

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN UNION NETWORK ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH. FIELD VISIT IN ITALY (REGGIO CALABRIA AND CATANIA). CONTROLS CARRIED OUT BY THE ANTIMAFIA INVESTIGATION DIRECTORATE AT THE SITE OF THE "MODERNISATION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS OF THE MAIN ROAD S.S. 284", ADRANO-BRONTE SECTION.

On 5 and 6 October a field visit of the European Union Network on the Administrative Approach (ENAA) was held in Reggio Calabria and Catania, organized by the International Police Cooperation Service. This network, based in Brussels, is tasked with sharing best practices, at EU level, pertaining to the administrative fight against organized crime, also of mafia-type.

The visit was attended not only by the ENAA Secretariat, by representatives of the Antimafia Investigation Directorate and the Central Directorate of Criminal Police, but also by police officials from Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

On 5 October, a conference was held at the Prefecture of Reggio Calabria on the Italian anti-mafia legislative/administrative instruments and on the tasks and functions of the National Agency for Seized and Confiscated Assets.

Subsequently, the foreign delegations visited the headquarters of the Organized Crime Investigation Group (G.I.C.O) of the Italian Financial Police in Reggio Calabria, located in a building seized from organized crime, as well as the Francesco Crupi Museum, which houses about 130 paintings of immense value seized and confiscated from local mafia organizations.

The second day, the members of the European delegation were transferred from Reggio Calabria to Catania on board of 2 helicopters of the Air Police Unit of Reggio Calabria and Palermo, in order to participate as observers in the field visit at the site of the "modernisation and improvement works of the main road S.S.284" in the section Adrano – Bronte. This visit took place in execution of a decree issued by the Prefect of Catania and was attended by officers of the Antimafia Investigation Directorate, the State Police, the Carabinieri and the Financial Police, with the support of the Local Work Inspectorate.

At the end of the activity, 100 people were identified and 97 vehicles checked, all belonging to 42 companies involved in supplies, sub-contracts and services for the execution of the works. One of these companies is already subject of an anti-mafia ban issued by the Prefecture of Catania since links between a partner and the "Cintorino" mafia clan of Calatabiano (Catania) had been ascertained.

After the de-briefing on the outcomes of the field visit to the site, which took place in a building in the centre of Catania confiscated from the mafia and brought back into use by the civil society, the European delegation was welcomed by the Prefect and visited the Prefecture of Catania.

At the end of the visit, the members of the delegation commonly expressed great appreciation and considerable interest in the Italian model of anti-mafia administrative approach, which is unique at European level and an example to follow.

Rome, 14 October 2022