

Football-related Offences

Karina Matvīcuka

Rīga Stradiņš University, Doctoral Study Programme "Law", Latvia

Introduction. In December 2013, the European Council announced the adoption of the European Union (hereinafter EU) work programme on minimising the risk of football violence in the EU.

According to the Justice and Home Affairs Council, the EU work programme 2014–2016 is on minimising risks to safety, security and public order in connection with sports events and in particular football matches. The Council pointed out that the work programme primarily focuses on football violence since it is the only sport where safety and security challenges are a Europe-wide phenomenon.

The work programme is based on three themes: international cooperation; expertise and support; and training.

Aim. There has been no systematic recording of football-related violent incidents in any European country, apart from Great Britain. The lack of quantitative or reliable empirical data on football-related violence, and particularly the lack of comparable data, makes such cooperation, mentioned above, very difficult.

Material and methods. In order for the international cooperation to be effective, apart from the statistics on football-related offences, there should be at least a common understanding of what offences usually occur just before, during or straight after the game and the commonly accepted definition of it.

For that reason, it is highly important to analyse the crime reports of the European Union member countries and their related legislation, such as Latvia, Germany, as well as Great Britain, Poland, etc.

Results and conclusion. As a result, the next group of serious crimes committed by football hooligans is pointed out and described in the research paper: violent disorder; public disorder; missile throwing; racist or indecent chanting; pitch incursion; alcohol offences; ticket touting; possession of offensive weapon; use of possession of fireworks or flares; breach of banning order; offences against property, etc.