

Directive 2014/41/EU regarding the European investigation order in criminal matters has been implemented into Belgian law by the law of 22 May 2017 related to the European investigation order in criminal matters. The bill has been published in the Official Journal (*Moniteur belge*) on 23 May 2017.

### **Competent issuing authorities**

The following Belgian judicial authorities are, in accordance with requirements laid down in the law of 22 May 2017 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, competent to issue an EIO:

- the public prosecutor;
- the investigative judge.

The General Customs and Excise Administration is competent to issue an EIO concerning offences that fall under its exclusive competence if this administration is competent to order the measure itself in a similar domestic case. Before the EIO is transmitted to the executing authority, it needs to be validated by an investigative judge.

### **Competent receiving authorities**

The Belgian authority competent to receive an EIO is the public prosecutor locally competent to execute the investigative measure or one of the investigative measures indicated in the EIO.

EIOs may also be sent to the Federal Prosecutor, in particular in the following cases:

- urgency;
- the location of the investigative measure needs to be determined;
- coordination of the execution of the EIO is needed.

EIOs concerning offences falling under the exclusive competence of the General Customs and Excise Administration may be sent directly to this administration.

### **Competent execution authorities**

The following Belgian judicial authorities are, in accordance with requirements laid down in the law of 22 May 2017 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, competent to execute an EIO:

- the public prosecutor;
- the investigative judge.

The General Customs and Excise Administration is competent to execute an EIO concerning offences that fall under its exclusive competence if this administration is competent to order the measure itself in a similar domestic case.

### **Accepted languages**

The EIO sent to Belgian competent authorities should be drawn up in or translated into French, Dutch, German or English.

### **Central authority**

Belgium has not designated a central authority.