



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

Combating vehicle crime in the EU to be promoted in Riga

Riga, 13 March 2015. On 19-20 March, the Network of EU Contact Points for Tackling Cross-Border Vehicle Crime (CARPOL) will meet at the Radisson Blu *Latvija* Hotel, 55 Elizabetes iela, Riga.

The meeting will discuss important issues such as combating vehicle crime in the EU, challenges and solutions regarding vehicle registration and inspection, and the introduction of the 17-digit VIN for agricultural and construction machinery.

The CARPOL meeting will bring together experts from all the EU Member States and European agencies like EUROPOL, INTERPOL and FRONTEX.

Fighting vehicle crime is important for vehicle owners, law enforcement officers, insurers and the general public because these crimes often involve not only violence, but also other illegal activities committed by organised crime groups dealing in drugs, firearms and the trafficking of human beings.

The need for effective action to combat vehicle crime has been raised by all international and national institutions; in Europe the phenomenon affects a large number of citizens and the private sector.

For this reason, CARPOL is seeking to solve the issue of international vehicle theft through cooperation with law enforcement bodies and other parties concerned.

CARPOL is the European network of national contact points for tackling cross-border vehicle crime and was established by an EU Council Decision in 2004 with the aim of strengthening coordination and co-operation among police services and other law enforcement authorities, as well as with other competent public and private organisations and EU agencies.

For media attention: photo and video opportunities possible at 09:00-09:30 on 19 March during the official opening, and interviews with experts at 11:00-11:30*.

All media requests must be sent to gunta.skrebele@iem.gov.lv, +371 29494943, by 19 March.

Please find the official agenda here:

https://eu2015.lv/images/Kalendars/leM/19032015_Carpol_AGENDA.pdf

Media programme: https://eu2015.lv/images/Kalendars/leM/19032015_Carpol_Media_prog.pdf

*Please, note that Latvian time is one hour ahead of Brussels time.

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