

adapting responses to keep pace with changes in the way organized crime groups operate.

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## **EXTORTION AS A FORM OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

Extortion is a criminal offense of obtaining money, property, or services from an individual or institution, through coercion. Organized crime groups commonly practice extortion. The actual obtainment of money or property is not required to commit the offense, and making a threat of violence, which refers to a requirement of a payment of money or property to halt future violence, is sufficient to commit the offense.

Exaction refers not only to extortion or the demanding and obtaining of something through force, but additionally, in its formal definition, means the infliction of something such as pain and suffering or making somebody endure something unpleasant.

Most states define extortion as the gaining of property or money by almost any kind of force or threat of violence, property damage, and harm to reputation, or unfavorable government action.

Cyber extortion is when an individual or group uses the Internet as an offensive force. The group or individual usually sends a company a threatening email stating that they have received confidential information about their company and will exploit a security leak or launch an attack that will harm the company's network. The message sent through the email usually demands money in exchange for the prevention of the attack.

Extortion can take place over the telephone, via mail, text, email or other computer or wireless communication. If any method of interstate commerce is used in the extortion, it can be a federal crime.

Penalties for extortion vary widely in different states and depend on the severity of the threats involved, but sentences generally range between 2 to 4 years. However, many states allow for sentences of 5, 10, or even 20 years. If any instrument of interstate commerce (such as the mail, a phone, or a computer) is used in commission of the crime, it also becomes a federal crime with a fine or sentence of up to 20 years.

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## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINE: EURO INTEGRATION ASPECT**

As we know, European integration is our key to better life, and a way to improve our political association and economic integration.

In 2014 European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) reforms were carried out in a very difficult political, economic, social and military/security context of armed conflict in Ukraine. The illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and the subsequent destabilization of eastern Ukraine have been major challenges for the state and the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In parallel to the armed conflict, Ukraine sought a sustainable political solution to the crisis in 2014, in particular through diplomatic contacts and the National Dialogue on Reforms.

An effective platform for cooperation at the regional level was established within the Transport Panel of the Eastern Partnership, which aims to facilitate the improvement of transport links between the EU and its immediate neighbors.