

# Annual Report 2018



Saving Missing Children

As supported by European Parliament WD 7/2016

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AMBER Alert Europe is registered in the EU  
Transparency Register: [488692317424-44](#)  
and is recognized by the Dutch government  
as foundation (stichting) with charitable  
status ("[ANBI](#)")  
RSIN: 852414183

Beek, June 18th 2019

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### **AMBER Alert Europe**

AMBER Alert Europe assists in saving missing children at risk by connecting law enforcement with other police experts and with the public across Europe. AMBER Alert Europe advocates that one missing child is one too many and aims for zero missing children in Europe. AMBER Alert Europe's 30 participating organisations include civil society, authorities and businesses from 21 countries. AMBER Alert Europe facilitates the European Police Expert Network on Missing Children, consisting of over 50 police specialists on missing persons from 18 countries, and the Task Force on AMBER Alerts. The goals of AMBER Alert Europe are backed by 465 Members of the European Parliament: most successful written declaration since 2011.

### **AMBER Alert Europe's definition of a missing child**

Any child whose whereabouts is not known will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed. Naturally, all cases should be assessed to determine the seriousness and immediacy of risk, which will indicate the response that is required.



# Welcome letter

Dear friends and supporters,

It is my pleasure to present AMBER Alert Europe's report for the year 2018, in which we look back on another important year for our organisation.

## European Police Expert Network on Missing Children

I am especially proud of the major progress that was made by AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children, now counting well over 50 members from 18 countries. The Police Expert Network is the only group in Europe that consists of police specialists working on missing children, making it not only unique but vital for cross-border police cooperation in this area.

In 2018, we saw multiple missing children cases in which effective cross-border cooperation between police officers led to the safe recovery of the child in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

In December, the Police Expert Network had a very successful annual meeting in Prague, during which our police specialists exchanged new ideas, tools and techniques to help save missing children. The meeting was hosted by the first president of the Network, Colonel Jan Rybár of the Czech Police Presidium, who took office in May.

## More and stronger AMBER Alert systems

Another highlight in 2018 was the launch of the AMBER Alert systems in Bulgaria and Lithuania, enabling law enforcement to send a notification with a recent photo and information about a missing child to all Facebook app users within a 200 km radius from the location where the child

was last seen. In addition, while we joined the celebrations of the 10 year anniversary of AMBER Alert Netherlands, Luxembourg successfully used its AMBER Alert system for the first time.

## Preventing children from going missing

Preventing children from going missing is a crucial part of our work as well. In 2018, in cooperation with law enforcement experts from the Police Expert Network, AMBER Alert Europe once again developed a successful prevention campaign for children, teaching them how to go to school, safely. The campaign was rolled out in nine European countries.

## Our vision for 2019: together we help save missing children

Still, we can do more. In 2019, AMBER Alert Europe will continue to build on the momentum from 2018. Special focus will be on the further development of the Police Expert Network and the improvements of cross-border cooperation and information sharing between police.

Lastly, I am thankful that AMBER Alert Europe's efforts are supported by many partnering organisations with different areas of expertise. They include national law enforcement agencies, governments, social and legal services, NGOs and businesses from 21 countries. Even though we come from different areas and backgrounds, we all work together towards one common goal: to save missing children in Europe.



**Frank Hoen**

Founder and Chairman  
AMBER Alert Europe

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue cover.

# 01

## **European Police Expert Network on Missing Children**

# 1. European Police Expert Network on Missing Children

**AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children is the only group in Europe that consists of law enforcement specialists in the field of missing children. Currently, the Network includes over 50 law enforcement experts from 18 European countries. With 37.5 percent of Europeans living near the border, a missing child can easily cross to a neighbouring country. Because of the network, police experts know exactly who is the single point of contact for missing persons in another country.**

On 25 May 2018, Colonel Jan Rybár, Head of the Missing Persons Unit of the Czech Police Presidium, was officially appointed as the first president of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children. "The presidency is perceived as a prestigious engagement and as an acknowledgment of the work of the Czech police in the search for missing children", Colonel Rybár commented on his appointment.

## 1.1 Goal of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children

The goal of the Police Expert Network is to bring together law enforcement specialists in the field of missing children, so that they can quickly contact and consult each other about missing children cases, at any time. In addition, they can learn from each other, and exchange

best-practices and experiences on missing children cases – on national and international level. In accordance with national laws and procedures, the Police Expert Network aims to find the most effective solutions to improve the search for missing children. Besides cross-border cooperation, the Police Expert Network also provides training to competent law enforcement authorities on how to deal with missing children cases.



“The purpose of the Police Expert Network is to know about each other, to know about one's counterparts on the other side of Europe. Of course, the police has and uses standard channels for international police cooperation. These are irreplaceable. The Police Expert Network should be perceived as another tool that can help speed up the international cooperation. And in a case of a missing child, speed is crucial,”

**Colonel Jan Rybár of the Czech Police Presidium**  
*President of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children*



## 1.2 Police Expert Network on Missing Children Forum 2018

The Czech Police Presidium warmly welcomed the Network to Prague for its 2018 Forum. From December 9th-11th, over 50 police specialists on missing persons from 20 different countries attended the conference titled: Finding Missing Children: The Art of the Possible. Goal of the meeting was for law enforcement experts to meet their colleagues in neighbouring countries, exchange best practices and learn new techniques to save more missing children in Europe.

### Insights from counterterrorism

During the event, special emphasis was given to innovative techniques that are used in the fight against terrorism. Big data specialists and profiling experts demonstrated how the latest techniques used in counterterrorism can also be used to find missing children.

## European Police Expert Network on Missing Children Forum 2018

### Finding Missing Children: The Art of the Possible

9-11 December 2018  
Prague



More than 50 police specialists on missing persons from 20 different countries attended the Police Expert Network Forum 2018

### **Training by Europol and Frontex**


Special guests Wil van Gemert, Deputy Executive Director at Europol, and Duco van Heel, Anti-trafficking Coordinator at Frontex, attended the event to discuss trafficking and exploitation of (missing) children. They clearly demonstrated how the tools that Europol and Frontex are using in the battle against international human trafficking networks can be used by national law enforcement to better protect missing children.

### **New techniques to protect children at risk of going missing**

Both Frontex and the French Judicial Police focussed on the use of new preventive alerts at EU borders. These alerts are meant for children that are at risk of abduction or who might be harmed if they go missing. Information on these children will be included in the Schengen Information System (SIS), which contains information on missing persons at border controls in 30 European countries. Preventive alerts will provide law enforcement, specifically border guards, with the necessary information to keep children at risk safe.

### **Participants from 20 different countries**

In addition to Europol and Frontex, members of the national police of the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom participated in the meeting. Canada, the United States and Israel were represented as well.



"Effective networks of experts for sharing knowledge and knowing who to speak to can be critical when trying to locate missing children; these are functions that the Police Expert Network can and does provide."

#### **Charlie Hedges**

*Coordinator of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children*

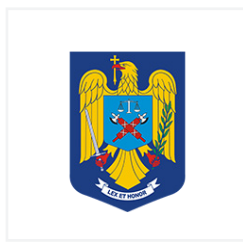
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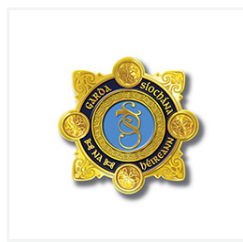
## 1.3 Members of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children



National Crime  
Agency



Romanian Police



An Garda Síochána



National Police  
Slovenia



Policia Judiciara  
Portugal



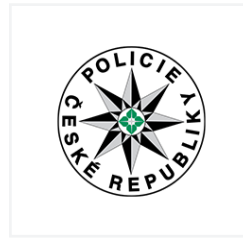
Europol



Malta Police Force



Ministerio del Interior  
Spain



Police of the Czech  
Republic



Dutch National Police



Ministry Justice and  
Security Netherlands



Frontex



Ministry of the Interior  
Italy



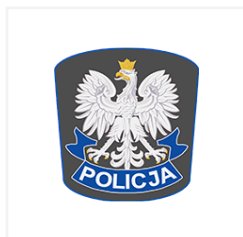
Policia Nacional Spain



Police and Border  
Guard Estonia



Missing Persons  
Bureau UK



National Police Poland



Republic of Srpska  
Police



Bundesamt für Polizei  
Switzerland



Guardia Civil Spain



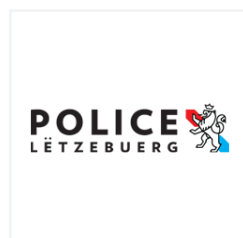
Danish National Police



Ministry of the Interior  
Slovakia



French Judicial Police



Grand Ducal  
Luxembourg



Ministry of the interior  
Czech Republic

# 02

## **AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan in 2018**

## 2. AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan in 2018

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 in Europe.

### 2.1. Point 1: More, stronger national AMBER Alert systems

AMBER Alert Europe's ultimate goal is to improve the protection of endangered missing children in Europe. Therefore, we strongly support the EU's recommendation for all Member States to have interoperating child alert systems in place. In addition, we are actively working with Member States to assist in the development of alert systems, while also helping national police experts on missing children to implement these systems. Furthermore, in the best interest of the child, countries like the UK, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland and France have issued child alerts without evidence for a proven abduction, but based on an informed risk assessment, thus significantly increasing the chances of saving a missing child's life. AMBER Alert Europe believes that this approach should be adopted for all child alerts.

#### Call for action:

AMBER Alert Europe calls for a legal, policy and operational environment that allows for the establishment of national child alert mechanisms that can interoperate cross-border. More specifically, we call on EU member states to establish national child alert systems that interoperate. Lastly, we strongly encourage an amendment of 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 or at immediate risk of serious harm.

#### 2.1.1. Activities

##### Task Force on AMBER Alerts

On January 29th, AMBER Alert Europe launched its dedicated Task Force on AMBER Alerts in order to save more missing children in Europe. Police experts on missing children from the Czech Republic, Malta, Poland and the Netherlands joined the first virtual meeting to set out the Task Force's framework and priorities.

The Task Force on AMBER Alerts provides a platform for discussion and sharing of information among missing children experts. As members of the Task force, police experts will be able to network with colleagues across Europe, to exchange best practices, and to overcome challenges when working on missing children cases. They can also learn about the latest innovations to enhance their national AMBER Alert systems.

During the meeting, all experts welcomed the establishment of the Task Force and confirmed the need for better police cooperation, training and information sharing. They furthermore agreed that enabling law enforcement to quickly connect with each other and the public is key to finding a missing child at risk.

AMBER Alert Europe encourages other missing children experts to join the Task Force on AMBER Alerts.



## Spanish Police joins AMBER Alert Europe

On April 25th, Spain was officially introduced as AMBER Alert Europe's latest member. State Secretary for Security of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior José Antonio Nieto, National Missing Persons Centre (CNDES) and AMBER Alert Europe signed the partnership agreement at the State Secretary's office in Madrid. Goal of the partnership is to further improve Spain's national AMBER Alert system, the Alerta-Menor Desaparecido.

"We are honoured to have Spain on board in our mission towards zero missing children", says Frank Hoen, founder of AMBER Alert Europe. Having strong AMBER Alert systems across Europe significantly contributes to this goal."

A Spanish AMBER Alert is issued for missing children whose life is in imminent danger or whose physical integrity is threatened. The Police is responsible for issuing an Alerta-Menor Desaparecido, which is done between 3 and 24 hours after a child was reported missing.

An Alerta-Menor Desaparecido includes information about and a picture of the missing child. Within minutes the alert is shared with the public via text message, email and on large screens throughout Spain, for example in metro stations in Madrid.



State Secretary for Security of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior José Antonio Nieto signs the partnership agreement with AMBER Alert Europe in Madrid in the presence of AMBER Alert Europe Chairman Frank Hoen (l), Chief of Cabinet Jaime Cereceda Fernández-Oruña and Coordinator of AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network Charlie Hedges (r).

## **AMBER Alert Bulgaria was launched in January**

On January 29th, Bulgaria launched its national AMBER Alert system to quickly recover missing children. The Bulgarian AMBER Alert enables law enforcement agencies to send out a notification with a recent photo and information about a missing child to all Facebook app users within a 200 km radius from the place where the child went missing. This highly increases the chances of a missing child, whose life and health are at risk, to be found.

The establishment of AMBER Alert Bulgaria followed the country's earlier commitment to improve the search for missing children. At the Salzburg Forum in 2016, Bulgaria was one of nine Central-Eastern European countries that signed the Joint Declaration to involve more citizens in the search for a missing child and to cooperate more closely with police from the neighbouring countries on missing children cases.

## **Lithuania launched its AMBER Alert system in March**

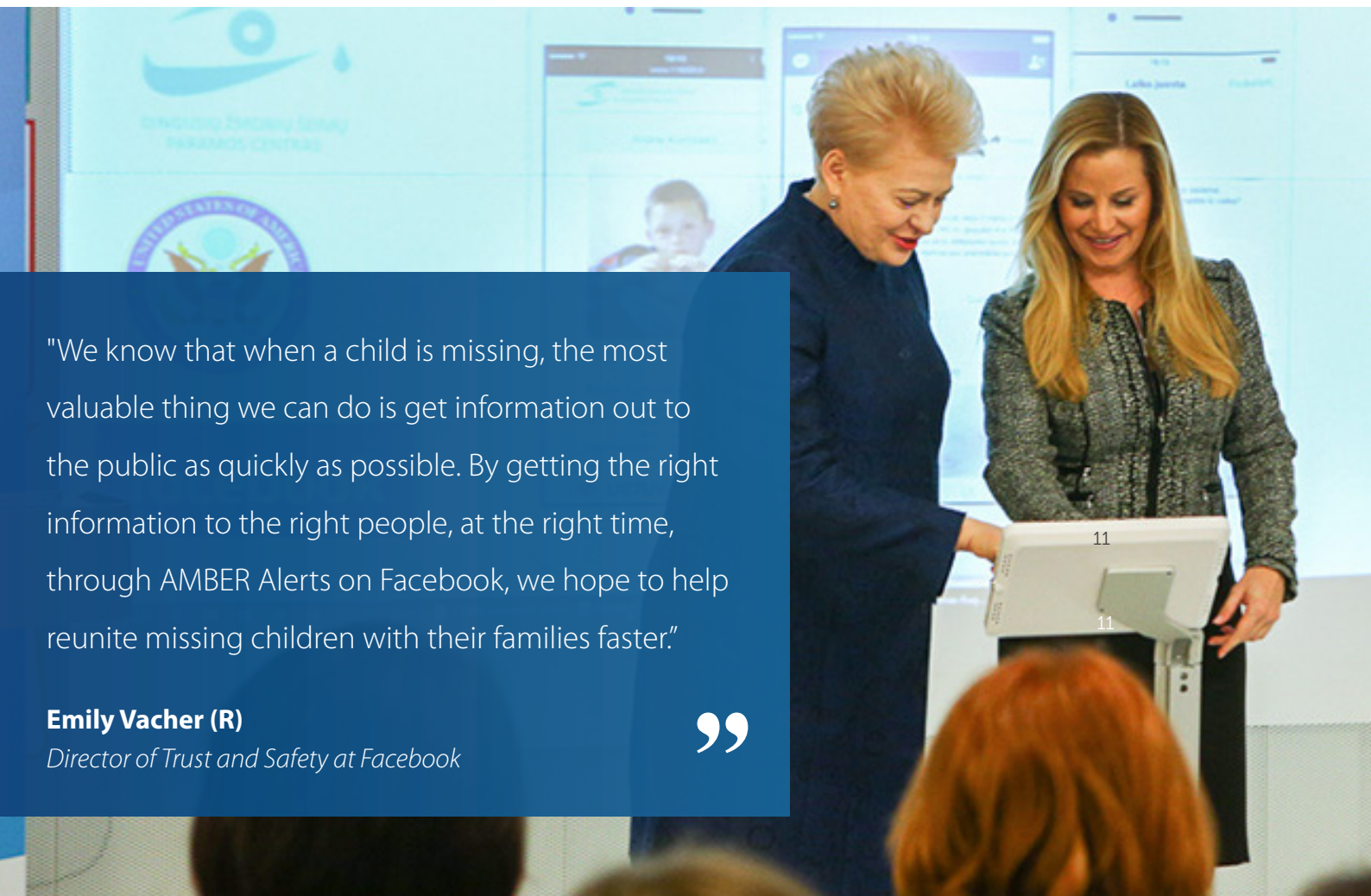
On March 14th, Lithuania, in cooperation with Facebook, also launched its national AMBER Alert system. Similar to the system in Bulgaria, the Lithuanian AMBER Alert enables law enforcement to send a notification with a recent photo and information about a missing child to all Facebook app users within a 200 km radius from the location where the child was last seen. AMBER Alert Europe member Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC) was one of the initiators of AMBER Alert Lithuania. During the launch, Natalja Kurčinskaja, Director of MPFSC, also received the Courageous Woman Award for her work on missing children.

"We know that when a child is missing, the most valuable thing we can do is get information out to the public as quickly as possible. By getting the right information to the right people, at the right time, through AMBER Alerts on Facebook, we hope to help reunite missing children with their families faster."

**Emily Vacher (R)**

*Director of Trust and Safety at Facebook*

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## 10 year anniversary of AMBER Alert Netherlands

On November 11th, AMBER Alert Netherlands celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The Dutch AMBER Alert was one of the first AMBER Alert systems to be introduced in Europe and is a founding partner of AMBER Alert Europe. It also served as the prime example for the AMBER Alert systems in Luxembourg, Malta and Slovakia, which were created in cooperation with AMBER Alert Europe and the Dutch National Police.

Since 2008, the Dutch AMBER Alert system has been deployed for 25 AMBER Alerts and 984 Missing Child Alerts. In 94 percent of the alerts, the children were successfully found. Due to the selfless cooperation of thousands of organisations such as Facebook and Google,

which share the AMBER Alert once it has been issued, no less than 12 million Dutch people are notified when a child goes missing; making it the most successful citizen sourcing initiative in Europe. In addition to its national reach, Dutch AMBER Alerts can be shared abroad when the police believe the child has crossed the border.



A portrait of Minister Felix Braz, a middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is seated in a black office chair against a plain, light-colored wall.

“Luxembourg is along with Malta one of the countries that have recently joined the AMBER Alert system. I would like to thank the AMBER Alert team for their commitment and help during the whole launch period of the system in Luxembourg. I wish you all a very happy birthday!”

**Minister Felix Braz**

*Luxembourg*

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“I would like to thank the Dutch police and AMBER Alert for their support in creating the Maltese AMBER Alert. I wish AMBER Alert an even greater success in its invaluable contribution to society for many years to come.”

**Minister Carmelo Abela**

*Malta*



## 2.2 Point 2: Better cross-border law enforcement cooperation

With over 37 percent of Europeans living near a border, a missing child can easily cross to a neighbouring country. Research shows that on average 1 out of 4 abducted children is taken abroad. Therefore, missing children police experts must have the possibility, when needed, to pick up the phone and quickly contact their colleagues in another European country on specific missing children cases. The AMBER Alert Europe-run Police Expert Network on Missing Children has already showcased the necessity for mutual learning, exchange of best practices, as well as development of innovative working methods which may be transferable to other countries.

### **Call for action:**

AMBER Alert Europe calls for the appointment of a national Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who has expertise in endangered missing children, appointed by the relevant authorities in each European country. The SPOC is the first point of contact for other countries when a child goes missing and might have crossed the border. The SPOC is also the first point of contact for sharing of police expert best practices and relevant documents on the topic of endangered missing children.

### 2.2.1. Activities

#### **European Police Expert Network on Missing Children**

AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children consists of over 50 law enforcement experts from 18 European countries. Goal of the Police Expert Network is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing children. In order to save more missing children across Europe, members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing children cases. The Police Expert Network on Missing Children also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. The Network currently consists of experts from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Srpska, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **Closer cooperation with France**

On June 25th, AMBER Alert Europe visited the headquarters of the French Judicial Police at the Ministry of the Interior in Nanterre, Paris. The aim of the visit was to get a better understanding of the future development of the French missing child system, Alerte Enlèvement, as well as to further enhance cooperation between both AMBER Alert Europe and the specialised missing persons unit of the French police (OCRVP). OCRVP is a long standing member of AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children.

During the visit, AMBER Alert Europe was given an insight into the future development of the French Alerte Enlèvement. The national missing child system sends a mass notification to the public when a child has been abducted, allowing a rapid dissemination of information about the child via TV channels, radio, highway

signs, railway stations, social media and websites. Alerte Enlèvement, which was the first missing child system in Europe, was introduced in 2006. Since then, there have been 22 activations of the system, all of which were successful.

### **The Republic of Srpska joins AMBER Alert Europe**

On September 5th, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska officially joined AMBER Alert Europe. The Republic of Srpska, also known as the Serb Republic, is part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Republic is home to 1,2 million people. In addition to becoming a member, the Republic of Srpska's Crime Police Directorate has joined AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children.



L-R: AMBER Alert Europe's Charlie Hedges and Frank Hoen met up with Philippe Guichard, Lenaig Le Bail, Magali Eyraud and Audrey Talles of the specialised missing persons unit of the French Judicial Police (OCRVP)



## 2.3 Point 3: Better cross-border information sharing

Border and law enforcement authorities must have appropriate access to all relevant information when it will help them do their job. The value of our security information is maximised when existing databases, systems and border and law enforcement experts talk to each other.

### Call for action:

AMBER Alert Europe calls for protocols to ensure that when a child is at risk in a border area or law enforcement suspects that the child may have crossed the border, law enforcement agencies in the other country are informed immediately. When law enforcement decides to inform the media and public about such a case, media and public at the other side of the border should also be immediately informed.

### 2.3.1. Activities

#### AMBER Alert! Dutch baby Hannah safely recovered in Germany

In February, AMBER Alert Europe disseminated a Dutch AMBER Alert for 6-month-old baby Hannah. The little girl, who had been placed in foster care to protect her from abuse, was violently taken by her biological parents. Because police feared the abductors had crossed the border, the Dutch AMBER Alert was also shared with police and residents in Belgium and Germany. A vigilant citizen saw the AMBER Alert, which led to the quick recovery of the girl in a German town near the Netherlands. The baby was brought back safe and sound, while the abductors were arrested. The case is a leading example of the importance of quick and effective cross-border information sharing to save missing children.

According to a study by Dutch statistics bureau Peil.nl, the AMBER Alert for baby Hannah reached 89 percent of the adult Dutch population. This equals over 12 million citizens.





### **First AMBER Alert in Luxembourg crosses borders**

On June 26th, Luxembourg launched its first ever AMBER Alert, in response to the violent parental abduction of 7-year-old Max. The young boy was kidnapped by his father in the early hours of the morning in front of his school in Luxembourg City. The father was considered to be dangerous because of a mental disorder. Max was taken in a grey Honda, which was parked in the vicinity of the school. Bystanders witnessed the abduction.

Luxembourg's judicial police inquiry immediately focused on the whereabouts of father and son. Later in the morning, the judicial public prosecutor agreed to notify the population by launching an AMBER Alert with specific details and photos of the boy, the father and the vehicle. The notification was spread via media, social media and on billboards and traffic boards nearby Luxembourg's main highways. It reached approximately 300.000 people via

Facebook and Twitter. Simultaneously, a European arrest warrant was issued against the father of the boy.

That same day, Luxembourg police was able to locate the father and the child in France, close to the Luxembourg border. The father was arrested by French police officers and extradited to his home country to face criminal charges. Max was brought home safely.

### **Euregional cooperation on missing persons**

In collaboration with the Euregion Meuse-Rhine and the Dutch Province of Limburg, AMBER Alert Europe continues its cross-border project aimed at recovering missing persons close to the border of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Over 50 regional media outlets in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany have signed up to be quickly informed when a vulnerable person is missing in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine.

“Missing Children is an issue that every country is confronted with - from a social and law enforcement perspective. I believe that every person can play a role to protect children and when we come together, we build a global community that provides children with a safe childhood.”

**Caroline Humer**

*Director of the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children*

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## 2.4 Point 4: Improving the identification and protection of missing children at risk

Raising awareness and providing practical guidance for police experts and border guards is essential to identify and protect children that may be at serious risk of harm, for example by means of trafficking, smuggling or abduction. In cooperation with relevant stakeholders, AMBER Alert Europe has done extensive work on what is risk; why it is essential for a so-called triage process (i.e. risk assessment) to take place when a child is reported missing; how risk should be evaluated over time; and how to prevent oneself from making bad assumptions.

In accordance with the best interest of the child, law enforcement should make a timely assessment of a child's risk of abduction or a child's risk of harm if the child goes missing. This assessment could then, for example, lead authorities to issue a preventive SIS alert.

### Call for action:

AMBER Alert Europe calls for the mandatory insertion and prioritisation of endangered missing children in the Schengen Information System, ensuring that international procedures for entering Article 32 Alerts (Missing Persons) are always followed. In order for this to have effect, the passports of children leaving or entering the EU should be swiped and checked against, at the very least, national- and SIS II databases.

At the same time, AMBER Alert Europe calls for actively notifying border guards, at the very least, about information on endangered missing children and child alerts made public by law enforcement agencies. Subsequently, raising awareness and providing for practical guidance for police and border guards should enable them to assess which children are at risk, and ensure that these children are protected.





### 2.4.1. Proper risk assessment is a child's basic right

When a missing child is reported to the police, law enforcement agencies should make a timely assessment to qualify or disqualify the risk for the life or well-being of the missing child. This risk assessment is crucial in order to determine which steps need to be taken to successfully recover the child. For instance, police can decide to issue a national AMBER Alert to involve citizens in the search. Based on several international treaties, this risk assessment is not only a vital part of the investigation, but a missing child's right.

Core to this process is assessing the level of risk to the missing person and how immediate that risk is. This assessment and the particular circumstances of the case should shape the response. Under-reaction can result in serious harm or death to the child. Over-reaction and doing too much is a waste of resources and potentially an unwarranted intrusion on a child's privacy.

Questions such as 'Does their age make them particularly vulnerable?'; 'Is their behaviour out of character?'; 'Do they suffer from a life-threatening illness or require medication?' or 'Are there adverse weather conditions likely to put them at risk?'; among others, all determine the level of risk a missing child is in.

European countries have an extensive legal obligation to protect the lives of all children within its borders. This obligation is based on different international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Treaty on Human Rights. Seeing how proper risk assessment is potentially life saving, it should be considered a missing child's right



## Guide on risk assessment

### Understanding and Managing Risk in the Context of Missing Persons

In consultation with missing children law enforcement experts from all over Europe and Canada, AMBER Alert Europe has developed a decision-making guide on risk management. A quick risk assessment is crucial to identify the correct response.

Download the guide here:

<https://ftp.amberalert.eu/risk/risk-assessment.pdf>

## 2.4.2. Activities

### Child-friendly fingerprinting to protect migrant children from going missing

Each year, a large number of migrant children coming to the European Union disappear without a trace. Many of them risk ending up in the hands of traffickers. Taking these children's fingerprints at the European border can prevent them from going missing or from becoming victims of human trafficking. However, taking a child's fingerprints should be done in full respect of children's rights.

As smugglers increasingly target very young children, AMBER Alert Europe welcomed the European Commission's legislative proposal to use fingerprinting identification for children from the age of six and include them in biometric database Eurodac.

In order to guarantee that children's rights are protected throughout the fingerprinting process, law enforcement authorities should have strong procedural safeguards in place:

- Prior to having their fingerprints taken, children should receive an explanation appropriate to their age so that they understand why their fingerprints are needed.
- During the procedure, an adult representative or guardian must be present to help the child feel comfortable as well as ensure that the child's rights are respected.
- Lastly, each law enforcement authority should have experts specifically trained to engage with children. These experts can help identify children in an especially vulnerable situation such as victims of human trafficking.



### **2.4.2. Preventive alerts to better protect children at EU borders**

On December 28th, new rules to strengthen the Schengen Information System (SIS) came into force, to help national law enforcement (especially border guards) better monitor who is crossing European borders. AMBER Alert Europe, in cooperation with the Dutch, Slovak and Maltese Presidencies of the Council of the EU, successfully lobbied for the new rules to include so-called “preventive alerts” for children at risk of going missing, in order to better protect children across Europe.

Currently, the SIS enables police and border guards to enter and consult information on wanted or missing persons. Children at risk of abduction or who might be harmed if they go missing are not included. The new SIS rules will change that. By entering preventive alerts for children at risk of going missing into SIS, law enforcement will be able to prevent some of these children from disappearing.

AMBER Alert Europe has actively advocated the inclusion of preventive alerts in SIS, not only for children at risk of abduction but also for children who might be harmed if they go missing in another manner. The European Parliament and the EU Ministers have supported AMBER Alert Europe's point of view.

### **Preventive alerts can better protect children**

Children who are vulnerable and at risk when they go missing must be found as soon as possible. If law enforcement must wait to respond until after a child's location is unknown, it takes more time to start the search. In the meantime, the child can travel a great distance, sometimes crossing borders. If a child is abducted and taken across a border, the search becomes even more difficult. Preventive alerts can locate these children earlier and stop them from crossing borders, helping in a speedy recovery.

### **The Schengen Information System**

The SIS is Europe's most important information sharing system for security and border management. The SIS provides around 79 million records on persons who do not have the right to enter or stay in the Schengen area, persons wanted for criminal activities, missing persons, and details of lost or stolen objects (for example cars, firearms, boats and identity documents). It also includes data that is needed to locate a person and confirm their identity. Over 30 countries throughout Europe are part of the SIS. In three years, the new SIS rules will be fully operational.



## 2.5 Point 5: Privacy and the right to erasure

Placing information about a missing child at risk in the public domain increases the chances to find the child safe and sound. At the same time, this may have consequences for the privacy of the child and the child's family. In line with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and relevant national legislation, AMBER Alert Europe believes that for a child that is reported as missing, privacy should be embedded in the risk assessment process to be followed by the relevant police experts. In this process, the best interest of the child should always be the focal point. Therefore, once found, children should have "the right to erasure" and their information should be removed from public sources.

### Call for action:

Respecting the privacy of the child is crucial in every step of a missing investigation, and its aftermath. AMBER Alert Europe calls on all relevant stakeholders to jointly work out best practices for standardising the process of

removing information on missing children from public spaces, as well as best practices for police experts on how privacy is best embedded in the risk assessment process used in a missing investigation.

### 2.5.1. Activities

#### Right to erasure

When an AMBER Alert is issued, the personal data of a missing child (name, gender, age, other specifications), as well as a photograph, is shared with the public in order to quickly retrieve the child. AMBER Alert Europe actively requests its participating organisations and the public to immediately remove any information about a missing child after the AMBER Alert has been cancelled. This to protect the child's privacy and to shield the child from any negative consequences in the future. AMBER Alert Europe will continue to emphasise privacy protection in the coming years, always putting the best interest of the child first.



## Shared

Only share information about a missing child that is made public by law enforcement



## Found

Has the child been found? Great! But what should you do with the information you shared?



## Erased

Erase all information about the child to prevent it from causing harm in the future



# 03

## **International Missing Children's Day 2018**

### 3. International Missing Children's Day 2018

On the occasion of International Missing Children's Day, AMBER Alert Europe launched an international prevention campaign to educate children across Europe on how to protect themselves from getting lost or against a possible abduction. Parents were also schooled on what to do when their child goes missing. The prevention campaign was shared by police in Slovenia, France, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Poland and the Czech

#### Republic.

"More than one million children go missing each year in Europe," said AMBER Alert Europe's Chairman Frank Hoen during the launch. "There are ways to decrease this number, one of which is prevention."

Part of the campaign was a colouring page with prevention tips for children. The colouring page was created in cooperation with members of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children, consisting of over 50 law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons from 18 countries. With the colouring page, which depicts the route from home to school, children were taught how to get to school and back safely.

#### Tips for parents

Through the campaign, parents were also instructed on what to do in the event their child does go missing. With the help of an animated video, parents were informed of all the steps that need to be taken when dealing with a lost child.

"Of course contacting your local police is essential, but there are several things parents can do themselves in order to safely retrieve their child as quickly as possible," remarked Hoen. "If a small child goes missing, for instance, it is important to check dangerous places in the vicinity, such as busy roads and water, first."



Police Expert Network member Ms. Radka Capková of the Czech Police Presidium talks about prevention on Czech national television





# 04

**Statistics 2018**

## 4. Statistics 2018

**AMBER Alert Europe only maps AMBER Alerts and Child Alerts issued by law enforcement authorities across Europe. The aim of this data collection is to gain better knowledge into the number of AMBER Alerts and Child Alerts shared by law enforcement or police-mandated organisations and the use of AMBER Alert systems in Europe.**

The data in this report are collected by daily monitoring of law enforcement and police-mandated organisations' websites from European Union Member States. This data does not represent the total number of children who annually go missing in Europe.

### 4.1 Criteria for an AMBER Alert

The decision to launch an AMBER Alert is country-specific. In the Netherlands for example, the National Police is responsible for issuing AMBER Alerts. In other countries the Public Prosecutor has the final say. In general, however, the following criteria are used:

- The victim is a minor (i.e. under 18 years of age);
- It is a proven abduction or there are clear elements indicating that it could be a case of abduction, and/or the health or the life of the victim is at high risk;
- Information is available which, once disseminated, will allow the victim to be located. Publication of this information is not expected to add to the risk facing the victim;
- There are good reasons to believe that the perpetrator has crossed the border with the child, or the abduction occurred in a region very close to a border that can be an escape route for the perpetrator.

Of course, other cases of child disappearances are also important, and, in some of these cases, publicity can help find the child more quickly. The level and the kind of publicity for endangered missing children strongly differs per country. In some countries, for example, the police ask the public to help via Twitter or Facebook, while the police in other countries use targeted SMS text messages in the area where the child went missing.

## 4.2 Yearly statistics 2018

In 2018, competent law enforcement issued 26 AMBER Alerts for 30 missing children in Europe. In 97 percent of these cases, the children were safely recovered. In the Netherlands, for example, a 6-month-old baby girl was found thanks to a cross-border AMBER Alert. In Luxembourg, a 7-year-old boy was located after the country issued its first AMBER Alert ever.

### Successful cross-border cases in 2018

In the Netherlands, informing the public resulted in the successful recovery of a 6-month-old baby girl. The infant, who was placed in foster care, was violently taken by her biological parents in February. Because police feared they had crossed the border, the Dutch AMBER Alert was also shared with police and citizens in Belgium and Germany. A vigilant citizen saw the AMBER Alert, which led to the quick recovery of the girl in a German town near the Netherlands. The baby was found in good health.

In June, Luxembourgish police authorities, in turn, issued their first ever AMBER Alert in response to a violent parental abduction of a 7-year-old boy. The child was kidnapped in front of his school by his father, who was considered to be dangerous. The AMBER Alert was shared via media, social media and on billboards and traffic boards nearby Luxembourg's main highways. Simultaneously, a European arrest warrant was issued against the father of the boy. That same day, Luxembourg police were able to locate father and child in the French city of Villerupt close to the border. While the child was reunited with his mother, the father was arrested by French police officers and extradited to his home country to face criminal charges.

### AMBER ALERT - LUXEMBOURG

## Amber alert issued for kidnapped young boy

RTL | Update: 26.06.2018 13:17



In June, Luxembourg issued its first AMBER Alert for a seven-year-old boy. The child was later found in the company of his father in France.



2018

26 ALERTS

FOR 30 CHILDREN

97%

were **successfully** recovered

18 GIRLS



12 BOYS



Q1

9

ALERTS

Q2

9

ALERTS

Q3

3

ALERTS

Q4

5

ALERTS



1 ALERT IN **FRANCE**

13 ALERTS IN **THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

1 ALERT IN **LUXEMBOURG**

1 ALERT IN **IRELAND**

9 ALERTS IN **GREECE**

1 ALERT IN **THE NETHERLANDS**

## 4.3 Quarterly statistics 2018

### Quarter 1: January – March

In the first quarter of 2018, competent law enforcement issued 9 AMBER Alerts for 10 children across Europe. The AMBER Alerts were issued in France (1), Czech Republic (2), Greece (5) and the Netherlands (1). In 80 percent of the cases, the children were safely recovered. In the Netherlands, for example, a national AMBER Alert successfully ended the search for a 6-month-old baby abducted by her biological parents. In France, a 2-month-old boy was found alive after the issuance of a national AMBER Alert, an Alerte Enlèvement.

### 2018: QUARTER 1

9 ALERTS  
FOR 10 CHILDREN

80%  
were successfully recovered

6 GIRLS



4 BOYS



JAN

4

ALERTS

FEB

3

ALERT

MAR

2

ALERTS

1 ALERT IN THE NETHERLANDS

5 ALERTS IN GREECE

1 ALERT IN FRANCE

2 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### 2017: QUARTER 2

9 ALERTS  
FOR 12 CHILDREN

92%  
were successfully recovered

9 GIRLS



3 BOYS



APR

2

ALERTS

MAY

1

ALERT

JUNE

6

ALERTS

### Quarter 2: April – June

In April, May and June, AMBER Alert Europe shared 9 AMBER Alerts for 12 children. These Alerts were issued in Luxembourg (1), Czech Republic (6) and Greece (2). All children were recovered safe and sound. In June, a Luxembourgish boy, for whom the first ever Luxembourgish AMBER Alert was issued, was found in good health in France.

2 ALERTS IN GREECE

1 ALERT IN LUXEMBOURG

6 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### Quarter 3: July – September

In July, August and September, AMBER Alert Europe shared 3 AMBER Alerts for 3 children. All children were recovered safe and sound. On July 2nd, a national AMBER Alert was issued in Greece for a 12-year-old boy who went missing near the Acropolis area in Athens. The child was found in good health the following day. In September, Czech citizens were asked to be on the lookout for 2 missing girls. Both girls, aged 11 and 13, were retrieved within 24 hours.

#### 2018: QUARTER 3

**3 ALERTS**  
FOR **3 CHILDREN**

**100%**  
were **successfully** recovered

**2 GIRLS 1 BOY**



**JULY**

**1**

ALERT

**AUG**

**0**

ALERTS

**SEPT**

**2**

ALERTS

**1 ALERT IN GREECE**

**2 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

#### 2018: QUARTER 4

**5 ALERTS**  
FOR **5 CHILDREN**

**100%**  
were **successfully** recovered

**1 GIRL 4 BOYS**



**OCT**

**2**

ALERTS

**NOV**

**3**

ALERTS

**DEC**

**0**

ALERTS

**1 ALERT IN GREECE**

**1 ALERT IN IRELAND**

**3 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

### Quarter 4: October – December

In the final quarter of 2018, AMBER Alert Europe shared 5 AMBER Alerts for 5 children, issued by law enforcement from the Czech Republic (3), Greece (1) and Ireland (1), where a 3-year-old boy had been taken from his home in November. All children were safely recovered.








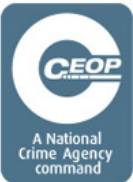













# 05

## **Participating Organisations and Partners**

## 5. Participating Organisations and Partners

AMBER Alert Europe is backed by law enforcement experts on missing children, civil society, business and 465 members of the European Parliament. AMBER Alert Europe has 30 participating organisations in 21 countries, 12 of which are law enforcement organisations. It also works closely together with 2 partner organisations.

### 5.1 Participating Organisations

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|    |    |    |   |    |
| AMBER Alert Netherlands, Netherlands  | Dutch Missing Persons Bureau, National Police, Netherlands                          | Initiative Vermisste Kinder, Germany  | Ministry for Home Affairs and Security, Malta   | Ministère de la Sécurité Intérieure, Luxembourg                                       |
|  |  |  |   |  |
| National Police – Central Operational Service, Italy                                | Dutch National Police   | Malta Police Force, Malta   | ITAKA, Centre for Missing People, Poland  | Ministère de la Justice, Luxembourg   |
|  |  |  |    |  |
| La Police Grand-Ducale, Luxembourg  | Missing Persons Center KGP, National Police, Poland                                 | Child Helpline at Slovak Committee for UNICEF, 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, Greece      | Ponimanie, NGO focused on child protection, Belarus                                 | Save the Children, Romania  | ICMEC, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, US  | Groupcall, United Kingdom   |



ROCIT, Regional Centre of Public Internet Technologies, Russia



RijnmondVeilig, The crisis alert platform in the Dutch region of Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Netherlands



APCD, Associação Portuguesa e Crianças Desaparecidas, Portugal



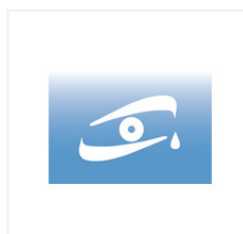
Missing Children Society of Canada, Canada



Kadunud, Estonia



Österreich Findet Euch, Austria



Missing Persons' Families Support Centre Lithuania



CNDES, Centro Nacional de Desaparecidos, National Police and Guardia Civil, Spain



Ministry of the Interior, Spain



Ministry of the Interior, The Republic of Srpska



“

“I'm proud to be part of the Amber Alert Europe network. By working together, we can optimise our efforts to keep children safe from abduction and going missing.”

**Geoff Newiss**

*Director of Action Against Abduction*



### 5.1.1 New Participating Organisations

In 2018, AMBER Alert Europe welcomed two new participating organisations: the Spanish National Missing Persons Centre (CNDES) and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska.

#### National Missing Persons Centre (CNDES)

CNDES falls under the Ministry of the Interior of Spain and is the Spanish national coordinating authority for missing persons. It also acts as the contact point for national and international cooperation and brings law enforcement in contact with the public, qualified private organisations and the media, whose participation is essential for the eventual distribution of warnings, alerts or requests for public cooperation.

#### The Republic of Srpska

The Republic of Srpska, also known as the Serb Republic, is part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Republic is home to 1,2 million people. "We are proud to introduce the Republic of Sprska as the newest member of AMBER Alert Europe," said Frank Hoen, Chairman of AMBER Alert Europe. "We look forward to working with the Ministry and with the Republic's law enforcement experts towards our mission to reach zero missing children in Europe."

## 5.2 Partners

Since 2016, AMBER Alert Europe has joined forces with Victim Support Europe and Eurojust to save the lives of missing children.

Victim Support Europe provides support and information services to victims of crime. Representing more than 40 national organisations, Victim Support Europe advocates on behalf of more than 2 million people affected by crime.

Eurojust, in turn, is the European agency responsible for dealing with judicial cooperation in criminal matters. When a serious crime has been committed against a child, Eurojust initiates cooperation between EU member states.



Victim Support Europe



Eurojust

## 5.3 Sponsors

AMBER Alert has the support of thousands of organisations that voluntarily aid the search when a child goes missing. These sponsors make their knowledge and technology available in various ways to quickly find missing children with AMBER Alert. The power of crowdsourcing has made the AMBER Alert platform so extensive and progressive. Partners think along with AMBER Alert, so that the system becomes stronger, more extensive and more effective.

Everyone contributes in their own unique way. Shell, for example, displays information about missing children at 230 filling stations throughout the Netherlands. By doing so, the chance of a successful outcome is considerably increased.

Below you can find a few of our sponsors:

### **TRUE**

The website of AMBER Alert is more powerful than ever since the gratuitous support of our hosting partner TRUE. The Amsterdam-based IT company keeps the AMBER Alert platform, including our website, up and running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When a child goes missing, the AMBER Alert website is now able to process one hundred times as many page views as Dutch top websites.

The services are provided entirely free of charge and can be quantified at an amount of approximately € 160,000 annually, plus a one-off investment in 2018 of € 6,450, which has not been charged.

### **Axon Advocaten**

Axon is a law firm based in Amsterdam that specializes in internationally oriented services. They apply an hourly rate of € 325 (excl. VAT). The service, as requested by AMBER Alert Europe, is provided free of charge. An exact amount to be quantified cannot be provided in advance. No min-max has been agreed upon between parties.

### **Sentia**

IT company Sentia supports companies with cloud-related IT solutions. The support provided to AMBER Alert Europe was done free of charge and could be quantified at around € 17,000 annually. As of April 30th, 2018, Sentia has cancelled its sponsorship.

### **Accon AVM**

Accon AVM provides AMBER Alert Europe with financial advice, as well as financial statements. This service is provided free of charge and can be quantified at € 10,000 annually.

### **Notariaat Pas**

A contract has been concluded with notary office Notariaat Pas whereby the necessary notarial-legal advice and support will be given free of charge. This is difficult to quantify in advance.

### **CompuTest**

CompuTest performs a periodic "stress test" of the AMBER Alert Europe systems. This service is free of charge and can be quantified at € 7,000 annually.

# 06

**AMBER Alert Europe  
Board**



## 6. AMBER Alert Europe Board

AMBER Alert Europe is run by a Board of Directors, who develop policy and execute tasks at the benefit of the foundation. AMBER Alert Europe's Advisory Board functions as an advisory organ to the Board of Directors, regarding the foundation's policy and general affairs.

AMBER Alert Europe's Board and Advisory Board are composed of a selection of experts from law enforcement, academia, civil service as well as civil society. Board membership is an honorary position. Board members do not receive a salary.

### Board of Directors

---



**Dr. Petra Binková (Czech Republic)**

Expert in crime prevention and specialised in the field of violence on children, formerly 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

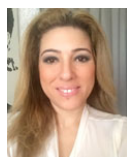
### Advisory Board

---



**Carmelo Abela (Malta)**

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion



**Patrícia De Sousa Cipriano (Portugal)**

Associação Portuguesa de Crianças Desaparecidas



**Caroline Humer (USA)**

International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children



**Henk Jansen (The Netherlands)**

Independent Security and Investigations Professional, former Dutch Police



**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

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue cover.

# 01

## Annex

# Financial Report

## 2018

**STICHTING AMBER ALERT EUROPE  
AT BEEK**

Annual Report 2018





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## **REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANT**



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

AUSTRALIËLAAN 10  
6199 AA MAASTRICHT-AIRPORT  
TEL 043 - 358 59 59  
FAX 043 - 358 50 95  
WWW.ACCONAVM.NL

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

Reference: 03065479  
Processed by: K.A.M. (Klm) Boon  
Date: June, 20th 2019

Dear board of directors,

We hereby send you the report regarding the financial statements of your foundation for the year 2018.

## **1 ASSIGNMENT**

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, 2018 and statement of income and expenses 2018, 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.ACCONAVM.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, 2018 and the profit and loss account for the year 2018 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.

## **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**





**2018 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Financial Report will be included in the Annual Report of 2018.



## **COMPANY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018**

- Balance sheet
- Statement of income and expenses
- Notes to the balance sheet and statement of income and expenses





|  |     | December 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
|  |     | €                 | €                 |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>                      |     |                   |                   |
| <b>Equity</b>                                      | (3) |                   |                   |
| Other reserves                                     |     | 7,791             | -444,896          |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>                     | (4) |                   |                   |
| Other debt   |     | 0                 | 440,000           |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                         | (5) |                   |                   |
| Trade creditors                                    |     | 3,622             | 3,722             |
| Taxes and social securities                        |     | 5,579             | 5,100             |
| Other liabilities and Accruals and deferred income |     | 6,195             | 8,423             |
|  |     | <u>15,396</u>     | <u>17,245</u>     |

23,187

12,349



## 2 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES 2018

|   |      | Balance 2018 | Balance 2017 |
|---|------|--------------|--------------|
|   |      | €            | €            |
| <b>Income</b>   |      |              |              |
| Income from Businesses  | (6)  | 68,773       | 31,176       |
| Benefits from individuals   | (7)  | 368          | 2,809        |
| Financial income  | (8)  | -150         | 200          |
| Other benefits  | (9)  | 3,999        | 3,288        |
| <b>Sum of the benefits</b>  |      |              |              |
|   |      | 72,990       | 37,473       |
| <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 | (10) | 232,465      | 269,175      |
| <b>Management and administration</b>  |      |              |              |
| Other operating expenses  | (11) | 10,241       | 18,302       |
| <b>Balance before financial income and expense</b>  |      | -169,716     | -250,004     |
| Financial expenses  | (12) | -2,597       | -3,525       |
| Extraordinary income  | (13) | 625,000      | 0            |
| <b>Result</b>   |      |              |              |
| Other reserves  |      | 452,687      | -253,529     |



### **3 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **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 2018 has been prepared in accordance with directive RJ650 'Fondswervende organisaties 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 expenses**

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

#### **Extraordinary income and expenses**

Extraordinary income and expense comprises income and expenses who differ highly from ordinary operations and have therefore an extremely incidental character.



### 3.4 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

|   | 12/31/2018 | 12/31/2017 |
|---|------------|------------|
|   | €          | €          |
| <b>1. Receivables, prepayments and accrued income</b> |            |            |
| Other receivables, deferred assets                    | 1,446      | 1,231      |
| <b>2. Cash and cash equivalents</b>                   |            |            |
| Rabobank NL31RABO0177498633                           | 21,548     | 10,926     |
| Rabobank NL58RABO3464305996                           | 105        | 104        |
| Cash  | 88         | 88         |
|   | 21,741     | 11,118     |

## EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

### 3. Equity

|                                   |          |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Other reserves                    | 7,791    | -444,896 |
|                                   | 2018     | 2017     |
|                                   | €        | €        |
| <i>Other reserves</i>             |          |          |
| Carrying amount as of January 1   | -444,896 | -191,367 |
| Result allocation                 | 452,687  | -253,529 |
| Carrying amount as of December 31 | 7,791    | -444,896 |

The purpose of the foundation is to be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe. In accordance with the statutes of the foundation there is no profit motive.

The result from the current financial year is allocated to the other reserves.

The statutes of the foundation don't determine a minimum or maximum balance of the other reserves. The foundation hasn't formed a specific allocation reserve.



#### **4. Non-current liabilities**

|                   | <u>12/31/2018</u> | <u>12/31/2017</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                   | €                 | €                 |
| <b>Other debt</b> |                   |                   |
| Current Account   | <u>0</u>          | <u>440,000</u>    |

The balance of the Current Account per December 31 before remission totals at € 625.000.

The full amount has been remitted per December 31. The balance of the Current Account per December 31 after remission totals at € 0.

#### **5. Current liabilities**

##### **Trade creditors**

|           |              |              |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Creditors | <u>3,622</u> | <u>3,722</u> |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|

##### **Taxes and social securities**

|              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pay-roll tax | <u>5,579</u> | <u>5,100</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|

##### **Accruals and deferred income**

|                                |              |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Holiday bonus                  | 6,063        | 4,959        |
| Bank charges / insurance costs | 132          | 964          |
| Advanced payment received      | <u>0</u>     | <u>2,500</u> |
|                                | <u>6,195</u> | <u>8,423</u> |





### **3.5 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES 2018**

|  | <u>Balance 2018</u> | <u>Balance 2017</u> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | €                   | €                   |
| <b>6. Income from Businesses</b>   |                     |                     |
| Donations and gifts  | <u>68,773</u>       | <u>31,176</u>       |
| These donations and gifts from Businesses are donated by Beheermaatschappij Eureka Communications B.V. and Netpresenter B.V..  |                     |                     |
| <b>7. Benefits from individuals</b>  |                     |                     |
| Donations and gifts  | <u>368</u>          | <u>2,809</u>        |
| <b>8. Financial income</b>   |                     |                     |
| Interest Revenue   | 0                   | 1                   |
| Benefit currency difference  | <u>-150</u>         | <u>199</u>          |
|  | <u>-150</u>         | <u>200</u>          |
| <b>9. Other benefits</b>   |                     |                     |
| Received fees  | <u>3,999</u>        | <u>3,288</u>        |
| Besides above mentioned income, AMBER Alert Europe receives most of its sponsorships in kind. Several companies and individuals offer their services free of charge in the context of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). These sponsorships in kind are specified and valued in the annual report. |                     |                     |
| <b>Spend on the purposes</b>   |                     |                     |
| <b>10. To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe</b>   |                     |                     |
| Expenses spend on the purpose  | <u>232,465</u>      | <u>269,175</u>      |
| <b>Staff</b>   |                     |                     |
| At partnership during 2018, an average 4 employees were employed (2017: 4).  |                     |                     |
| <b>11. Other operating expenses</b>  |                     |                     |
| Office expenses  | 4,540               | 5,314               |
| General expenses   | <u>5,701</u>        | <u>12,988</u>       |
|  | <u>10,241</u>       | <u>18,302</u>       |
| <b>12. Financial expenses</b>  |                     |                     |
| Interest and similar expenses  | <u>-2,597</u>       | <u>-3,525</u>       |



|                                      | Balance 2018  | Balance 2017  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | €             | €             |
| <b>Interest and similar expenses</b> |               |               |
| Bank charges                         | -397          | -325          |
| Current Account                      | -2,200        | -3,200        |
|                                      | <u>-2,597</u> | <u>-3,525</u> |

The interest on the Current Account has been donated. The donation has been accounted for under the donations from businesses.

### 13. Extraordinary income

|                  |         |   |
|------------------|---------|---|
| Remission result | 625,000 | 0 |
|------------------|---------|---|

The full amount of the Current Account has been remitted per December 31.  
The remission totals at € 625.000.

### Signing annual accounts

Beek, June, 20th 2019

F. Hoen

P. Binková

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue cover.

# 02

## Annex

### **Budget Income and Expenses 2019**



## Budget Income and Expenses 2019 Stichting Amber Alert Europe

| Income   | 2019           |
|--|----------------|
|  | €              |
| – Income from Businesses   | 250,000        |
| – Benefits from individuals  | 1,000          |
| – Financial income   | 0              |
| – Other benefits   | 1,000          |
| <b>Sum of the benefits</b>   | <b>252,000</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                |
| –Spend on the purposes<br>To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children<br>or other vulnerable people throughout Europe | 223,300        |
| – Management and administration<br>Other operating expenses  | 3,700          |
| <b>Balance before financial income and expenses</b>  | <b>25,000</b>  |
| Financial expenses   | -1,000         |
| <b>Result</b>  | <b>24,000</b>  |

The expenses of the Stichting are expected to be financed by contributions from private individuals and the reimbursement from organisations for expenses incurred.



Saving Missing Children

As supported by European Parliament WD 7/2016