

“The Role of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) of Europe in the Strategy of the Mexican Transnational Trafficking Organisations (MTTOs) to Exert Hegemony over the Drug Markets of Europe”

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The MTTOs and Outlaw Biker Gangs in the EU

In the official reports on organised crime in the EU there is a glaring failure to present the manner in which globalised organised crime enters and replicates its organisational structure in the EU. One such glaring failure is the manner the organisational structure exerting hegemony over the trafficking of cocaine into the EU went about the task of penetrating the EU and replicating its organisational structure and operational methodology in the EU. This is the reality of the Mexican Transnational Trafficking Organisations (MTTOs) who now exercise hegemony over cocaine trafficking to the EU. This is a presence in the EU that was literally built from scratch and the manner in which it is being built illustrates the nature of the illicit shadow world and that of the neoliberal states of the EU in the 21st century. One such methodology being used is the mobilisation of indigenous EU organised crime as they are embraced as affiliates of the MTTOs as illustrated by the relationship with specific outlaw biker gangs of the EU.

EUROPOL's OC Scan Policy Brief Threat Notice 02-2010 dealt specifically with the organised crime threat posed by Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) in the EU specifically by the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) and the lack of intelligence in the EU on the illicit activities of OMCGs. The EUROPOL document reports that in 2010 the OMCGS had migrated from North West Europe to Eastern Europe and were now moving into South East Europe. In the drive to create their presence in Eastern Europe the OMCGs were present in 2010 in: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland and Turkey. The document frames the threat posed by the OMCGs especially the HAMC to South East Europe in terms of their experience with drug trafficking along the Balkan pipeline and their illicit experience garnered from their illicit activities in North West Europe. The document states that over 60 local motor cycle clubs many of which are linked to international OMCGs are present on the ground in South East Europe and the intelligence gap that exists on these local motorcycle clubs need to be filled.

The report states that the OMCGS are experienced drug traffickers through the Balkan route and many are linked to international OMCGs but it does not describe the nature of the link whether associates/affiliates or charter clubs. The linkage is strategically important as associates/affiliates and patch bearing members of charter clubs present different threat horizons. The primary determining

condition is the linkage of the international clubs to globalised crime especially in this case to the MTTOs. The report is silent on OMCGs in Scandinavia which is a major deficit given the potency of the OMCGs in Scandinavia.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/oc-scan-policy-brief-threat-of-outlaw-motorcycle-gangs-omcgs-in-south-east-europe>

A EUROPOL press release dated December 21, 2012 reported that from 2010 to 2012 OMCG chapters in Europe had now crossed 700 with the dominant players being: Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws and Gremium whilst local club chapters have also grown as Satudarah Maluku and Blue Angels in North West Europe. Added to this is the formation of chapters of newly arrived OMCGS from Australia as the Comanchero and Rebels, from Canada as Rock Machine and from the USA as the Mongols and Vagos. The spread of OMCG chapters and the arrival of previously absent OMCGs in Europe according to EUROPOL denotes a desire and strategy by OMCGs to exploit the illicit markets of Europe such as the drugs and small arms trades and human smuggling. But the desire and arrival of an OMCG means little in the illicit market as an operational presence is determined by supply. With supply you stimulate demand and battle for space/turf in the retail and wholesale illicit markets. What is then apparent is that by 2012 OMCGS both local and international are responding to a feeding frenzy in the illicit markets of Europe involving OMCGS and sources of supply to Europe. The MTTOs have then put out the welcome mat to OMCGS that they have an operational relationship with international and local OMCGs. What the EUROPOL press release does not deal with is the manner conflict between affiliates of the MTTOs is managed. The conflict between rival OMCGS in Europe is the expected result of expansion of the operational presence of these organised crime groups in the same spaces. For example, the ongoing war between chapters of the Hells Angela and the Mongols in the USA is expected to be replicated in Europe where European chapters are offspring of chapters in the USA at war with each other. But conflict impacts illicit markets as it's bad for business and the hegemonic supplier must respond to ensure sustainability of the illicit enterprise.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/fear-of-turf-war-between-outlaw-motorcycle-gangs-in-europe>

The DW network in an article dated October 18, 2017 reported on the action of law enforcement agencies of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia against a Hells Angels charter, the Concrete City Biker club, and its associate/affiliate Clan 81 both banned by the state. The article stated that Germany has over 70 Hells Angels charters and in Germany charters of Hells Angels and the Bandidos are at war with each other. There are also indications that the Hells Angels and Mongols are also at war with each other in Germany. The German strategy to ban charters and associates/affiliates is premised on collecting the evidence that the charter and the associate/affiliate is in fact an organised crime entity not a social club where you have specific members involved in organised crime.

<http://www.dw.com/en/german-police-launch-massive-crackdown-on-hells-angels-group/a-41005862>

<http://www.dw.com/en/hamburg-police-arrests-suspects-in-possible-motorbike-gang-clash/a-18949843>

<http://www.dw.com/en/german-police-struggle-against-hells-angels/a-15997378>

The EUROPOL reports didn't refer to the OMCGs of Scandinavia especially the reality of Sweden and Denmark. This reality is of crucial importance given the Scandinavian biker wars of the 1980s and 1990s involving the Hells Angels, the Bandidos and local biker gangs. And the linkage between the OMCGs and the MTTOs in the execution of the strategy to flood Europe with cocaine and meth. The Hells Angels is the largest OMCG of Scandinavia and their network is well developed seen in the number of chapters, their associates and the chapters from the USA replicated in Scandinavia as the Nomads in Denmark. In Scandinavia the Hells Angels have then replicated the structure pioneered in the USA in which the 1 percenters, individuals and chapters through alliances operate their illicit activities as illicit drug trafficking, human smuggling and extortion etc. The Hells Angels and the Bandidos in Scandinavia are then operationally developed to execute the strategy of the MTTOs for Europe and are in fact so involved.

<https://www.thelocal.se/20101008/29510>

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2009/0504/p06s10-woeu.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/biker-wars-dredge-up-something-rotten-in-the-state-of-denmark-1346874.html>

The charter and associate/affiliate structure of the Hells Angels results in a charter operating independently as there is no official overarching command structure exerting hegemony over all charters and associates. You then have especially 1 percenters in any charter seeking their own interests and pursuing their agendas where alliances within the Hells Angels are made and dissolved to accomplish a specific task. The 1% percenters pursue a lifestyle that expresses their discourse and operational mode of the rejection of the hegemonic values of the social order. This lifestyle can then reject the rule of law as it prohibits the successful pursuit of the chosen lifestyle where criminality is embraced when it expresses, enables and operationalises the discourse of self-realisation. This is a fluid, cellular operational mode which presents problems to law enforcement, feeds paranoia, violence, greed and jealousy within the charters but makes the Hells Angels operationally feasible for affiliate status with the MTTOs. Individuals, charters and associates got into the cocaine trade in the USA by seeking to import, distribute and sell their own cocaine and were pioneers in the production, distribution and sale of meth/ice/crank in the USA. The domination of the US cocaine market by the MTTOs resulted in these actors of the Hells Angels faced with a supply squeeze as they were not an affiliate of the MTTOs. The production of industrial grade meth by the MTTOs driven by the marketing strategy of high grade meth at lower cost to the retail customer drove the meth trade of the members and associates of the Hells Angels out of markets where there is a MTTO presence. The same reality applied to heroin and then fentanyl. The need to form an alliance with the MTTOs was now strategically necessary and this came about where these individuals and associates of the Hells Angela are now part of the supply chain, they run their distribution, wholesaling and retailing platforms and are eligible to share in the illicit enterprises of the MTTOs such as synthetic drugs, human smuggling, identity theft etc.

<http://www.history.com/shows/outlaw-chronicles-hells-angels>

The decision to flood Europe with the products of the MTTOs from the 1990s to the present meant that the Hells Angels in Europe their charters and associates and individuals who passed the criterion of the US individuals and charters will be mobilised to be part of this strategic advance and to profit by it. From the outset the individuals, charters and associates of the Hells Angels so chosen were part of the strategic assault on the drug markets of Europe by the MTTOs. The rapid

expansion of the Hells Angels across Europe was driven by this strategic imperative and the lure of wealth to be made by those chosen to be part of this illicit strategy. A EUROPOL press release dated July 24, 2013 reported on the law enforcement operation on the Spanish island of Mallorca targeting a Hells Angel chapter and associates on the island where 25 members of the club and associates were arrested. The 25 persons were arrested on suspicion of being involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, money laundering and corruption. The Mallorca chapter was created with the involvement of chapters in Germany and Luxembourg. The structure highlighted in the press release illustrates the links between chapters as the Mallorca chapter was formed to receive and transport the cocaine that came in from across the Atlantic and Africa to Germany and Luxembourg for sale and further distribution. Such is the Hells Angel model driven by key individuals that form operational alliances across chapters and geographic space.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/major-international-operation-against-hells-angels>

Expansion of the Hells Angels across Europe's drug markets was an investment decision made in order to attain the strategic end sought. By 2010 when EUROPL's document was released the momentum was already established which by the time EUROPOL released its 2012 press release it had stimulated an OMCG feeding frenzy in the drug markets of Europe. The political paranoia since 2001 of Islamic terrorist attacks and the feared damage to the political sustainability of politicians in their quest for state power gave space to the agenda of the MTTOs and their partners and affiliates. In 2017 the tsunami has washed over Europe. The violence between the Hells Angels, the Bandidos and the Mongols has been replicated in Germany but in this case it's a war for turf. Those with supply must always seek to expand the size of the market they control for that is vitally necessary to maximisation of profits on a sustainable basis which is compounded by the operational reality that the MTTOs don't ever place all their eggs in one basket and work on the basis of built in obsolescence in order to stymie the incursions of law enforcement and to ensure that no associate can hold your enterprise to ransom. Ultimately you operate on a cellular structure driven by a need to know basis rooted in a horizontal and vertical hierarchy. In any given country of Europe, you will then have affiliates from a range of OMCGS of local

and foreign origin being dealt with by cells of the MTTOs and it's only the apex of the hierarchy who are not resident in Germany who know of this reality, are monitoring this reality and responding to it. Pax Mexicana!