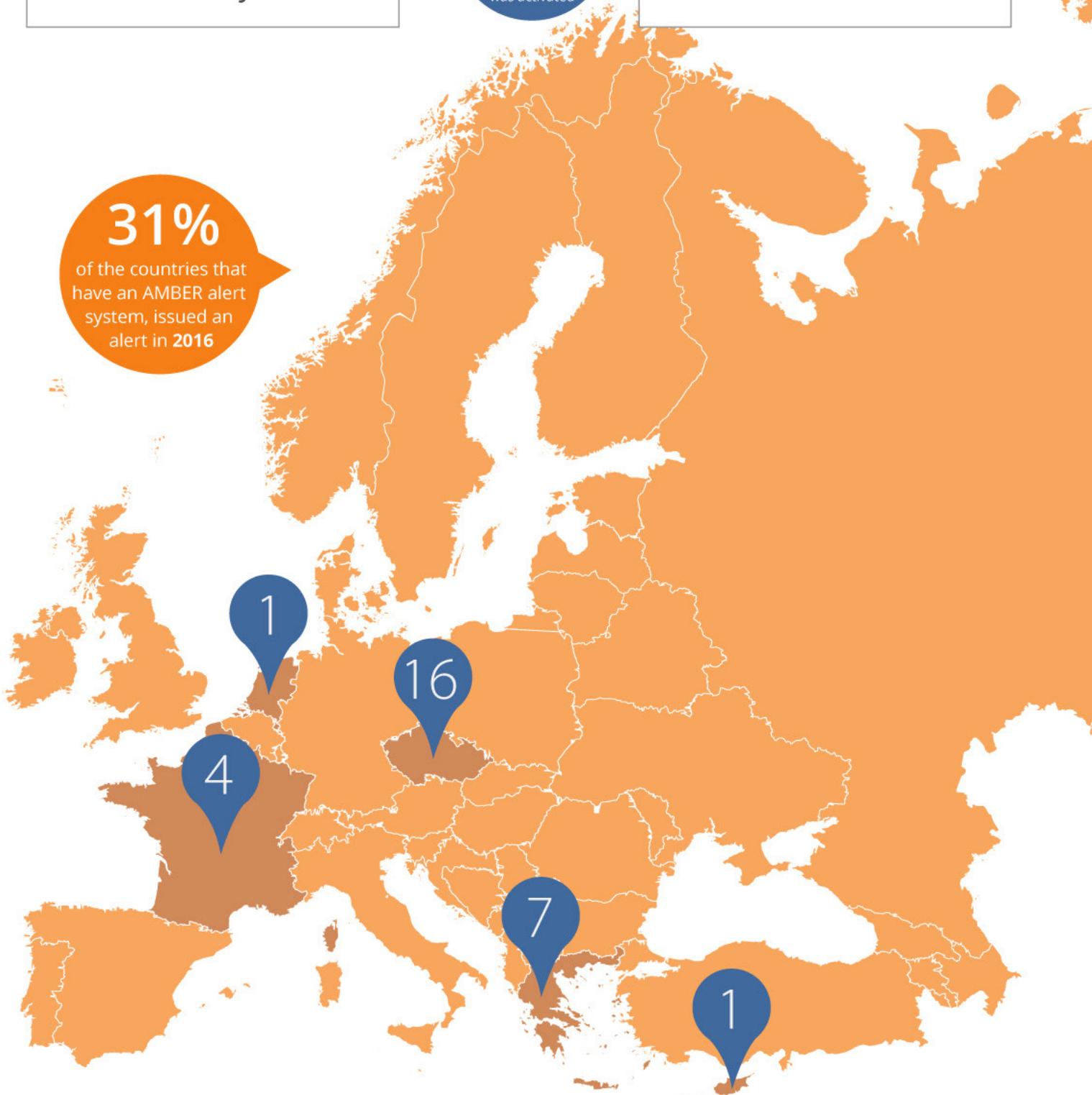
**32** children  
were **successfully** recovered

**83%**  
was recovered within  
**24 hours** from when  
the AMBER Alert  
was activated

AVERAGE AGE: **10**

**31%**

of the countries that  
have an AMBER alert  
system, issued an  
alert in **2016**



# 3536

MISSING CHILDREN MAPPED ON  
WWW.AMBERALERT.EU IN 2016

In 2015 AMBER  
Alert Europe mapped

1848  
missing children

In 2015 the  
average age was

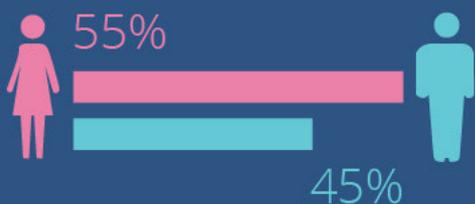
14

73% of the missing children  
were **successfully** recovered  
within one month

AVERAGE AGE

15

in 2015  
57% girls and  
43% boys  
were  
missing



in 88%  
of the missing children  
cases, a photo of the  
child was available

Q1 766 missing children

Q2 752 missing children

Q3 752 missing children

Q4 1266 missing children

APRIL

Least boys missing (105)

AUGUST

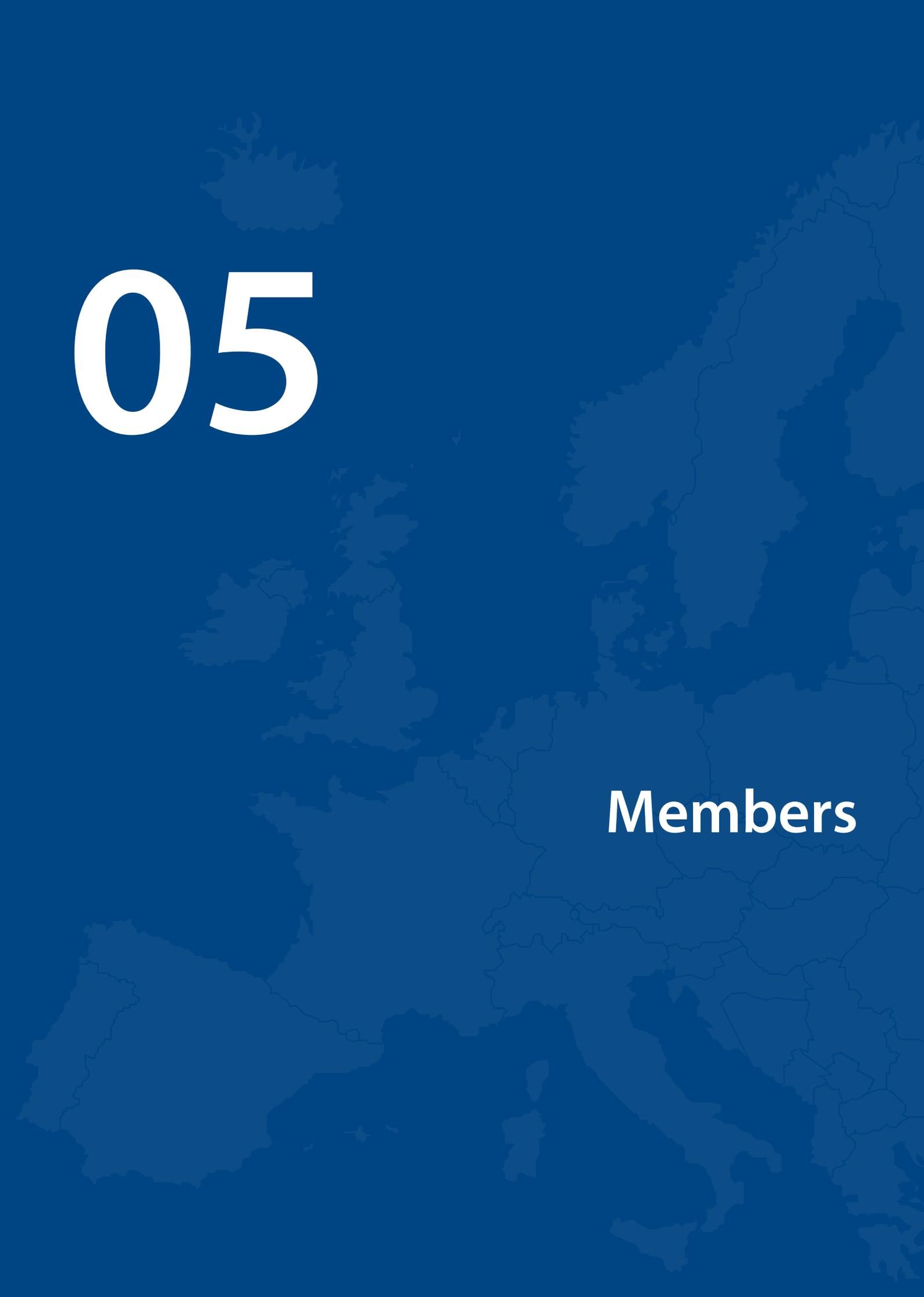
Least children missing (205)  
Least girls missing (100)

NOVEMBER

Most children missing (462)

DECEMBER

Most girls missing (215)  
Most boys missing (247)



# 05

## Members

## 5.1 Members

AMBER Alert Europe is backed by police missing children experts, NGOs, law enforcement and 465 Members of the European Parliament. It has 23 members in 16 countries, 8 of which are law enforcement organisations. Members include police organisations, ministries and NGOs (with police mandate on the topic) from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Estonia, Luxembourg, and Greece.

AMBER Alert Europe is working closely with organisations that issue or re-broadcast the Canadian and US AMBER Alert as well as with organisations active in this field in Russia and Belarus. AMBER Alert Europe believes European and transnational cooperation is needed to cope with the growing cross border nature of the problem of missing children. We encourage all organisations active in the field of child alerting to join us.



AMBER Alert Netherlands, working with the Dutch police on the Dutch AMBER Alert (Netherlands)



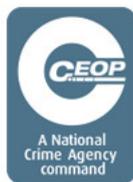
Dutch Missing Persons Bureau, part of the Dutch National Police (Netherlands)



Initiative Vermisste Kinder, working closely with the German police (Germany)



National Police – Central Operational Service, Italy



Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), part of UK policing (UK)



ITAKA, Centre for Missing People, working with the Polish police regarding the Child Alert (Poland)



Ministere de la Sécurité Intérieure, Luxembourg



Ministere de la Justice, Luxembourg



La Police Grand-Ducale, Luxembourg



Missing Persons Centre KGP,  
National Police, managing the  
Polish Child Alert (Poland)



Child Helpline at Slovak  
Committee for UNICEF,  
working with the Slovak  
Police to create a Slovak Child  
Alert (Slovak Republic)



National Coordination  
Mechanism of the Search for  
Missing Children (NKMPPD),  
part of the Ministry of the  
Interior (Czech Republic)



Action Against Abduction,  
formerly PACT, United  
Kingdom



Omnibus, the Hellenic Centre  
for Research & Action for  
Missing Persons, scientific  
NGO (Greece)



Ponimanie, Belarus NGO  
focused on child protection  
(Belarus)



**Salvați Copiii**

Salvați Copiii (Save the  
Children Romania), Romanian  
children's rights NGO  
(Romania)



International Centre for  
Missing & Exploited Children  
(ICMEC), working closely with  
the US AMBER Alert program  
(US)



Groupcall have been selected  
to provide the automatic  
distribution system for the  
Child Rescue Alert in the UK



Региональный общественный  
Центр интернет-технологий  
[www.rocit.ru](http://www.rocit.ru)

ROCIT, providing technologies  
to bring Russian missing  
children home (Russia)



RijnmondVeilig, the crisis  
alert platform of the  
Dutch regional authority  
of Rotterdam-Rijnmond  
(Netherlands)



Associação Portuguesa de  
Crianças Desaparecidas  
(APCD), Portuguese missing  
children association (Portugal)

**Kadunud.ee**  
Teadmata kadunud inimeste otsing

Kadunud, Estonia



Missing Children Society of  
Canada, Canada



Supporting organisation



Supporting organisation

## 5.2 Members joining in 2017



MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS  
AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Ministry for Home Affairs and  
Security, Malta



Malta Police Force, Malta



# 06

**AMBER Alert Europe  
Board**

## 7. AMBER Alert Europe Board

### New board members

In 2016, AMBER Alert Europe welcomed Vic Reuter as a new member of the advisory board of AMBER Alert Europe.

### Vic Reuter

Victor Reuter, who has been with the Grand Ducal Police for over 15 years, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to AMBER Alert Europe's Advisory Board.

He is specialised in the field of crisis communication and public relations. Previously, he worked for the European Union in the Kosovo (EULEX) and the Ukraine (EUAM) missions as Head of Press and Public Information Office.

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## Board of Directors



### Petra Binkova (Czech Republic)

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.



### Carole Bird (Canada)

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (ret.)



### Frank Hoen (The Netherlands)

AMBER Alert Europe & AMBER Alert Netherlands, Netpresenter

---

## Advisory Board



### Caroline Humer (USA)

International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children



### Henk Jansen (The Netherlands)

Independent Security and Investigations Professional, former Dutch Police (a.o. head of Organised Crime Division)



### Lars Bruhns (Germany)

Initiative Vermisste Kinder



### Rinus van Schendelen (The Netherlands)

Erasmus University Rotterdam



### Victor Reuter (Luxembourg)

Grand Ducal Police



### Maurice Lenferink (The Netherlands)

Safety Region Rotterdam-Rijnmond



# 01

## Annex

Financial Report 2016

**STICHTING AMBER ALERT EUROPE  
AT BEEK**

Annual Report 2016



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## **REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANT**



ACCON?AVM ACCOUNTANTS B.V.  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGISTRATION NUMBER 09173926

GEERWEG 7  
BEZOEKADRES  
6135 KB SITTARD  
TEL 046 - 451 83 51  
FAX 046 - 452 65 55  
WWW.ACCON?AVM.NL

To the board of directors of  
Stichting AMBER Alert Europe  
Peter Treckspoelstraat 4  
6191 VK Beek

Reference: 03065479  
Processed by: C.J.M. (Carin) Heltzel  
Date: 21 juni 2017

Dear board of directors,

We hereby send you the report regarding the financial statements of your foundation for the year 2016.

## 1 SCOPE

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled your company's financial statements.

The report consists of the following parts:

The report of the accountant, our compilation report, general company information and the company's financial position.

The financial report consists of director's report, the financial statements consists of the balance sheet of December 31, 2016 and the profit and loss accountant for the year 2016, with notes to the financial statements and other information.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES BELONG TO THE ACCON?AVM CONSULTANTS AND ACCOUNTANTS: ACCON?AVM GROUP B.V., ACCON?AVM ACCOUNTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM TAX CONSULTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM LEGAL ADVISORS B.V., ACCON?AVM CONSULTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM CORPORATE FINANCE B.V.,

APPLYING WITH ALL AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND WORK ACTIVITIES ARE THE GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AS FILED WITH THE OFFICER OF THE COURT AT THE DISTRICT COURT OF ARNHEM, NL. LIABILITY IS LIMITED IN ALL CASES TO THE MAXIMUM PAID OUT IN SUCH CASES PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURER ALL OUR SERVICES, LEGAL ACTS AND/OR LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD PARTIES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCON?AVM, WHICH INCLUDE A LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. THESE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UNDER NUMBER 09171813, ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.ACCON?AVM.NL AND WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE UPON REQUEST. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR AMBITIONS.



## ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

The financial statements of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe at Beek have been compiled by us using the information provided by you. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2016 and the profit and loss account for the year 2016 with the accompanying explanatory notes. These notes include a summary of the accounting policies which have been applied.

This compilation engagement has been performed by us in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standard 4410, "Compilation engagements", which is applicable to accountants. The standard requires us to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with presented explanatory notes. To this end we have applied our professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting.

In a compilation engagement, you are responsible for ensuring that you provide us with all relevant information and that this information is correct. Therefore, we have conducted our work, in accordance with the applicable regulations, on the assumption that you have fulfilled your responsibility. To conclude our work, we have read the financial statements as a whole to consider whether the financial statements as presented correspond with our understanding of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe. We have not performed any audit or review procedures which would enable us to express an opinion or a conclusion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements.

During this engagement we have complied with the relevant ethical requirements prescribed by the "Verordening Gedrags- en Beroepsregels Accountants" (VGBA). You and other users of these financial statements may therefore assume that we have conducted the engagement in a professional, competent and objective manner and with due care and integrity and that we will treat all information provided to us as confidential.

For further information on the nature and scope of a compilation engagement and the VGBA we refer you to [www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring](http://www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring).

## GENERAL

### Company

Stichting AMBER Alert Europe is dedicated to the protection of endangered missing children, and provides for training and cross-border coordination to law enforcement. AMBER Alert Europe connects citizens with law enforcement when the police believe the public can help find the child. AMBER Alert Europe provides support in an advisory and knowledge-sharing role to its members and partners, who, together with the network of connected citizens, are on the lookout when a child goes missing across Europe.

The company is registered in the trade register of the chamber of commerce in Limburg under number 57040559.

### Incorporation of a company

The company Stichting AMBER Alert Europe was incorporated by notarial deed on January 23, 2013 at mr. J.T.M. Pas, Beek. The activities are performed as of the aforementioned date or an earlier date respectively at the risk and costs of the Stichting AMBER Alert Europe partnership.

We trust that we have compiled with all your instructions.  
We will gladly provide more detailed explanations upon request.

Sincerely yours,  
accon avm accountants b.v.

P.J.E.A. van Dinther AA



## **FINANCIAL REPORT**



**2016 MANAGEMENT REPORT**



## **COMPANY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2016**

- **Balance sheet**
- **Profit and loss account**
- **Notes to the balance sheet and profit and loss account**



**1 BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	<u>December 31, 2016</u>		<u>December 31, 2015</u>	
	€	€	€	€
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	(1)	23,138	1,653	
Cash and cash equivalents	(2)	<u>31,829</u>	<u>80,500</u>	
		54,967		82,153
		<u>54,967</u>	<u>82,153</u>	





2 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2016

	Balance 2016	Balance 2015
	€	€
<b>Income</b>		
Income from Business	(6) 240,690	32,057
Benefits from individuals	(7) 100	0
Government subsidies	(8) 73,710	147,420
Financial income	(9) 649	135
Other benefits	(10) 2,574	6,056
<b>Sum of the benefits</b>	<u>317,723</u>	<u>185,668</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Spend on the purposes</b>		
To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe	(11) 569,479	107,971
<b>Expenditures for subsidy acquisition Project Euregion Missing People</b>		
Expenses	(12) 0	605
<b>Management and administration</b>		
Other operating expenses	(13) 8,400	7,007
Financial income and expenses	(14) 310	1,082
	<u>8,710</u>	<u>8,089</u>
	<u>578,189</u>	<u>116,665</u>
<b>Result</b>		
Allocation reserves	<u>-260,466</u>	<u>69,003</u>



### **3 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2016**

#### **3.1 GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements are prepared according to the stipulations in chapter 9 Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code. The Annual Report 2016 has been prepared in accordance with directive RJ650 'Fondswervende Instellingen van de Raad voor de Jaarverslaglegging'.

The annual accounts have been prepared based on the historical cost. Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result takes place under the historical cost convention.

#### **3.2 PRINCIPLES OF VALUATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

##### **Receivables and deferred assets**

Upon initial recognition the receivables on and loans to participations and other receivables are valued at fair value and then valued at amortised cost, which equals the face value, after deduction of any provisions. The fair value and amortised cost equal the face value. Any provisions for the risk of doubtful debts are deducted. These provisions are determined based on individual assessment of the receivables.

##### **Cash and cash equivalents**

The cash is valued at face value. If cash equivalents are not freely disposable, then this has been taken into account in the valuation.

#### **3.3 PRINCIPLES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULT**

##### **General**

The result is defined as the difference between the revenue from goods delivered and services performed on one hand and, on the other hand, the costs and expenses for that year, valued at historical costs. The revenues and expenses are with VAT included.

##### **Financial income and expenses**

Financial income and expenses comprise interest income and expenses for loans (issued and received) during the current reporting period.



**3.4 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
	€	€
<b>1. Receivables, prepayments and accrued income</b>		
Other receivables, deferred assets	23,138	1,653
	<u>23,138</u>	<u>1,653</u>
<b>2. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Rabobank NL31RABO0177498633	16,741	5,011
Rabobank NL58RABO3464305996	15,000	75,000
Cash	88	489
	<u>31,829</u>	<u>80,500</u>

**EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

**3. Equity**

Allocation reserves	-191,367	69,099
	<u>-191,367</u>	<u>69,099</u>
<i>Allocation reserve</i>		
Carrying amount as of January 1	69,099	96
Result allocation	-260,466	69,003
Carrying amount as of December 31	<u>-191,367</u>	<u>69,099</u>

**4. Non-current liabilities**

**Other debt**

Current Account Beheermaatschappij Eureka Communications B.V.	200,000	0
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>0</u>



## 5. Current liabilities

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
	€	€
<b>Trade creditors</b>		
Creditors	<u>44,161</u>	<u>3,651</u>
<b>Taxes and social securities</b>		
Pay-roll tax	<u>974</u>	<u>1,647</u>
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>		
Holiday bonus	1,104	313
Interest and bank charges	95	72
Subsidy	<u>0</u>	<u>7,371</u>
	<u>1,199</u>	<u>7,756</u>



### 3.5 NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2016

	<u>Balance 2016</u>	<u>Balance 2015</u>
	€	€
<b>6. Income from Business</b>		
Donations and gifts	<u>240,690</u>	<u>32,057</u>
Please note AMBER Alert Europe receives most of its sponsorships in kind. Companies and individuals offer their services free of charge in the context of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). These sponsorships in kind are not mentioned in this yearly financial report however they are all listed on our website and in the Annual Report.		
<b>7. Benefits from individuals</b>		
Donations and gifts	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>8. Government subsidies</b>		
Dutch government subsidy	<u>73,710</u>	<u>147,420</u>
<b>9. Financial income</b>		
Interest Revenue	104	0
Benefit currency difference	<u>545</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>649</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>10. Other benefits</b>		
Received fees	<u>2,574</u>	<u>6,056</u>
<b>Spend on the purposes</b>		
<b>11. To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe</b>		
Costs project Euregion Missing People	430,288	11,173
Wages and salaries	31,039	7,751
Social security charges	5,739	0
Pension costs	1,100	314
Costs Charlie Hedges Advisory	63,069	63,555
Commuting Costs	1,130	355
Supplementary Services	0	2,304
Costs WKR	174	0
Recruitment costs	400	0
Other labour costs	2,203	-16
Advertising Costs	9,314	3,571
Representation costs	1,004	2,153
Conferences and events	300	3,299
Travelling expenses	15,230	5,991
Automation costs	<u>8,489</u>	<u>7,521</u>
	<u>569,479</u>	<u>107,971</u>
<b>12. Expenses</b>		
Research costs	<u>0</u>	<u>-605</u>

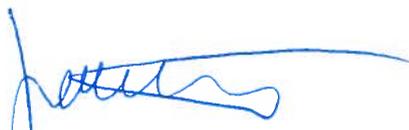


### Staff

At partnership during 2016, an average 1 employees were employed (2015: 2).

	Balance 2016	Balance 2015
	€	€
<b>13. Other operating expenses</b>		
Office expenses	6,939	4,729
General expenses	1,461	2,278
	<u>8,400</u>	<u>7,007</u>
<b>Office expenses</b>		
Office supplies	2,976	525
Telephone	797	595
Postage	1,645	3,278
Contributions and subscriptions	1,521	331
	<u>6,939</u>	<u>4,729</u>
<b>General expenses</b>		
Administration costs	439	304
Consultancy fees	718	1,815
Insurance	304	159
	<u>1,461</u>	<u>2,278</u>
<b>14. Financial income and expenses</b>		
Interest and similar expenses	<u>-310</u>	<u>-1,082</u>
<b>Interest and similar expenses</b>		
Bank charges	-310	-282
Costs currency difference	0	-800
	<u>-310</u>	<u>-1,082</u>
<b>Signing annual accounts</b>		

Beek, June 26, 2017

  
F.C.C. Moen



## OTHER INFORMATION

### **1 Audit report**

The foundation has utilized the exemption from an audit by virtue of art. 2:396, paragraph 7 of the Dutch Civil Code.

### **2 Recognition of the loss for 2016**

The board of directors proposes to add the 2016 result to the other reserves for an amount of € 260,466.