



How to extend the list of EU crimes: STEP BY STEP

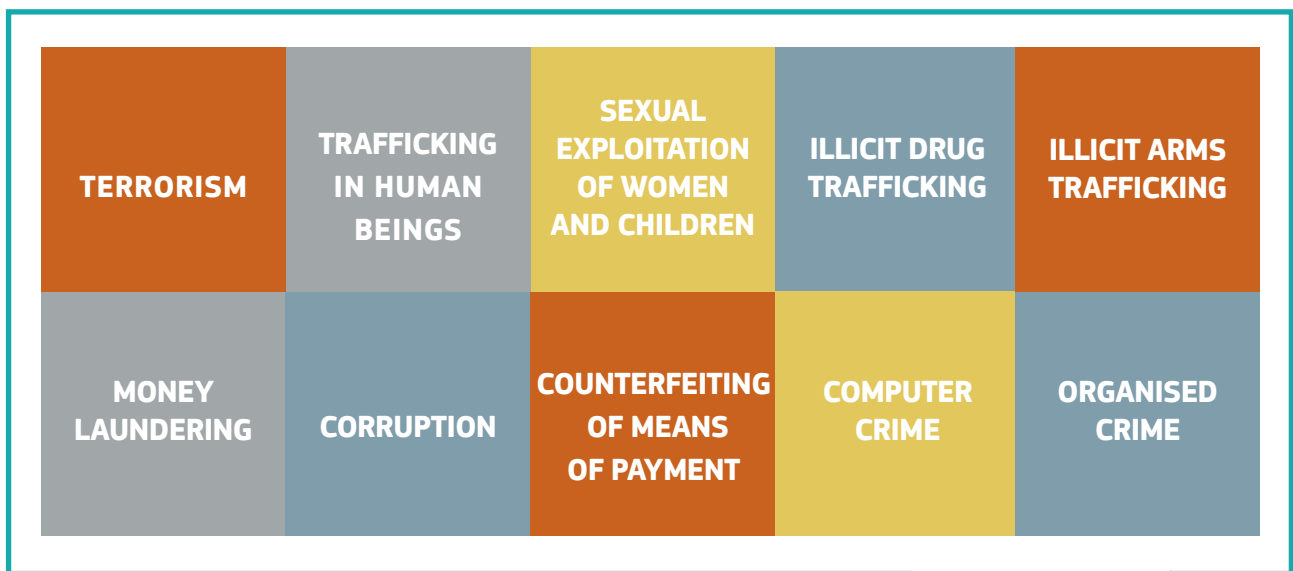


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Hate speech and hate crime have become a particularly serious and worrying phenomenon. To tackle the challenges raised by the cross-border nature, scale and increasing trend of hate, a joint effort is needed. Only a common approach can ensure consistent protection of victims across the EU.

That's why the Commission initiates a common initiative at EU level to effectively protect the rights and dignity of all and the common values enshrined in Article 2 Treaty on the European Union.

EU CRIMES are particularly serious crimes that take place across the EU and have impact beyond national borders. This is why they are criminalised at the EU level and are included in the EU Treaty. There are currently 10 EU crimes. Hate speech and hate crime are not yet included in the list.



To extend the list of the EU crimes a two-step process is needed:

- 1) the Council decides to extend the list with the European Parliament's consent
- 2) the Commission makes a legislative proposal.

HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME

Today, the Commission initiates the process to extend the list of EU crimes to illegal hate speech and hate crime.

Preparation. The Commission carried out an in-depth analysis of the hate speech and hate crime phenomenon across EU, including a targeted consultation.



1

First step. The Commission initiates the process by presenting factual elements and data explaining the need to extend the EU crime list to illegal hate speech and hate crime.



Council approval: The Council adopts by unanimity a decision identifying hate speech and hate crime as EU crime, after obtaining consent of the European Parliament.



The Council Decision will provide a **legal basis** to establish **minimum rules** on the **criminalisation of hate speech and hate crime**.



2

Second step. The Commission proposes EU rules defining hate speech and hate crime and sanctions.



Legislative process. The usual co-decision process follows, where European Parliament and the Council adopt a legal act by qualified majority.

