

ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЮ ПОЛІЦІЄЮ УКРАЇНИ ПУБЛІЧНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ І ПОРЯДКУ В УМОВАХ ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ

provided for by the Law of Ukraine "On ensuring the participation of civilians in the defense of Ukraine" during martial law will result in their being held criminally liable.

Thus, summing up the abovementioned, it is worth noting that the provision of weapons during martial law to civilians is a necessary measure to ensure the possibility of exercising the rights and obligations of persons provided for by the Constitution of Ukraine.

However, we believe that a significant emphasis should be focused on checking the mental state of such persons, so that the handing over of weapons does not become the basis for a number of negative consequences unrelated to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

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2. Закон України від 3 березня 2022 року № 2114-IX “Про забезпечення участі цивільних осіб у захисті України” URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2114-20#Text>
3. Постанову Кабінетом Міністрів України від 15 квітня 2022 року № 448 щодо Порядку застосування цивільними особами вогнепальної зброї під час участі у відсічі та стримуванні збройної агресії Російської Федерації та/або інших держав проти України у період дії воєнного стану URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/448-2022-%D0%BF#Text>

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COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE WITH EUROPOL DURING MARTIAL LAW

Today, in connection with the Russian armed invasion of the territory of our country and the consequent introduction of martial law by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated February 24, 2022 [1], the issue of cooperation between the National Police of Ukraine and Europol is particularly relevant.

Information about the international cooperation of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine and Europol is not covered much in the mass media, however, it is very important, because it helps in the search for criminals who commit crimes on the territory of the European Union and Ukraine, especially during the martial law introduced in our country as a result of Russian armed invasion.

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It is worth noting that on March 15, 2022, the People's Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law (project No. 7147) "On Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine "On the National Police" and "On the Disciplinary Statute of the National Police of Ukraine" in order to optimize police activities, including under the period of martial law" [2]. Among the additional powers of police officers is cooperation with the European Police Office (Europol) [2].

Europol is the European Police Office — an international police organization formed to promote and strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the European Union.

Ukraine and the European Police Office cooperate on the basis of the Agreement between Ukraine and the European Police Office on operational and strategic cooperation dated December 14, 2016. The agreement is aimed at establishing cooperative relations between Ukraine and Europol in order to support Ukraine and the member states of the European Union in preventing and fighting organized crime, terrorism and other forms of international crime, in particular through the exchange of information between Ukraine and Europol [3].

According to the content of the agreement, the cooperation of the authorities extends to all areas of crime that are within the competence of Europol, including crimes related to them.

The main task of cooperation is the exchange of information. However, cooperation may include the exchange of specialized knowledge, general summaries, results of strategic analysis, information on criminal investigation procedures, information on crime prevention methods, participation in training activities, as well as providing advice and support in individual criminal investigations.

At the same time, Art. 4 of the Agreement specifies that, in addition to the exchange of information, cooperation may include, in accordance with the tasks of Europol defined by the decision of the Council of Europol, the exchange of special knowledge, general summaries, results of strategic analysis, information on criminal investigation procedures, information on crime prevention methods, participation in training events, as well as providing advice and support in individual criminal investigations. That is, within the framework of the agreement, Ukrainian police officers were given the opportunity to participate in joint police operations with colleagues from the European Union, exchange strategic and operational information and analyze it, determine the whereabouts of wanted criminals, create international investigative groups and participate in such groups [3].

As a general rule, Ukraine's interaction with Europol is carried out through the Department of International Police Cooperation of the National Police of Ukraine [4, c. 100]. It is the center of coordination and ensuring the interaction of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine with competent authorities of foreign countries on issues related to Europol's sphere of activity [5].

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In addition, direct exchange of information between Europol and other competent bodies of Ukraine (in particular, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine (General Prosecutor's Office), etc.) is allowed.

As part of Ukraine's international cooperation with Europol, the National Police of Ukraine works in international joint investigative teams, promptly exchanges information in criminal proceedings, establishes the location of persons in different countries and brings guilty persons to justice.

In recent years, as a result of the cooperation of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, Europol and law enforcement agencies of other countries, a number of operations were carried out, as a result of which, in particular, the illegal circulation of firearms was exposed, counterfeit goods and cash were seized, the illegal importation of migrants and illegal migration was exposed, work was stopped of a criminal group involved in binary options fraud, "money mule" schemes for money laundering were detected, cyber actors, ransomware operators were arrested, a VPN service network designed for encryption virus attacks was neutralized, EMOTET botnets were disrupted, stopped illegal market in the dark network DarkMarket, etc [6].

Also, law enforcement agencies of Ukraine were involved in such operations as "Operation In Our Sites" (combating crimes in the field of intellectual property on the Internet), "Shield" (combating the circulation of counterfeit drugs, doping substances), "Retrovirus" (combating improper processing and disposal of sanitary waste), "Silver Ax" (combating trade in counterfeit and illegal pesticides), "30 Days at Sea" (combating environmental crime), "Aphrodite" (combating counterfeit goods) [6].

Europol, alongside the Member States, remains strongly committed to identifying and tackling these criminal threats and working at all levels to support the EU Member States impacted by the conflict. As part of this ongoing support, the agency is in close communication with the Member States bordering Ukraine, and is currently deploying experts and guest officers to support local law enforcement authorities in these countries.

Europol is united with the EU and its Member States in staunchly supporting Ukraine following the Russian invasion in February 2022. The military invasion has caused a humanitarian crisis and prompted large numbers of refugees to flee from Ukraine to the EU, meaning that opportunistic criminal networks may use this situation to further their criminal activities. Europol has deployed operational teams to the frontline European countries neighboring Ukraine within the framework of the Agency's response to the ongoing conflict [7].

Nowadays, Europol together with the EU member states launched Operation "Oscar". Such an operation is aimed at searching for and seizing the assets of individuals and legal entities that have been sanctioned in connection with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The operation is also aimed at supporting

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criminal investigations of member states regarding the circumvention of EU trade and economic sanctions.

Along with this, Europol participates in the working group on combating human trafficking. This task force aims to protect vulnerable Ukrainian refugees from human trafficking networks that take advantage of the mass outflow of citizens from Ukraine [6].

The police represent and fulfill the obligations of Ukraine before Europol, and also directly ensure cooperation and exchange of information with the specified body.

Meanwhile, the police organizes the interaction of law enforcement bodies of Ukraine with Europol, as well as competent bodies of other states on issues that belong to the sphere of activity of the said body.

Thus, the cooperation of the National Police of Ukraine and other law enforcement agencies during the period when our country is in a state of war is extremely important and needs further regulation and improvement.

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