

2017

Annual Report

AMBER Alert Europe



Saving Missing Children

As supported by European Parliament WD 7/2016

AMBER Alert Europe

Rondpoint Robert Schuman 9
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Peter Treckpoelstraat 4
6191 VK Beek
The Netherlands

Phone: +32 2 808 2159

Fax: +32 2 808 216

Email: info@amberalert.eu

Website: www.amberalert.eu

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Welcome letter

Dear friends,

2017 marked another great year full of growth for AMBER Alert Europe. Not only did we expand to 28 participating organisations from 20 countries, but we also put our Police Expert Network on Missing Children firmly on the map.

In 2017, AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children grew to over 50 competent law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons from 17 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, experts across Europe can quickly contact each other at any time to consult or cooperate on missing children cases. This kind of cooperation is unprecedented.

Our accomplishments in 2017 lay the groundwork for the year ahead. AMBER Alert Europe's vision for 2018 is to further strengthen our Police Expert Network on Missing Children, and thus improve cross-border cooperation and information sharing to help Europe reach #ZeroMissingKids.

Our progress would not be possible without your continued support and engagement. Your help is crucial in order to save the lives of missing children across Europe.



Frank Hoen

Founder and Chairman
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 28 participating organisations include civil society, authorities and business from 20 countries. AMBER Alert Europe facilitates the European Police Expert Network on Missing Children, consisting of over 50 experts from 17 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.

Introduction

Helping Europe reach #ZeroMissingKids

Every year, up to one million children are reported missing in Europe. In order to reach zero missing children, AMBER Alert Europe connects law enforcement experts with each other and with the public when a child goes missing. AMBER Alert Europe also empowers children themselves so they know exactly how to stay safe. Frank Hoen, founder of AMBER Alert Europe, elaborates on how AMBER Alert Europe works towards #ZeroMissingKids.

“When it comes to missing children cases the first thing law enforcement should do, is timely assess whether there is any risk to the missing child. This risk assessment is crucial in order to determine which steps need to be taken to successfully recover the child”, says Hoen.

For instance, police can decide to issue a national AMBER Alert to involve citizens in the search for a missing child. With 37,5 percent of Europeans living near the border, it is essential that these AMBER Alerts can also be shared across the border. Just recently, AMBER Alert Europe shared a Dutch AMBER Alert for a 6-month-old baby in Germany, which led to the infant being found safe and sound in a German holiday park.

Police cooperation across borders

“When there are indications that a missing child has been taken across the border, communicating and cooperating with police forces from neighbouring countries is key. AMBER Alert Europe’s Police Expert Network on Missing Children, consisting of over 50

law enforcement experts from 17 European countries, makes sure that police experts know exactly who is the single point of contact for missing persons in another country”, Hoen explains. Additionally, the Police Expert Network provides training to law enforcement authorities on how to deal with missing children cases.

Creating and improving AMBER Alert systems

Currently, 20 European countries have a child alert system in place, allowing them to quickly bring information about a missing child to the attention of the public. AMBER Alert Europe assists countries with creating and improving their national child alert systems. “Since technology evolves so quickly, it is of the utmost importance that police keep up with the latest technological developments. We are always keen to help”, says Hoen. Previously, AMBER Alert Europe developed national AMBER Alert systems in Malta, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic.

Empowering children

“We strongly believe prevention is better than cure. That is why we educate children on how to avoid getting lost”, says Hoen. “In cooperation with law enforcement experts, AMBER Alert Europe developed a series of videos with useful tips for children. Parents are also provided with information on how to prevent their child from going missing and, if need be, what to do when their child has gone missing.”

Saving missing children, together

AMBER Alert Europe is not the only one working towards zero missing children in Europe. “Together with us, national law enforcement agencies, governments, social and legal services, and other organisations aim for the same goal. Because one missing child really is one too many”, concludes Hoen.



01

AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan in 2017

1. AMBER Alert Europe's 5-point plan

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 and work towards #ZeroMissingKids in Europe.

1.1 Point 1: More, stronger national AMBER Alert systems

Currently, only 20 countries have child alert systems in place and those are not interoperable with each other. As supported by the European Commission, resolving cross-border endangered missing children cases will be easier, once child alert systems are operational in all 28 EU countries and interoperate. Furthermore, in the best interest of the child, countries like the UK, the Netherlands and France have issued child alerts without evidence for a proven abduction, but based on an informed risk assessment by competent law enforcement, thus significantly increasing the chances of saving a missing child's life. This should be adopted for all child alerts.

-  European countries with a child alert system
-  European countries without a child alert system



Call for Action: AMBER Alert Europe calls for an enabling legal, policy and operational environment for the establishment of national child alert mechanisms that interoperate. More specifically, AMBER Alert Europe calls on EU member states to establish national child alert systems that interoperate. 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 or at immediate risk of serious harm. AMBER Alert Europe calls on all relevant stakeholders to jointly work out best practices for child alert issuing criteria.



"Spreading information on a missing child quickly and efficiently is vital if we want to achieve a Europe where no child is missing."

Tomáš Zdechovský

MEP (CD, the Czech Republic)



1.1.1

Task Force on AMBER Alerts

AMBER Alert Europe's Task Force on AMBER Alerts is composed of Police Expert Network members with an active child alert mechanism in place or members who are interested in establishing a national child alert system.

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 cooperate to

overcome challenges when working on missing children cases. They can also learn about the latest innovations to enhance their national AMBER Alert system.

1.1.2 Activities

Malta launches national AMBER Alert system

On January 10th 2017, the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security and Police Force in Malta teamed up with AMBER Alert Europe and launched their national AMBER Alert system. The system allows the police to quickly and efficiently inform the public when the life of an abducted or missing child is feared to be in imminent danger.

Malta is the fourth country to make use of an alert system provided by AMBER Alert Europe. The Netherlands launched its AMBER Alert in 2008 and stood at the basis of AMBER Alert Europe. Slovakia launched its system in March 2015, followed by Luxembourg in 2016.

Facebook teams up with AMBER Alert Luxembourg

On May 22nd, the Luxembourgish Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Security and Police teamed up with Facebook and AMBER Alert Europe to present an addition to their national AMBER Alert system.

When an AMBER Alert is issued, all Facebook users automatically receive an alert on their timelines.

In April 2016, AMBER Alert Luxembourg was launched in cooperation with AMBER Alert Europe.

AMBER Alert Europe raises awareness on the importance of child rescue alert systems at Austrian missing persons conference

On November 30th, AMBER Alert Europe spoke at a missing persons conference in Vienna organised by Austrian NGO and participating organisation of AMBER Alert Europe, Österreich findet euch (OEFÉ). The focus of the event, which was attended by 60+ police experts, NGOs and politicians, was to bring awareness to missing persons, in particular children, as well as exchange best practices among experts.

During the event, Frank Hoen, Chairman of AMBER Alert Europe, highlighted the importance of child rescue alert systems. These systems allow law enforcement to inform the public as quickly as possible when a child goes missing and seek for their help.



On January 10th, 2017, AMBER Alert Malta was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security and Police Force in Malta.

1.2 Point 2: Better cross-border law enforcement cooperation

Border and law enforcement authorities must have appropriate access to all existing databases when needed to help them do their job, including finding a missing child, while ensuring that the data of an individual is safe and there is no infringement of the individual's right to privacy. The value of our security information is maximized when systems as well as border and law enforcement experts talk to each other. Missing children police experts must have the possibility, when needed, to pick-up the phone and quickly contact their colleagues in another EU member state 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 Member States.

Call for Action: AMBER Alert Europe calls for the appointment of a national Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for who has expertise in endangered missing children. This person/department is to be appointed as SPOC by the relevant authorities in each EU member state, and is the first point of contact for other EU member states when a child goes missing and might have crossed the border. This is also the first point of contact for sharing of police expert best practices and relevant documents on the topic of endangered missing children.

A close-up portrait of Charlie Hedges, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark suit jacket and a light-colored shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

"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"

Charlie Hedges

Coordinator of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children and UK's foremost Missing Children Expert





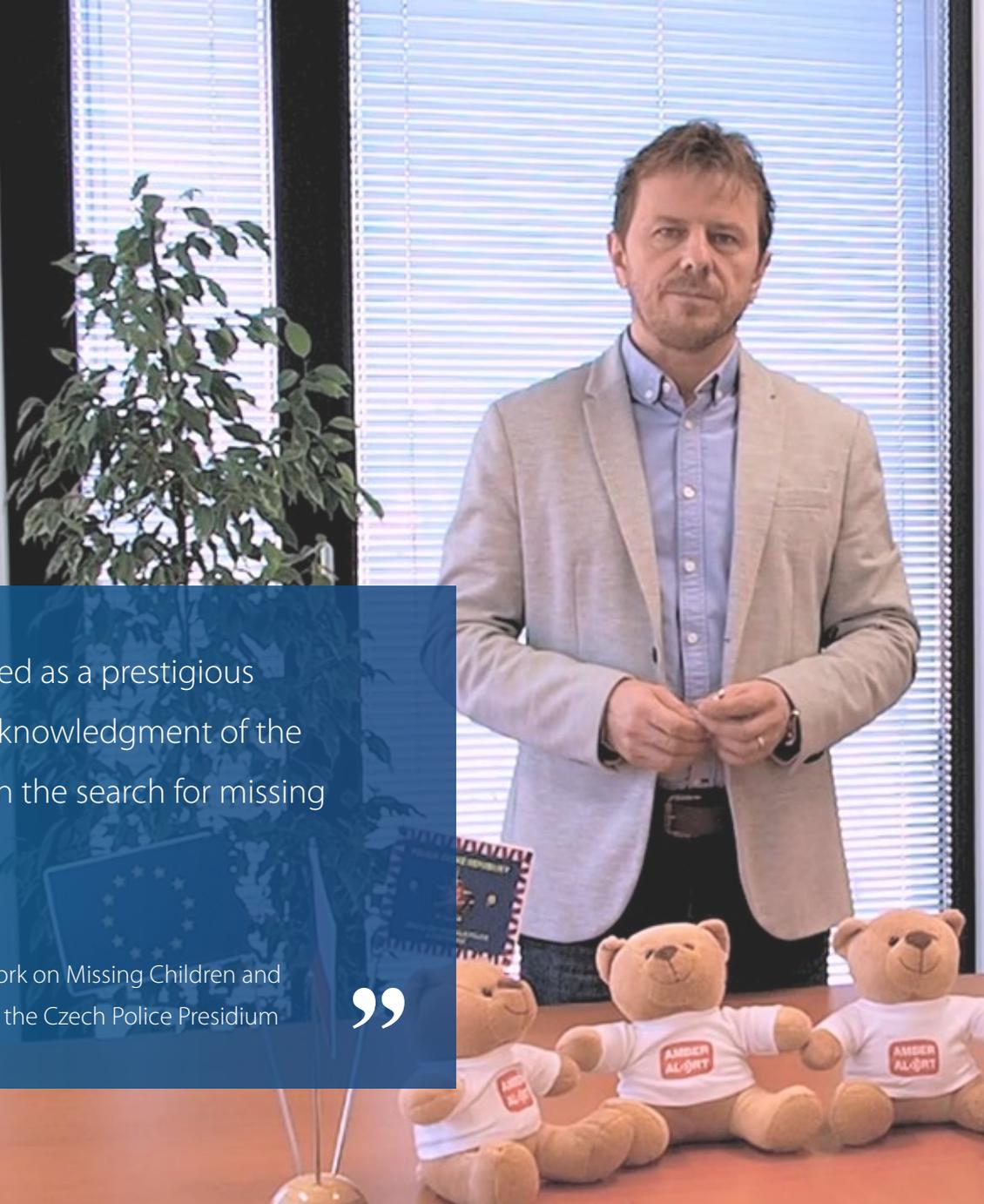
1.2.1

Police Expert Network on Missing Children

AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children consists of over 50 law enforcement experts from 17 European countries. Goal of the 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 Police Expert Network currently consists of experts from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



"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 Jan Rybár

President of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children and Head of the Missing Persons Unit of the Czech Police Presidium

”

1.2.2 Presidency of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children

From May 2018 on, the rotating presidency of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children will be held by Colonel Jan Rybár, Head of the Missing Persons Unit of the Czech Police Presidium. Rýbar will be the first president of the Police Expert Network.

"I would like to personally extend my thanks to Jan for his commitment", commented Frank Hoen, Founder and Chairman of AMBER Alert Europe, on Rýbar's appointment. "Our rotating Presidency is a strength and I look forward to working with Jan on further developing the Police Expert Network during his term."

1.2.3 Members of the Police Expert Network on Missing Children



Policia Judiciara
Portugal



Ministerio del Interior
Spain



Europol



Ministry of the Interior
Italy



Guardia Civil Spain



An Garda Síochána



Ministry Justice and
Security Netherlands



Police Presidium
Czech Republic



Bundesamt für Polizei
Switzerland



National Police Poland



Danish National Police



National Police
Slovenia



French Judicial Police



Malta Police Force



National Crime
Agency



Ministry of the Interior
Slovakia



Policia Nacional Spain



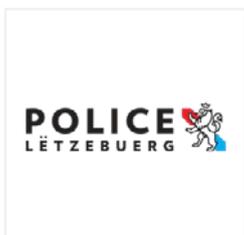
Ministry of the interior
Czech Republic



Dutch National Police



Missing Persons
Bureau UK



Grand Ducal
Luxembourg



Romanian Police



Police and Border
Guard Estonia



Frontex

1.2.4 Activities

AMBER Alert Europe calls for improved cross-border cooperation to find missing children. On January 6th, AMBER Alert Europe gave a presentation before the Interregional Parliament in Saarland (Germany) on how to improve cross-border law enforcement cooperation when a child goes missing. The Interregional Parliamentary Committee on Internal Security invited AMBER Alert Europe to discuss the need for a quick intervention for missing children. Besides AMBER Alert Europe, the Belgian NGO on missing children Child Focus, the Belgian Police and the Police of Saarland participated in the discussion.

Malta Police Force trained by AMBER Alert Europe's missing children expert

"The public can be the eyes and ears for children reported missing and in danger, to be found as quickly as possible." This was stated by Charlie Hedges, recognised as one of the UK's principal experts on missing children, when he was in Malta on January 23rd to provide training on missing children to the national police.

Hedges emphasised that when children are reported missing, it is important for the police to establish contacts with the public in order to acquire important information. Hedges explained that the police have to make a risk evaluation, known as a triage, and that initial response is crucial to the case. Hedges also spoke about the importance of transnational cooperation.

AMBER Alert Europe provides training to Portuguese Police

On February 15th, AMBER Alert Europe provided a training on missing children to the Portuguese Police at its headquarters in Lisbon. The session was also broadcasted online, enabling 64 police officers from 20 districts to take part as well.

The training session was organised by AMBER Alert Europe's Portuguese participating organisation, Associação Portuguesa e Crianças Desaparecidas (APCD), in cooperation with Portugal's national police force, the National Republican Guard (GNR).



Over 40 experts from 10 European Member States attended the 'Salzburg Forum Law Enforcement Expert meeting on Missing Children' in Prague.

Salzburg Forum Expert meeting on Missing Children

In May 2017, more than 40 law enforcement experts from 10 countries attended the Salzburg Forum Law Enforcement expert meeting on missing children in Prague, Czech Republic. Goal of the meeting was to improve the search for missing children across borders. Experts had the opportunity to meet their colleagues in neighbouring countries, build relationships and exchange best practices. Charlie Hedges, AMBER Alert Europe's missing children expert, delivered a training on risk triage.

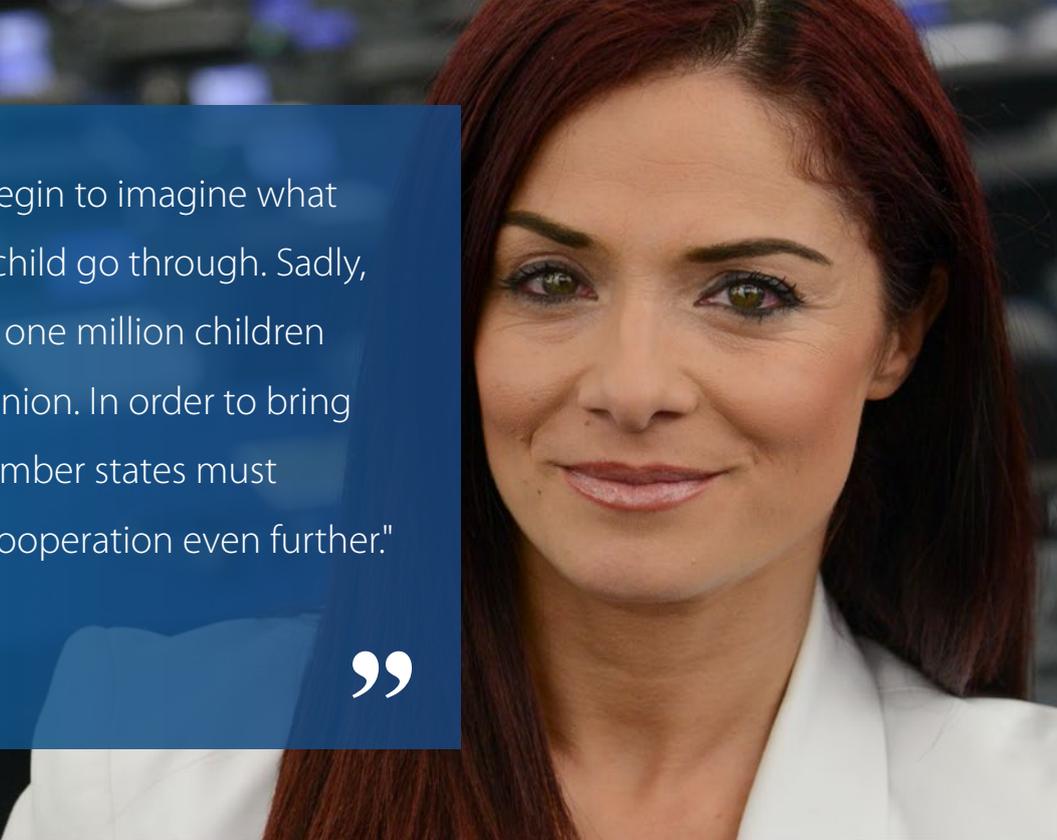
AMBER Alert Europe's police experts develop training to save more missing children

In consultation with missing children law enforcement experts from all over Europe and Canada, AMBER Alert Europe has developed a training program to quickly identify the risk to missing children. A quick risk assessment is crucial to identify the correct response, for example to save a child whose life is in immediate danger. The foundation of this unique training program by AMBER Alert Europe is the decision-making guide on risk management.

1.3 Point 3: Better cross-border information sharing

Every endangered missing child deserves an equal chance of being found as quickly as possible and this must not be inhibited by them crossing borders. With 37,5% of the EU population living in border areas, ensuring that information about endangered missing children is shared across borders is essential.

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.

A close-up portrait of Mirriam Dalli, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white blazer, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

"A mother myself, I cannot begin to imagine what parents who have lost their child go through. Sadly, each year at least 250,000 to one million children disappear in the European Union. In order to bring those children home, EU member states must increase their cross-border cooperation even further."

Mirriam Dalli

MEP (S&D, Malta)



1.3.1 Activities

Euregional cooperation on missing persons
In collaboration with the Euregion Meuse-Rhine and the Province of Limburg (NL), 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 signed up to be quickly informed when a vulnerable person is missing in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine.

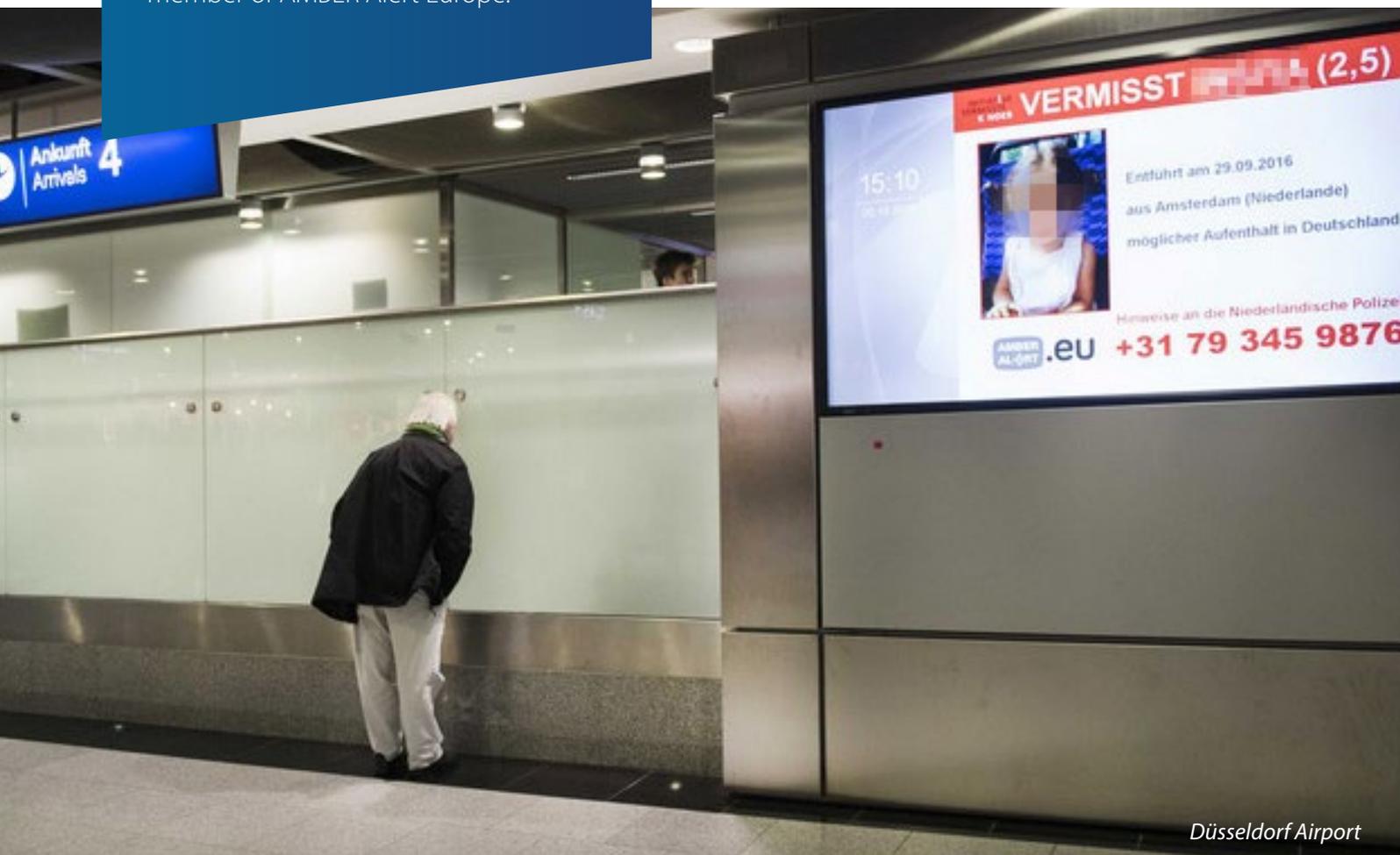
Cross-border AMBER Alert

The Dutch AMBER Alert for the 2,5 year old Insiya from Amsterdam (NL) was shared across the border in Germany. Information about the toddler was displayed via big screens on bus- and train stations. The information was disseminated in cooperation with NGO Initiative Vermisste Kinder, the German member of AMBER Alert Europe.

1.4 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 such as trafficking, smuggling and abduction. In cooperation with relevant stakeholders, AMBER Alert Europe has done extensive work on what is risk, why is it essential for a triage process to take place when a child is reported missing, how should risk be evaluated over time and how do you prevent yourself from making bad assumptions.

In accordance with the best interests of the child, law enforcement authorities should be able to 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 bring authorities to issue a preventive SIS alert. In the preventive alert, protocols should be included on how to proceed when competent law enforcement encounter the respective child for whom a preventive SIS alert has been issued. When dealing with a preventive alert, it is essential that tools, such as technological means, are available to law enforcement to quickly and effectively contact and consult the competent authorities referred to in the protocols.

Call for Action: AMBER Alert Europe calls for the mandatory insertion and prioritization of endangered missing children in SIS II, ensuring that international procedures for entering 'Article 32 Alerts' (Missing Persons) in SIS II 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 informing border guards, at the very least, about information on endangered missing children and child alerts made public by law enforcement agencies. Subsequently, AMBER Alert Europe calls for more awareness raising and practical guidance for police and border guards to enable them to assess which children are at risk and ensure that they are protected. Additionally, AMBER Alert Europe calls for the

issuance of preventive SIS alerts for children at risk of abduction.

1.4.1 Activities

SIS Alerts: European Parliament takes steps to better protect children at risk of going missing. In support of AMBER Alert Europe's call for an improved Schengen Information System (SIS), the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament has voted to include preventive alerts for children at high risk of going missing.

The Schengen Information System (SIS), among others, enables police and border guards to enter and consult information on wanted or missing persons. Currently, children at risk of going missing are not entered in SIS. However, by including these children in SIS, with the so-called preventive alerts, law enforcement experts are now able to prevent some of these children from going missing.

AMBER Alert Europe and Frontex cooperate with border guards

Raising awareness and providing border guards with practical guidance is essential to protect children that may be at serious risk of for example trafficking, smuggling and abduction. AMBER Alert Europe and Frontex are actively cooperating with border guards on the VEGA children project, a training program and handbook for border guards.



1.5 Point 5: Privacy and the right to erasure

Placing information about a missing child at risk in the public domain and the media increases chances to find the child safe and sound. However, at the same time this may have consequences for the privacy of the child and their family. We support that in line with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), as well as relevant national legislation, when a child is being reported as missing, privacy should be embedded in the risk assessment process to be followed by the relevant police experts with the best interest of the child being at the core. Once found, children should have the “the right to erasure”, and in their best interest, information should be removed from public sources.

Call for Action: Aiming at respecting the privacy of the child and protecting it from confronting such information in the future, 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.

1.5.1 Risk assessment

The use of publicity can be a very powerful tool in helping to locate a missing child. It enables law enforcement to ask the public to be on the lookout for the child and help recover the child more quickly. It does, however, pose risks to the child if used inappropriately. Whether or not to involve citizens in the search for missing children should be part of the investigative strategy. Therefore, AMBER Alert Europe recommends risk assessment for missing children.

Law enforcement agencies should be able to make a quick assessment to qualify or disqualify risk for the life or well-being of the missing child. Following this risk assessment, protocols and tools should support the investigative strategy. For example, systems and protocols to quickly involve the public in the search for missing children or to disseminate information across borders to both law enforcement and the public.

Guide on risk assessment



Understanding and Managing Risk in the Context of Missing Persons

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

1.5.2 Activities

Request to remove personal information of missing child

When an AMBER Alert is issued 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 shield the child from negative consequences in the future. AMBER Alert Europe plans to emphasise privacy protection even more in the upcoming year.



02

**Strong support
European Parliament**

2. 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. However, too little progress was made since the recommendations on child alerting were introduced. 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. Zdechovský, 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".

A close-up portrait of Roberta Metsola, a woman with long, light brown hair, looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a light pink shirt and a dark blue jacket. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a public event or press conference.

"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 (CD, Malta)







03

**International Missing
Children's Day 2017**

3. International Missing Children's Day 2017

Together with police experts from all over Europe, AMBER Alert Europe developed short animated videos. These videos teach parents what to do when their child goes missing and how to prevent their children from going missing during the holidays. The campaign was supported by countries from all over Europe: Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom.

AMBER Alert Europe's participating organisations raised attention for missing children by widely distributing the prevention videos, for example via public media, screens in shopping malls and public screens and cinemas. Other participating organisations are organising special events and conferences.

A selection of events and conferences organised by AMBER Alert Europe's participating organisations:

- Charlie Hedges, missing children police expert for AMBER Alert Europe, spoke at a Conference in Lisbon organised by Portuguese participating organisation APCD, called 'Missing Children and Genetic Identity'.
- The Missing Persons Center and International Cooperation Bureau of the National Police in Poland organised a conference with 190 participants from all over Poland called 'Cooperation and information exchange on missing people – new technologies'.
- The Slovak Police Force, in cooperation with Linka Detskej Istoty, organised a round table on missing children in Bratislava.



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



04

Statistics 2017

4. Statistics 2017

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 Alerts systems in Europe.

The data in this report are collected by daily monitoring 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

Unfortunately children go missing in Europe every day. Almost all of these children are found alive within a short or longer period of time. These are mostly children that run away from home. Of course, in all these cases there is a risk that the children come into contact with people with ill intentions.

A few times a year however, there are missing children cases in which the child runs a much greater risk. For instance when a child has been abducted by a stranger, or when a very small child is lost and starts wandering in a dangerous area. The AMBER Alert system was developed for these special cases. 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.

4.1.1 Criteria AMBER Alert

The decision to issue an AMBER Alert lies with the police (sometimes public prosecutor) of an EU member state. Most member states use the following criteria :

- 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.

To summarize, most countries state that the child must be a minor and that there must be the belief that the child's life is in danger. In some countries – for example in the Netherlands – the criteria for an AMBER Alert are not met if a parent abducts his/her child with the intent to withdraw it from legal custody and the parent does not pose a direct threat to the child's life or does not intend to seriously injure the child physically or mentally.

4.2 Yearly statistics 2017

In 2017, competent law enforcement issued 27 AMBER Alerts for 31 missing children across Europe. In 93 percent of these cases, the children were safely recovered. In the Netherlands, for example, a 15-year-old deaf and autistic boy was found after the issuance of an AMBER Alert. In the Czech Republic, a national child alert even ended a 2-month-long search for a 2-year-old girl abducted by her mother.

While many more children go missing in Europe, AMBER Alerts are only used in the most urgent cases. Police issue a national AMBER Alert when they believe a missing or abducted child's life is in imminent danger and the public can help in the search for the child.

In the Netherlands, informing the public resulted in the successful recovery of a deaf and autistic boy. The teenager left his home during extreme weather conditions in December. Because police feared for his life, an AMBER Alert was issued. More than 12 million Dutch citizens were on the lookout for the boy. This led to a crucial tip, which helped reunite the teenager with his family.

In September, police authorities from the Czech Republic, in turn, sent out an AMBER Alert for a 2-year-old girl that had been missing for two months. By involving citizens in the search, police were hoping to find the toddler. The mother, who had abducted the girl, saw the alert and decided to turn herself in. Her child was found in good health.



2017

27 ALERTS

FOR **31 CHILDREN**

93%

were **successfully** recovered

20 GIRLS



11 BOYS



Q1

8

ALERTS

Q2

6

ALERTS

Q3

7

ALERTS

Q4

6

ALERTS



13 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

6 ALERTS IN THE UK

2 ALERTS IN FRANCE

5 ALERTS IN GREECE

1 ALERT IN THE NETHERLANDS

4.3 Quarterly statistics 2017

Quarter 1: January – March

In the first quarter of 2017, AMBER Alert Europe shared 8 AMBER Alerts for 8 children across Europe. Six of these children were found within 24 hours. The AMBER Alerts were issued in France (1), Greece (3) and the Czech Republic (4). In March, the French authorities issued an AMBER Alert for a 5-year old boy from Clermont-Ferrand. The infant was found safe and sound in the company of his father, the abductor, a few weeks later. In Greece, a 6-year old boy from Komotini was found deceased after the Greek authorities issued an AMBER Alert.

2017: QUARTER 1

8 ALERTS
FOR **8 CHILDREN**

75%
were successfully recovered

3 GIRLS



5 BOYS



JAN

5

ALERTS

FEB

1

ALERT

MAR

2

ALERTS

1 ALERT IN FRANCE

3 ALERTS IN GREECE

4 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

2017: QUARTER 2

6 ALERTS
FOR **6 CHILDREN**

83%
were successfully recovered

4 GIRLS



2 BOYS



APR

2

ALERTS

MAY

1

ALERT

JUNE

3

ALERTS

1 ALERT IN FRANCE

2 ALERTS IN GREECE

3 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Quarter 2: April – June

In April, May and June, 6 national AMBER Alerts were issued in France (1), Greece (2) and the Czech Republic (3). In June, a French AMBER Alert, a so-called Alerte Enlèvement, was issued for a 5 year-old boy from Melun. The child was kidnapped by his father and brought to his grandmother's house. Police tracked both father and child down within mere hours. The boy was found unharmed.

Quarter 3: July – September

From July until September, AMBER Alert Europe shared information about 10 missing children, for whom a national AMBER Alert was issued, with the public. The AMBER Alerts were issued in the United Kingdom (3) and the Czech Republic (4). All children were recovered safe and sound. In the Czech Republic, an AMBER Alert even ended a two-month long search for a 2-year-old girl, abducted by her mother. The toddler was already missing since mid-July, when the Czech authorities ultimately decided to issue an AMBER Alert in September. Following the alert, the mother turned herself in at a police station. The girl was found in good health.

2017: QUARTER 3

7 ALERTS
FOR 10 CHILDREN

100%
were successfully recovered

9 GIRLS 1 BOY



JULY	AUG	SEPT
4	1	2
ALERTS	ALERT	ALERTS

3

4

3 ALERTS IN THE UK

4 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

2017: QUARTER 4

6 ALERTS
FOR 7 CHILDREN

86%
were successfully recovered

4 GIRLS 3 BOYS



OCT	NOV	DEC
2	3	1
ALERTS	ALERTS	ALERT

3

1

2

3 ALERTS IN THE UK

1 ALERT IN THE NETHERLANDS

2 ALERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Quarter 4: October – December

In the final quarter of 2017, AMBER Alert Europe shared 6 AMBER Alerts for 7 children, issued by law enforcement from the Czech Republic (1), the Netherlands (1) and the United Kingdom (3). Six of these children were safely recovered. In November, the British police decided to issue an AMBER Alert for a 3-year-old girl that had been missing since May. The toddler was believed to be abducted by her mother and had not yet been found. It was not until January 2018 that the girl was found safe and well.



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 28 participating organisations in 20 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



Ministere de la Sécurité Interieure, Luxembourg



National Police – Central Operational Service, Italy



Dutch National Police



Malta Police Force, Malta



ITAKA, Centre for Missing People, Poland



Ministere 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



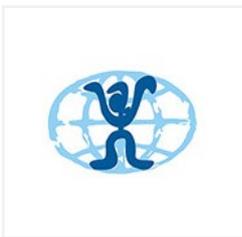
Child Helpline at Slovak
Committee for UNICEF,
Slovak republic



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

5.1.1 New Participating Organisations

In 2017, AMBER Alert Europe welcomed five new participating organisations: the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre from Lithuania, Österreich Findet Euch from Austria, SA Kadunud from Estonia, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and the Police Force from Malta. Goal of these partnerships is to save more missing children in Europe and further improve national AMBER Alert systems.

Missing Persons' Families Support Centre

The Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC) is an NGO established by relatives and parents of missing people. MPFSC provides aid to missing persons' families and women who were trafficked inside or outside Lithuania. The Director of MPFSC, Natalja Kurčinskaja, commented: "Missing children are not just numbers in statistics, every missing child is one too many.

Therefore, it is extremely important for us to be a participating organisation of AMBER Alert Europe in order to exchange information that would enable us to find a missing child as soon as possible."

Österreich Findet Euch

Österreich Findet Euch is an NGO that assists the Austrian authorities in involving citizens in the search for missing children and missing persons. The organisation supports search efforts made by Austrian authorities by making efficient and effective use of online communication platforms.

On September 14th, Frank Hoen, President of AMBER Alert Europe and Christian Mader, Chairman of Österreich findet euch, signed a partnership agreement in Vienna in the presence of the Federal Ministry of the interior (Bundeskriminalamt) and Lars Bruhns, Director of Initiative Vermisste Kinder Deutschland to further improve the protection of missing children in Austria and Europe.



Lars Bruhns (Director of Initiative Vermisste Kinder Deutschland), Frank Hoen (Founder and Chairman of AMBER Alert Europe), Colleagues of the Federal Interior Ministry and Christian Mader (Chairman of Österreich Findet Euch)

SA Kadunud

Kadunud is an organisation that assists the Estonian authorities in the search for missing persons, focusing on operative searches and activities to locate a person that is most likely deceased.

Since time is of the essence, Kadunud has optimised its processes and tools to be as effective as possible during those critical first hours. The organisation can, for example, issue a missing person alert or a missing child alert, called a KatrinAlert. A KatrinAlert is similar to an AMBER Alert. It informs the public by displaying information about a missing child and his/her picture on screens on public transport, in shopping malls, etc.

Maltese Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and the Malta Police Force

On January 10th, AMBER Alert Malta was launched by the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, the Malta Police Force and AMBER Alert Europe. Additionally, the Malta Police also joined AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network on Missing Children, which brings together law enforcement experts in the field of missing children. The Network provides members with specialist support, advice and training.

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



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 advisory organ to the Board of Directors, on the subject of 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.

New board members

In 2017, AMBER Alert Europe welcomed Patrícia De Sousa Cipriano (PT) and Carmelo Abela (MT) to its Advisory Board.

Patrícia De Sousa Cipriano

Patrícia De Sousa Cipriano is the founder and president of the Portuguese Association for Missing Children (APCD). She is a lawyer with experience in Portuguese Family Law and International Family Law, trainer and member of the Portuguese Association of Women Lawyers. She has been engaged in the cause of missing and sexually exploited children for more than 10 years. Strong and combative, she is frequently consulted by the media to comment on missing children cases.

Carmelo Abela

Carmelo Abela is the Maltese Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion. Minister Abela first contested general elections in 1996 and was elected in every general election since then. Minister Abela served as a Deputy Speaker of the House (June 2003 – May 2010) and represented the Maltese Parliament both as member of Parliament and Deputy Speaker. Between December 2014 and May 2017, Mr. Abela was the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security in Malta. Following the elections of 2017, Carmelo Abela became the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

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



Carmelo Abela (Malta)

Minister at Ministry 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 (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 2017

**STICHTING AMBER ALERT EUROPE
AT BEEK**

Annual Report 2017



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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: K.A.M. (Kim) Boon
Date: 14 juni 2018

Dear board of directors,

We hereby send you the report regarding the financial statements of your foundation for the year 2017.

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, 2017 and the profit and loss accountant for the year 2017, 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, 2017 and the profit and loss account for the year 2017 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



2017 MANAGEMENT REPORT



COMPANY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017

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



1 BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
	€	€
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	(1) 1,231	23,138
Cash and cash equivalents	(2) 11,118	31,829
	<u>12,349</u>	<u>54,967</u>

<u>12,349</u>	<u>54,967</u>
---------------	---------------



	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
	€	€
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity	(3)	
Allocation reserves	-444,896	-191,367
Non-current liabilities	(4)	
Other debt	440,000	200,000
Current liabilities	(5)	
Trade creditors	3,722	44,161
Taxes and social securities	5,100	974
Other liabilities and Accruals and deferred income	8,423	1,199
	<u>17,245</u>	<u>46,334</u>

<u>12,349</u>	<u>54,967</u>
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2 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2017

	<u>Balance 2017</u>	<u>Balance 2016</u>
	€	€
Income		
Income from Businesses	(6) 31,176	240,690
Benefits from individuals	(7) 2,809	100
Government subsidies	(8) 0	73,710
Financial income	(9) 200	649
Other benefits	(10) 3,288	2,574
Sum of the benefits	<u>37,473</u>	<u>317,723</u>
Expenses		
Spend on the purposes		
To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe	(11) 269,175	569,481
Management and administration		
Other operating expenses	(12) 18,302	8,400
Balance before financial income and expense	<u>287,477</u>	<u>577,881</u>
Financial expenses	(13) 3,525	310
Result		
Allocation reserves	<u>-253,529</u>	<u>-260,466</u>



3 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2017

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 2017 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.



3.4 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>12/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
	€	€
1. Receivables, prepayments and accrued income		
Other receivables, deferred assets	<u>1,231</u>	<u>23,138</u>
2. Cash and cash equivalents		
Rabobank NL31RABO0177498633	10,926	16,741
Rabobank NL58RABO3464305996	104	15,000
Cash	88	88
	<u>11,118</u>	<u>31,829</u>

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

3. Equity

Allocation reserves	<u>-444,896</u>	<u>-191,367</u>
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	€	€
<i>Allocation reserve</i>		
Carrying amount as of January 1	-191,367	69,099
Result allocation	-253,529	-260,466
Carrying amount as of December 31	<u>-444,896</u>	<u>-191,367</u>

4. Non-current liabilities

	<u>12/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
	€	€
Other debt		
Current Account	<u>440,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>



5. Current liabilities

	<u>12/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
	€	€
Trade creditors		
Creditors	<u>3,722</u>	<u>44,161</u>
Taxes and social securities		
Pay-roll tax	<u>5,100</u>	<u>974</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Holiday bonus	4,959	1,104
Bank charges / insurance costs	964	95
Advanced payment received	<u>2,500</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>8,423</u>	<u>1,199</u>



3.5 NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2017

	<u>Balance 2017</u>	<u>Balance 2016</u>
	€	€
6. Income from Businesses		
Donations and gifts	<u>31,176</u>	<u>240,690</u>
<p>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.</p>		
7. Benefits from individuals		
Donations and gifts	<u>2,809</u>	<u>100</u>
8. Government subsidies		
Dutch government subsidy	<u>0</u>	<u>73,710</u>
9. Financial income		
Interest Revenue	1	104
Benefit currency difference	<u>199</u>	<u>545</u>
	<u>200</u>	<u>649</u>
10. Other benefits		
Received fees	<u>3,288</u>	<u>2,574</u>
Spend on the purposes		
11. To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe		
Expenses spend on the purpose	<u>269,175</u>	<u>569,481</u>
Staff		
<p>At partnership during 2017, an average 4 employees were employed (2016: 1).</p>		
12. Other operating expenses		
Office expenses	5,314	6,939
General expenses	<u>12,988</u>	<u>1,461</u>
	<u>18,302</u>	<u>8,400</u>
13. Financial expenses		
Interest and similar expenses	<u>-3,525</u>	<u>-310</u>



**Annual report 2017
of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe, at Beek**

	<u>Balance 2017</u>	<u>Balance 2016</u>
	€	€
Interest and similar expenses		
Bank charges	-325	-310
Current Account	-3,200	0
	<u>-3,525</u>	<u>-310</u>

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

Signing annual accounts

Beek, 20 juni 2018

ValidSigned by F.C.C. Hoen on 20/06/2018

F.C.C. Hoen



Saving Missing Children

As supported by European Parliament WD 7/2016