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**Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on
international cooperation in criminal matters: a
one-year overview**

Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis has caused large-scale loss of life and severe human suffering, globally affecting every aspect of people's lives. Further, it has had a profound impact on the operation of criminal justice as it has led to an increase in crimes such as the manufacturing of and trafficking in falsified medical products, as well as crimes committed online, and has brought the transformation of the *modi operandi* of criminals and organized criminal groups.¹

2. Policy decisions had to be made quickly to respond to a rapidly changing emergency situation and the challenges associated with it. Many countries have introduced sweeping measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including lockdowns, restrictions on social gatherings and the closure of public facilities. These measures have had an unprecedented impact on law enforcement and criminal justice systems, from law enforcement resources being redirected to court proceedings being delayed or conducted remotely – every country has had to adjust to a new reality.² Courts, in particular, have had to rapidly adapt to physical distancing measures and, with many court buildings closed to the public, many hearings have been put on hold or held using technical solutions for remote meetings. As a result of court closures

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** CTOC/COP/WG.3/2021/1.

¹ For an overview of the state of knowledge on developments in crime prevention and criminal justice trends as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and updated information on the documentation in relation to all the items on the agenda of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, see A/CONF.234/15.

² For an example at the regional level, see the “Declaration on lessons learnt and challenges faced by the judiciary during and after the COVID-19 pandemic”, adopted by the Council of Europe European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice at its meeting held on 10 June 2020, in the framework of the presidency of Greece of the Committee of Ministers, on the impact of and lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis with regard to the efficiency of justice and the functioning of the judiciary, available at <https://rm.coe.int/declaration-en/16809ea1e2>.



and reduced operations, proceedings have either been delayed or accelerated. In most countries, only those cases considered most urgent have been dealt with.

3. In the area of international cooperation in criminal matters, two sets of measures with a relevant impact on the administration of criminal justice have been perceived to be central: first, measures of confinement and the restriction of movement in general, and second, the closing of borders. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has led many central authorities, as well as judicial and investigative bodies, to switch to remote working and allow for adjustments and transformations in conducting daily business. The crisis has also affected the functioning of central authorities in a growing number of States.

4. The present background paper provides a series of practical considerations on the specific impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international cooperation in criminal matters, including emerging practices to respond to related challenges in the period of the crisis and, where appropriate, enable transformations or adaptations of the work of relevant actors in future. This background paper was prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate discussions under item 3 of the provisional agenda of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation.

II. Evaluating the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters and the need for the collection of data

5. Information and data are necessary to provide a picture of real-time changes and facilitate longer-term predictions and assessments with respect to the possible long-term impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the work of competent criminal justice and law enforcement authorities. However, such information and data are currently scarce, and it is a challenging task to analyse and evaluate the pandemic's impact on crime trends and on transformations and new practices related to international cooperation to combat crime.

6. In this context, Member States and international organizations active in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters should be encouraged to use or develop a variety of tools to significantly improve data collection and monitoring and to ensure the effective assessment of the emergency situation, giving due regard to gender mainstreaming. Developing, adapting and using such tools, including statistics and independent evaluation, as well as promoting systematic data collection to facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination among central and competent national authorities in the field of international cooperation, could provide the solid evidence and knowledge base required for institutional, strategic, programmatic and operational decision-making to address the related challenges. Further in-depth evaluation based on that evidence and compiled knowledge will help to ensure that lessons are learned from the period of the pandemic and that those lessons are used to help shape future responses to emergencies or transform future work in general, as required.

7. With respect to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), since the beginning of the first lockdown due to the pandemic, the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, on 20 March 2020, began collecting information on emergency measures taken by central and other competent authorities involved in international cooperation in criminal matters during the COVID-19 pandemic. That information, which has been compiled by the Global Programme in the form of a list, was obtained through the secretariats of regional judicial cooperation networks, including the European Judicial Network, the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation, the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group and the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC) Network, or through regional organizations such as the Council of

Europe, or was directly provided by the national central authorities themselves.³ The list is regularly updated and further disseminated. For this purpose, the Global Programme maintains open channels of communication with central authorities to keep the list up to date and further circulate it to increase awareness and facilitate coordination. To date, a total of 156 central authorities have received such information. The last update of the list (as at 2 December 2020) is publicly available (www.ejn-crimjust.europa.eu/ejn/EJN_DynamicPage/EN/86) and is also contained (as adjusted) in the annex to the present background paper.

8. At the regional level, the Council of the European Union in March 2020 sent a first questionnaire to Member States and Iceland and Norway on the impact of measures taken at the national level to combat the spread of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation instruments. In parallel, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Judicial Network also collected information from Member States on the same topic. In April 2020, the Council gave a mandate to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network to prepare a compilation of all the information collected to date, to submit new questions where needed, and to regularly update the compilation in order to continuously assist practitioners in the application of judicial cooperation instruments in criminal matters in these challenging times. The executive summary of that compilation, with updates as at 30 October 2020,⁴ was used as reference material for the relevant information contained in sections III and IV below, where appropriate and as duly indicated in the relevant footnotes.

III. The impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on different forms of international cooperation

A. Extradition and surrender procedures

9. As reported to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, in relation to extradition to third countries, the measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the execution of the actual surrenders, which in several States were postponed until the end of the crisis. As reported, the main obstacles encountered were the limitations of flights to third countries and the closure of borders. It was confirmed that this did not pose major problems in the context of extradition because the related proceedings normally allowed for the extension of deadlines for surrender.⁵

10. In relation to the issuing of European arrest warrants,⁶ the vast majority of judicial authorities in the European Union have continued to issue European arrest warrants as normally done. However, some States prioritized the issuing of European arrest warrants, either following specific guidelines or as an indirect result of the general limitations on judicial activities during the pandemic.⁷

11. While no State has implemented a general suspension of the execution of surrenders based on a European arrest warrant, it was reported that in specific cases it may become impossible to transfer the person sought to the issuing State due to the practical and legal measures adopted at the national level to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In this respect, the feasibility of each transfer needed to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and often depended on the practical arrangements in place.

³ See [CTOC/COP/2020/6](#), para. 14.

⁴ Council of the European Union, “The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters: executive summary of information compiled by Eurojust and EJN”, Brussels, document 7693/5/20 REV 5, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁶ See Council of the European Union framework decision 2002/584/JHA on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 190, 18 July 2002).

⁷ Council of the European Union, “The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters”, p. 4.

12. Where surrender was not possible in an individual case due to the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis, what was reported as an established practice was the decision of the executing judicial authorities to postpone the surrender. This step was generally considered sufficient to face the ongoing situation.

B. Mutual legal assistance

13. COVID-19 confinement rules were the reason why many State institutions or agencies started using new teleworking tools, and the central authorities and criminal investigation and trial bodies were no exception to that. Those confinement rules generated delays in the execution of mutual assistance requests, especially in those countries that accept only requests on paper.

14. Another reason for the delays was related to the general trend in many jurisdictions of, due to the coronavirus pandemic, deciding and implementing a restructuring and reshaping of the powers and mandates of law enforcement authorities. As Governments increasingly allocated themselves emergency powers in order to enforce measures for social isolation, law enforcement forces – and in some countries, the military – were the main authorities entrusted with the task of enforcing those measures. As rightly noted, law enforcement authorities became “the public face of the State’s coronavirus response”.⁸ The corollary of that in the specific field of international cooperation in criminal matters was that fewer law enforcement personnel were available to carry out the operational actions needed for the execution of mutual legal assistance requests.

15. At the regional level, the presentations by the contact points of the European Judicial Network, submitted upon the request of the Network and Eurojust, confirmed that difficulties in carrying out investigative actions (e.g., the hearing of witnesses and searches of premises) continued and were related to practical issues such as restrictions on physical contact, rules for physical distancing and the closure of State borders.

16. Moreover, in most States responding to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, the execution of mutual legal assistance requests was initially restricted to urgent cases and/or postponed, in particular in those States where the state of emergency also led to the suspension of procedural time limits and hearings. Where a prioritization of cases was carried out, there was a case-by-case evaluation based on criteria such as the urgency of the request, the seriousness of the offence, whether the suspect was under pretrial arrest, the risk that evidence would be lost and the stage of the proceedings for which the evidence was to be gathered. In general, non-urgent investigative measures were, in principle, put on hold.⁹

C. International cooperation for purposes of confiscation

17. What has emerged from the responses to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network is that while in many States the situation with respect to freezing and confiscation orders has remained unchanged during the COVID-19 crisis, several other States have been prioritizing the issuing of certificates for the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders only in urgent cases. As reported, this was in most cases not the result of any specific policy decision but, rather, was an indirect effect of the general limitations on judicial activities. However, that prioritization did not usually negatively affect freezing orders because those orders are generally considered to be urgent due to the risk of dissipation of assets.¹⁰

⁸ Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, “Crime and contagion: the impact of a pandemic on organized crime, Policy Brief (Geneva, 2020). See also A/CONF.234/15, para. 84.

⁹ Council of the European Union, “The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters”, p. 8.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 9.

D. Transfer of sentenced persons

18. As per established practice, there are various policy choices to be made with regard to the decision of national authorities to adopt agreements for the transfer of sentenced persons, including in accordance with article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and with regard to the substance of what such agreements should contain. Those policy choices are based on rationales such as the alleviation of the hardships faced by those serving sentences in foreign countries; the facilitation of the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners; the reduction of the cost of providing consular services to nationals imprisoned overseas and the cost of housing foreigners in national prison systems; the enhancement of cooperation in judicial and penal matters; and the recognition of good international relations between States.¹¹

19. An additional factor related to the pandemic that had to be taken into account was the extraordinary risk that COVID-19 has posed in prison settings, which has in turn increased the attention given to prison overcrowding. Globally, the impact of COVID-19 in prisons has been found to be significantly more severe than among the general population. In addition, restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus included prison lockdowns, as well as the restriction of prisoners' movements and programmes.¹²

20. Thus, for example, the transfer of sentenced persons has generally been suspended by the majority of the Member States responding to the Eurojust and European Judicial Network questionnaire. However, at a later stage of the pandemic, such transfers became possible once again in some Member States: they were conducted when possible, mostly with neighbouring countries, and a few actual transfers took place. In those States where the transfer of sentenced persons was possible, it was reported that an assessment was conducted on a case-by-case basis and that, at least in some of these States, urgent cases were prioritized.

21. Practical issues encountered by national authorities when carrying out transfers of prisoners were mainly related to the closure of borders and the cancellation of flights, as well as processes requiring physical contact and medical screening. Sanitary rules were to be observed in the interest of the sentenced persons and the escorting officers. Persons transferred to other States were in principle placed in quarantine. Some States also specified that decisions on the recognition of judgments for the continued enforcement or conversion of sentences continued to be issued.¹³

E. Joint investigations

22. As reported to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, joint investigation teams continued to operate regularly in most of the responding States during the pandemic period. The main challenges encountered were that travel and in-person meetings between the members of the joint investigation teams did not take place regularly or took place to a very limited extent depending on the restrictions imposed by national authorities.¹⁴

¹¹ See United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Handbook on the International Transfer of Sentenced Persons*, Criminal Justice Handbook Series (Vienna, 2012), p. 15.

¹² A/CONF.234/15, para. 47.

¹³ Council of the European Union, "The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters", p. 9.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 10.

IV. Emerging practices and trends in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters to respond to challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

A. Electronic transmission of international cooperation requests

23. The conditions created by the pandemic have led to greater support for the idea that international cooperation requests can be sent and answered in a safe, timely, agile and valid manner using electronic means.¹⁵

24. At the last meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation in July 2020, the representative of Chile, speaking also in his capacity as Chair of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, noted that the central authorities of some countries members of the Association had enabled the electronic transmission of requests, by email, and prioritized those requests marked urgent. In some countries in the region, it had been made possible to transmit electronic extradition requests between central authorities and embassies, and extradition hearings were held by videoconference.¹⁶

25. In that connection, reference was made to the Treaty on the Electronic Transmission of Requests for International Legal Assistance among Central Authorities, concluded and signed by some countries at the Twenty-first Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries, held in Medellin, Colombia, in July 2019. The Treaty provided for the secure and real-time transmission of communications for mutual legal assistance among authorities, facilitated the use of electronic signatures for international procedures and protected personal data, among other things.¹⁷

26. At the sixth meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held from 27 to 29 July 2020, some speakers stressed the need to modernize, streamline and expedite mutual legal assistance practice through the electronic transmission of international cooperation requests, a practice that has recently been followed by some Ibero-American countries. In that connection, it was suggested that central and other competent authorities transmit, by email, requests for both formal and inter-institutional assistance, as well as preservation requests, using “24/7” networks.¹⁸

27. In Europe, and as reported to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, the majority of reporting States recommended the electronic transmission of requests (i.e., by email) as the most effective means in the light of the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for urgent requests.¹⁹ Eurojust and the European Judicial Network can also help with the transmission of mutual legal assistance

¹⁵ Article 18, paragraph 14, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime stipulates that requests for mutual legal assistance shall be made in writing or, where possible, “by any means capable of producing a written record [...] under conditions allowing that State Party to establish authenticity”. A similar provision is contained in article 46, paragraph 14, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. According to article 4, paragraph 9, of the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, “Requests for mutual assistance and any other communications [...] may be forwarded through any electronic or other means of telecommunication provided that the requesting Party is prepared, upon request, to produce at any time a written record of it and the original. However, any Contracting State, may by a declaration addressed at any time to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, establish the conditions under which it shall be willing to accept and execute requests received by electronic or other means of telecommunication”.

¹⁶ See CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4, para. 64.

¹⁷ See CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4, para. 67.

¹⁸ See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.4/2020/2, para. 32.

¹⁹ Council of the European Union, “The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters”, p. 8.

requests by facilitating the exchange of information and the identification of the competent executing authority.

B. Videoconferencing

28. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, criminal justice systems worldwide have tried to implement remote justice tools rapidly and on a massive scale. Although remote justice tools had already been considered, tested and used, the COVID-19 crisis has spurred the introduction of audiovisual technologies into use in the judicial system on an unprecedented scale. With the unfolding of the pandemic crisis, a rapid switch to remote justice was observed as more States allowed courts to use audiovisual technology to conduct ordinary criminal proceedings.

29. In particular in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters, long before the pandemic, relevant multilateral instruments had provided for videoconferencing in their mutual legal assistance provisions as a means of providing *viva voce* evidence in cases where it is impossible or undesirable for a witness to travel.²⁰ Giving testimony by videoconference may require legislative powers allowing authorities to compel the attendance of a witness, administer oaths and subject witnesses to criminal liability for non-compliance; amendments to evidentiary rules to allow for the basic admissibility of evidence provided by videoconference and setting technical standards for reliability and verification; and the expansion of perjury offences.²¹ The *Travaux Préparatoires of the Negotiations for the Elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto* also reflect a set of points that can be taken as guidance to ensure that due process standards are in place when conducting hearings with witnesses heard by videoconference.²²

30. The Secretariat had informed the Conference of the Parties, already at its fifth session and in accordance with Conference decision 4/2, about the technical and legal obstacles to the use of videoconferencing.²³ Useful experience has also been accumulated through the reviews conducted within the first reporting cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in relation to the pertinent provision of the Convention.²⁴

31. At the last meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation in July 2020, feedback presented on behalf of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors referred to the use of videoconferencing as a practice that offered enormous advantages for international cooperation (because it allowed for the delivery of the witnesses' testimony with full respect for the rights of those involved) and for conducting extradition hearings in an effective and valid manner.²⁵ Similar practices of videoconferencing were reported by States submitting their national input to Eurojust and the European Judicial Network.²⁶

32. States and criminal justice actors have also started to look beyond the emergency period. It is inevitable that justice systems will face at least two immediate obstacles

²⁰ See article 18, paragraph 18, of the Organized Crime Convention; and article 46, paragraph 18, of the Convention against Corruption. At the regional level, see article 9 of the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

²¹ UNODC, *Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (Vienna, 2017), para. 575.

²² *Travaux Préparatoires of the Negotiations for the Elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.V.5), p. 199.

²³ See CTOC/COP/2010/CRP.2.

²⁴ UNODC, *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*, 2nd ed. (Vienna, 2017), p. 236.

²⁵ CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4, para. 68.

²⁶ Council of the European Union, "The impact of COVID-19 on judicial cooperation in criminal matters", p. 8.

after the crisis: a considerable backlog of cases and a shortage of funds caused by the negative impact of lockdowns on the economy. Time and cost efficiency are frequently cited as the reasons why remote justice could seem an appealing way forward even after the public health restrictions on in-person hearings are lifted. However, any decision on the extent and modalities of using remote justice tools beyond the emergency period should be taken while giving due regard to fair trial guarantees.

C. Increase in crimes involving electronic evidence

33. The comprehensive physical distancing measures put in place worldwide as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a considerable increase in the use of online communication by public authorities, businesses and individuals. At the same time, cybercriminals have adapted their criminal activities to exploit the social, legal and psychological aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷

34. As noted at the sixth meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, one of the key steps in cross-border cybercrime and digital investigations was to preserve the integrity of electronic evidence and ensure its authenticity and admissibility as evidence in the related criminal proceedings.²⁸

35. The number of requests for mutual legal assistance to obtain or preserve electronic evidence had been growing drastically well before the pandemic crisis. In recognition of this challenge, UNODC has been mainstreaming the topic of electronic evidence in its work in the field of international cooperation. *The Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders* (2019), which contains information on how to gather, preserve and share electronic evidence while ensuring efficiency in mutual legal assistance practices, is an example of that effort.

36. The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent increase in crimes involving electronic evidence acted as an additional reminder of the acute need to streamline current methods for dealing with such requests. It is hoped that this reminder will also serve as an acknowledgement that case management systems are essential for the efficiency and effectiveness of central authorities and that the existence of dedicated structures or units within those authorities to deal with the obtaining of electronic evidence overseas could be a step towards addressing the growing backlog of cases.

37. At the last meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, in July 2020, it was noted that the increase in cybercrime had underlined the need for international cooperation to obtain electronic evidence located abroad, and attention should therefore be devoted to specific cooperation mechanisms and tools in that field, such as those provided for in the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, including direct cooperation with Internet service providers and the use of “24/7” networks.²⁹

38. In other forums, support was expressed for the best use of existing international instruments or frameworks and mechanisms to promote international cooperation in this field, with reference also being made to the Organized Crime Convention in addition to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime; on the other hand, the view was also expressed (in the light of General Assembly resolution 74/247, in which the Assembly had decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes) that the elaboration of a convention to combat cybercrime within the

²⁷ UNODC, Cybercrime and Anti-Money-Laundering Section, “Cybercrime and COVID-19: risks and responses” (Vienna, 2020).

²⁸ UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.4/2020/2, para. 28.

²⁹ CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4, para. 70.

framework of the United Nations would facilitate the efficiency of international cooperation against cybercrime.³⁰

V. Conclusions and recommendations

39. As reported at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, while the pandemic had caused difficulties that had had an impact on international cooperation, at the same time, it had also provided an opportunity to realize the potential for versatility, flexibility and adaptability in that field and an opportunity to rethink how international cooperation should look in the future, even beyond the coronavirus disease.

40. A significant priority for enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation that has gained further momentum in the challenging circumstances of the pandemic crisis is to continue and further improve the practice of direct communication and consultations and the sharing of information between central authorities.

41. The importance of such consultations, coupled with the necessity of technical assistance and training to better cope with the escalating challenges, in particular due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been highlighted in previous meetings of the Working Group and been emphasized in pertinent recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

42. The coronavirus crisis has further underlined the importance of using information and communications technologies to promote communication and cooperation among central and competent national authorities.

43. Further, in addressing the impact of the crisis, due consideration should be given to the appropriate checks and balances in place to ensure that human rights obligations and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice are respected in practice, including in the context of international cooperation in criminal matters.

44. The Working Group may wish to continue relevant discussions and, in doing so, consider in depth the emerging challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that may have a lasting impact on the work of central authorities and other competent authorities involved in such international cooperation.

³⁰ UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.4/2020/2, paras. 20–22.

Annex

Communications from central authorities regarding working procedures and emergency measures taken in the field of international cooperation on criminal matters in response to the health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The following table contains information on working procedures and emergency measures taken by States in the field of international cooperation on criminal matters as a response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime.

1. African States

Country	Emergency measures
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria has not adopted extraordinary measures but there are telephone and fax numbers available for coordination with the central authority of Algeria. The telephone and fax numbers are the following: +213 233 835 98 +213 233 835 66 +213 233 835 38 +213 233 835 67 If necessary, the email address will be provided by UNODC (carine.giraldou@un.org, luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org and karen.kramer@un.org).
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benin has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org).
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burkina Faso has not adopted extraordinary measures but all judicial cooperation requests can be sent by email to secretariat.general@justice.gov.bf. The WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC can also assist if necessary, by contacting karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org.
Cabo Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial cooperation requests can be sent using ordinary means but it is also possible to send the requests by email to autoridade.central@pgr.gov.cv. There are also other email addresses available that will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP).)</i></p>
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>

Country	Emergency measures
Côte d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Côte d'Ivoire has not adopted extraordinary measures but advanced copies of requests can be addressed to the following email address: dacp.justice.ci@gmail.com; physical copies must be sent later via diplomatic channels. The WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC can also assist if necessary (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org).
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In principle all cooperation requests must be submitted through formal channels. However, the International Cooperation, Judgements' Enforcement and Prisoners' Care Department of the Egyptian Prosecutor General's Office may be contacted by email for coordination, informal consultations or to explore possible exceptions: icooperation@ppo.gov.eg. According to national laws and the Egyptian Prosecutor General's decree, the above-mentioned department has jurisdiction to receive and execute all requests for cooperation in criminal matters.
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All judicial cooperation requests must be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). All outgoing requests will be sent electronically; paper documents will be sent only if necessary. <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The judicial cooperation requests can be sent by email. It is not necessary to send hard copies. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even if Guinea has not officially adopted exceptional measures, requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even if Guinea-Bissau has not officially adopted exceptional measures, requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberia has not adopted exceptional measures but requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mali has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email to the Directeur National des Affaires Judiciaires et du Sceau. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). Paper documents should be sent later. <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>

Country	Emergency measures
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if officially Mauritania has not adopted exceptional measures, requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central authority (Office of the Attorney General) may be contacted at +2302034740 for coordination. • The Office of the Attorney General is operating with a limited staff (on a roster basis). • All court cases have been postponed. The Courts are hearing cases only on an exceptional basis, by videoconference or other technical means.
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Niger has not adopted exceptional measures, but advanced copies can be sent by email or through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigeria has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email to cau.hagf@justice.gov.ng. • Physical copies must be sent later via diplomatic channels. <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email to dacgmj@justice.gouv.sn. • It is also possible to send requests by any means capable of producing a written record. <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sierra Leone has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request must be sent by email to attorneygeneral@gov.sc, copy to davidesparon@gov.sc and nissathompson@gov.sc.
Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Togo has not adopted exceptional measures, but requests can be sent by email to the email address of the central authority of Togo: dapg@justice.gouv.tg. The WACAP Coordination Team/UNODC can also assist if necessary, please contact (karen.kramer@un.org, coumbamathurin.diop@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by WACAP.)</i></p>
United Republic of Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails for coordination can be sent to dpp@nps.go.tz. • Other email addresses will be provided by UNODC (karen.kramer@un.org or luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org). • There are also telephone and fax numbers available – telephone: +255 26 2963634; and fax: +255 26 2963635.

2. Asian States

Country	Emergency measures
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central authority of China has not taken special measures regarding receiving foreign requests. However, due to the current global emergency, central authorities are strongly encouraged to send mutual legal assistance requests by email, with scanned formal documents as attachments to cnca@moj.gov.cn.
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extradition and mutual legal assistance requests may be sent to ild@doj.gov.hk.
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of sentenced persons requests must be sent in PDF format by email to icd@prokuror.kz, 7172557@prokuror.kz, 7172520@prokuror.kz and 7172993@prokuror.kz. Paper originals can be requested, if necessary. The execution of extraditions and transfer of sentenced persons is suspended (<i>This information is provided by the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC Network).</i>)
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests related to mutual legal assistance and extradition must be sent to the email address gpo542790@gmail.com and to another email address that will be provided by the CASC Coordination Team/UNODC (luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org and maruf.khakimov@un.org). The extradition and transfer of convicted persons has been temporarily suspended. (<i>This information is provided by the CASC Network.</i>)
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extradition may not be possible due to the health crisis. In exceptional cases (e.g., terrorism) the surrender could be executed when the requesting State demands it. The persons sought for extradition will be released and prevented from travelling unless the requesting State demands that they not be released because of the seriousness of the crime. Mutual legal assistance requests should be submitted through the usual diplomatic channels. Because of the measures taken by the Lebanese authorities to fight the spread of COVID-19, requests will be executed according to the country's available capabilities. For information to coordinate with the central authority of Lebanon, please contact UNODC for relevant email addresses: carine.giraldou@un.org, luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org or karen.kramer@un.org.
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests can be sent directly to the central authority if the requesting State has a bilateral agreement or memorandum of understanding on mutual legal assistance with Myanmar. In this case, the requests must be sent to the Division against Transnational Crime of the Myanmar Police Force by email: naypyitaw.ncb@gmail.com. If there is no bilateral agreement or memorandum of understanding, mutual legal assistance requests must be sent through diplomatic channels.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All incoming mutual legal assistance requests, where permissible, must be sent by email to AGC_CentralAuthority@agc.gov.sg. The email should be sent from a central authority's official email account (and not a public domain email address such as Gmail or Yahoo). The central authority of Singapore is not able to respond to email sent from a public domain email account.

Country	Emergency measures
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thailand has not adopted extraordinary measures for mutual legal assistance requests. To speed up the process, the central authority of Thailand recommends sending advance copies via email to inter@ago.go.th. The original documents of request must follow.
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email to mpo@prokuratura.uz or by fax to (+99871) 233 48 35. Sending and receiving post mail in Uzbekistan is temporarily suspended. (This information is provided by the CASC Network.)
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests must be sent to ngannk_v13@vks.gov.vn.

3. Eastern European States

Country	Emergency measures
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on how to proceed and the possibility of sending cooperation requests by email can be coordinated with the Albanian central authority by email to gentjana.kalia@pp.gov.al. (This information provided by the Council of Europe and the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG).)
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For mutual legal assistance requests and extradition, made at the pretrial stage of investigation, in case of difficulties with paper-based transmission, consultations must be conducted with the Prosecutor General's Office, before submission of the request. The email for consultations is as follows: info@prosecutor.am, international@prosecutor.am. (This information is provided by the CASC Network.)
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email. Addresses can be obtained by sending a request to the PC-OC secretariat (DGI-PC-OC@coe.int) or to the CASC Network Coordination Team/UNODC (luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org or maruf.khakimov@un.org). Information can also be provided by sending an email to international@prosecutor.gov.az. Extradition and transfer of sentenced persons may be suspended. (This information is provided by the CASC Network.)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email. Addresses can be obtained by sending a request to the PC-OC secretariat: DGI-PC-OC@coe.int. (This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests can be sent by email to europska.unija@pravosudje.hr. (This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)
Czechia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests must be sent by email to mot@msp.justice.cz (cases in the trial stage) or mo@nsz.brn.justice.cz (cases in pretrial stage). Extradition and transfer of sentenced persons are generally suspended.
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests, confiscation of criminal assets and all related formal communications can be submitted by email to mia@pog.gov.ge. Extradition requests and any follow up documents can be sent by email to extraditions@pog.gov.ge. Queries related to mutual legal assistance, extraditions and confiscation of criminal assets should be sent to international@pog.gov.ge. All documents related to enforcement and transfer of sentenced persons should be directed to ksarajishvili@justice.gov.ge. (This information is provided by the Council of Europe and the CASC Network.)

Country	Emergency measures
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests can be sent by email to nemzb@im.gov.hu.
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance pretrial requests must be sent by email in PDF format to pasts@vp.gov.lv (State Police) and darbdep@lrp.gov.lv (Prosecutor General's Office). Mutual legal assistance related to the trial stage must be sent by email in PDF format to: central.authority@tm.gov.lv (Ministry of Justice). Processing of hard copy requests received by post might be interrupted or delayed. Outgoing mutual legal assistance requests from Latvia will be sent electronically. Extradition and transfer of sentenced persons to Latvia are generally suspended. The execution of requests that require physical contact is equally suspended. In urgent cases solutions must be coordinated by email with the central authorities mentioned above. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All communications must be sent electronically; addresses can be obtained by sending a request to the PC-OC secretariat: DGI-PC-OC@coe.int. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
North Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no more extraordinary measures. Mutual legal assistance requests can be sent by email, but the originals must follow. Advance copies can be sent to: cabinet@mjustice.gov.mk. Other email addresses for coordination and follow up can be obtained by sending a request to the PC-OC secretariat: DGI-PC-OC@coe.int. The airports are not working in its full capacity – so surrenders are limited and for the moment the priority is given to extraditions. Where it is possible, surrender by car; transfers of sentenced persons are also possible. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance and extradition requests must be sent by email to: mla@procuratura.md or fax to: + (373) 22221335. For issues on international legal cooperation the central authority can be contacted by emailing: int-coop@procuratura.md. <p><i>(This information is provided by SEEPAG.)</i></p>
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email to dreptinternational@just.ro. <p><i>(This information is provided by the European Judicial Network.)</i></p>
Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Russian Federation has not adopted extraordinary measures. Scanned copies of the requests for assistance in criminal cases can be sent to the following email address: transgprf@genproc.gov.ru, pending receipt of hard copies via due channels.
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to paper documents, an electronic copy of a mutual legal assistance request must be sent by email. In urgent cases, the request can be sent exclusively by email. The email address will be provided by the SEEPAG secretariat (secretariat@seepag.info) or by UNODC (emails: luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org, karen.kramer@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by SEEPAG.)</i></p>
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email to gp.mp@gov.si. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>

Country	Emergency measures
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual legal assistance and extradition requests can be sent by email. The email address can be obtained by sending a request to the PC-OC secretariat at DGI-PC-OC@coe.int. • Communications referring to transfer of persons and enforcement of sentences can be sent by email to itex@minjust.gov.ua; communications for all general questions can be sent to ilad@minjust.gov.ua. • The requests received by email in electronic form (the scanned copies) are processed, but their outcomes will be sent after receiving paper copies. • During the health crisis, the letters of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine are signed with the qualified electronic signature, in accordance with the law of Ukraine. • The factual surrender of persons in transfer and extradition procedures is suspended. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>

4. Latin American and Caribbean States

Country	Emergency measures
Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent international judicial cooperation requests can be transmitted by electronic means to cooperacionpenal@mrecic.gov.ar, copying aif@mrecic.gov.ar. • If an urgent request is sent by post, it is recommended to send an email to aif@mrecic.gov.ar. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation (IberRed), transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual legal assistance requests can be sent by electronic means. For coordination, the following email addresses can be used: marconi.melo@mj.gov.br (Coordenador-Geral de Cooperação Jurídica Internacional em Matéria Penal) and renato.coimbra@mj.gov.br (Coordenador de Análise de Pedidos de Cooperação Jurídica Internacional em Matéria Penal). • Extradition and transfer of sentenced persons requests can be sent by electronic means. For coordination, the following email address can be used: rodrigo.sagastume@mj.gov.br (Coordenador de Extradução e Transferência de Pessoas Condenadas). <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual legal assistance requests must be sent by email to cooperacion@fiscalia.gob.ec and asistenciaspenales@fiscalia.gob.ec; and it is recommended to send an email to the Director of Cooperation and International Affairs of the Office of the Prosecutor General. The email address will be provided by the Secretariat of IberRed (secretaria.general@iberred.org) or by UNODC (luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org; karen.kramer@un.org). • Extradition requests must be sent by email. The email address will be provided by the Secretariat of IberRed (secretaria.general@iberred.org) or by UNODC (luisfrancisco.dejorgemesas@un.org; karen.kramer@un.org). <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>
Paraguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance copies of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests can be sent to by email to dai.ac@ministeriopublico.gov.py, copying mdoldan@ministeriopublico.gov.py. • Due to the lockdown, the priority will be given to new requests and urgent communications, follow-up information could be delayed or not provided. <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>

Country	Emergency measures
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent mutual legal assistance requests can be sent by email to ucjieperu@mpfn.gob.pe, copying rgala@mpfn.gob.pe. Urgent extradition requests can be sent by email to ucjieperu@mpfn.gob.pe, copying rgala@mpfn.gob.pe. It is also recommended to send an email to the IberRed contact points whose email will be provided by the IberRed secretariat (secretaria.general@iberred.org). For urgent inquiries, also call (00511) 4284349. <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent requests must be sent by email to cooperacionpenal@mec.gub.uy. <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>

5. Western European and other States

Country	Emergency measures
Andorra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All judicial cooperation requests must be sent by email to cooperacio_internacional_mji@govern.ad. All outgoing requests will be sent electronically; paper documents will be sent only if necessary. <p><i>(This information is provided by IberRed, transmitted through Iber@.)</i></p>
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International judicial cooperation requests must be sent by email to team.s@bmj.gv.at. Referring to extradition, surrender can be suspended due to limitations of mobility. Surrenders of persons to Austria are possible only if the person concerned has a medical certificate not older than four days showing a negative COVID-19 test. If escorting officers enter Austrian territory, that requirement also applies to them. Transfer of sentenced persons is now possible if the transiting person and escorting officer have a medical certificate not older than four days showing a negative COVID-19 test result. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of prisoners requests may be sent by email to centralauthority.iccm@just.fgov.be. If the authentication of the document is not guaranteed, it may be requested that the original be sent later by post. All requests are dealt with by the central authority as usual. Due to the current sanitary crisis, however, there might be some delays with the execution by the law enforcement authorities. Effective surrenders of person are possible, but remain limited due to existing travel limitations and prohibitions.
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance and extradition requests must be sent by email to Cdncentralauthority@justice.gc.ca.
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be scanned and sent by email to central.authority@om.fi. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requests can be sent by email to liste.entraide.dacg-bepi@justice.gouv.fr.
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greece has not adopted extraordinary measures, but for coordination with the Greek central authority and for sending advance copies, an email can be sent to minjustice.penalaffairs@justice.gov.gr.

Country	Emergency measures
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent in PDF format by email to ufficio2.dgpenale.dag@giustizia.it.
Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the mutual legal assistance request in urgent cases can be sent by email to SecSepi@justice.etat.lu. The execution of transfers of sentenced persons will be, in principle, suspended, but communications referring to the transfer of sentenced persons must be addressed to the following email address: Pgexpg@justice.etat.lu.
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email to airs@minjenv.nl. Referring to the conventions where diplomatic channels are required, the communication of the central authority of the Netherlands states: "We are of course aware that most mutual legal assistance treaties set requirements for communication by regular (diplomatic) mail. For the time being, however, we will process incoming requests communicated by electronic mail, while the original hard copy versions of these requests will be registered only after normal operations have resumed." <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests may be sent by email to postmottak@jd.dep.no; the request must be forwarded by post as soon as the situation allows for it. Extradition requests may be sent by email to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serviceavdelingen@mfa.no, with a copy to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security at postmottak@jd.dep.no; the original request with enclosures must be forwarded by post as soon as the situation allows for it. <p><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p>
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests must be sent by email to: correiopgr@pgr.pt or mail@gddc.pt.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance requests in serious and urgent cases must be sent by electronic means to rogatoriaspenal@mjusticia.es. Extradition requests must be sent to extradiciones@mjusticia.es. Outgoing requests from Spain will be sent electronically. Urgent requests of transfer of sentenced persons on the basis of humanitarian or other, extraordinary reasons will be processed provided they are sent to sgcjitrslados@mjusticia.es.
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switzerland has not adopted exceptional measures. Advanced copies of requests can be sent by email, affirming that a paper copy is to follow. Advance copies can be sent to irh@bj.admin.ch.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual legal assistance and extradition requests must be sent by email to UKCA-ILOR@homeoffice.gov.uk. Prisoner transfers have been suspended, but prisoner transfer casework continues to take place. Communications must be sent by email to Crossbordertransfers@justice.gov.uk. For the HM Revenue and Customs Central Authority, requests must be submitted by email only (mla@hmrc.gov.uk). Colleagues who have sent requests by post are invited to resubmit them by email to avoid delay, and we ask that the email makes clear that it is a resubmission. Where it is not possible to submit a request electronically, please contact using the email address above to discuss. Requests to the Crown Office (Scotland) (the central authority for Scotland in relation to all requests for mutual legal assistance/European Investigation Orders and requests for extradition/European arrest warrants) must be sent by email to

Country	Emergency measures
United States of America	<p data-bbox="475 264 1326 324">COICU@copfs.gov.uk. Also, to receive an update on any outstanding requests, this email address must be used.</p> <p data-bbox="475 338 1078 369"><i>(This information is provided by the Council of Europe.)</i></p> <ul data-bbox="453 383 1370 1039" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="453 383 1370 577">• Mutual legal assistance: mutual legal assistance requests should be sent by email to OIA.MLA@usdoj.gov. The Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs (OIA), as the United States central authority for mutual legal assistance, will execute requests to the extent possible during the health crisis. (It should be noted that other mutual legal assistance-related correspondence should be sent by email directly to the assigned OIA attorney and/or international affairs specialist.) <li data-bbox="453 591 1370 741">• Prisoner transfer: prisoner transfer requests and communications should be emailed to OIA.IPTU@usdoj.gov. Any communications that cannot be transmitted electronically should be mailed directly to the International Prisoner Transfer Unit in OIA as the United States central authority for international prisoner transfer matters. <li data-bbox="453 754 1370 1039">• Extradition: Extradition requests continue to be received as before the current health crisis. Where the pertinent treaty permits, requests for provisional arrest may be sent by email directly to OIA. Other provisional arrest requests and complete extradition requests must be sent via diplomatic channels. During the current health crisis, when a person is to be surrendered to the United States from a partner nation, OIA will request additional information from its foreign counterparts regarding the person's health. When a person is to be surrendered by the United States to a partner nation, OIA will seek special authorization for the entry of escorts into the United States.