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Dear readers,

Environmental crime knows no borders, and neither should our efforts to combat it. With this in mind, I am pleased to present to you our special edition of the European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin dedicated entirely to the pressing issue of environmental crime, a multifaceted threat that endangers not only human health and safety, but also the ecosystems that sustain life on our planet.

Since environmental crime transcends national boundaries, collaborative initiatives both within the EU and with non-EU countries are essential to disrupt criminal networks, share intelligence and enhance enforcement capabilities. One of the key highlights of this edition is the emphasis on cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation. Furthermore, the integration of research outcomes into our training modules will directly increase the impact and efficiency of law enforcement operations, ensuring that our officials are well prepared to face these evolving threats.

Since our previous edition, CEPOL has undergone significant transformations. One of the most notable changes is our new strategic approach to publishing thematic research editions of our bulletin. This special edition marks the beginning of a series of publications focused on addressing specific areas of criminal activity.

This strategic shift underscores our commitment to producing high-quality, relevant research that directly contributes to the professional development of law enforcement practitioners while supporting the broader objectives of a safer Europe. Our editorial board members' dedication and vision have been instrumental in shaping this thematic approach, ensuring that our publications are of the highest scientific quality, while also being directly relevant to the specific needs of law enforcement practitioners. Their contributions are invaluable to our mission of fostering a safer Europe through enhanced law enforcement training and research.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of our new editor-in-chief, Dr. Maria João Guia, our CEPOL research & knowledge management officer. Holding a PhD in Law, Justice and Citizenship in the 21st Century and four master's degrees, she is a highly quoted academic and an experienced inspector of Portugal's Polícia Judiciária – former inspector of the Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras. Dr. Maria João Guia brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this role. Her leadership will be instrumental for the bulletin, ensuring that it remains a vital resource for both law enforcement practitioners and the academic community.

I am also grateful to Dr. Matteo Arru, Giacomo Florio and André Pires da Silva, editorial assistants of this thematic edition, and to all the members of the editorial board for their dedication and hard work in bringing this edition to fruition. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Professor Michael Faure, who wrote the introduction to this special edition. His expertise and insights have provided high-level value, setting the stage for the in-depth discussions and analyses contained within this bulletin.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the contributors. Their research, insights and recommendations are vital for advancing our understanding of environmental crime and developing effective strategies to combat it.

I also thank you, our readers, for your support and engagement with our publications. I hope you will find this edition both informative and inspiring. Together, we can make significant strides towards a safer, more secure Europe.

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