

# Sabine Zwaenepoel

**POSITION:** Deputy Head of Unit  
Fight against organised Crime

**ORGANISATION:** DG HOME AFFAIRS  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Sabine Zwaenepoel has master degrees in Political Science, East European Studies and International Relations. She has been working for Council of Europe, as an assistant MEP Arie M Oostlander and, since 1997, as an official of the European Commission.

At the EC she worked for DG Enlargement as a Desk Officer of the Bulgaria Team, for DG Justice Freedom and Security as a Desk officer for Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Croatia and Turkey and as a Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Meglena Kuneva, Commissioner responsible for Consumer Affairs. Since 2008 she is Deputy Head of Unit "Fight against Organised Crime" of DG Justice Freedom and Security.

**Sabine Zwaenepoel will be on the panel of the discussion on Day 2 of the conference.**

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The European Union's response to organised crime is continuously adapting to the growing complexity of it. This is reflected in the Council Framework Decision of 24 October 2008 on the fight against organised crime as well as in the development of special agencies such as EUROPOL, EUROJUST or CEPOL. Globalisation and expansion of international trade allows organised crime to expand its activities and enter into new areas, usually driven by a 'high profit, low risk' approach. Organised crime nevertheless remains a difficult notion to define and the fight against it, including prevention, is highly fragmented as it tackles wide range of criminal phenomena ranging from trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting and fraud, to drugs, stealing vehicles and cargothefts.

Cargo theft is difficult to control and fight as it often has a "hit and run" character. Here, in order to be effective a multi-disciplinary approach is required. This means a combination of preventive measures and pure law enforcement measures. Before opening the debate on any new policy initiative, there might be some merit in looking at instruments already at Member States' disposal and making sure that they are being used in an optimal manner.