



**RIPE NCC**

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

# Seizure of the “Right to Registration of IPv4 Addresses” for the Recovery of Money

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# The Case



- German court decision between two German entities (one RIPE NCC member and a third party)
- Court allowed for the auction of IP addresses for the recovery of money

# The Order



- Dutch bailiffs delivered a court order which obligated the RIPE NCC to:
  - Prevent any transfers from the member's account
  - Provide a statement outlining the resources allocated to the member
  - And to eventually transfer them to the buyer after auction

# The Investigation



- We sought specialist counsel to verify the legality of the seizure
- They advised:
  - Registrations of IPv4 addresses have economic value and can be transferred
  - That the seizure of the right to the registration of IP addresses was in line with existing legal principles
  - The member was responsible for contesting the order, if they disputed the facts of the case

# The Auction



- We contacted the legal representatives of the third party and they understood:
  - That IP addresses were not property (Art. 10.2 of the SSA)
  - The right to registration could be seized, but only if RIPE policies and RIPE NCC procedures were followed
- The order was never contested by the member
- The IP addresses were auctioned by the bailiff and sold to another RIPE NCC member

# Criteria for Future Orders



- Orders must be recognised by the Dutch courts
- They must be served to the RIPE NCC by a bailiff
- The order must specifically mention the RIPE NCC and create an obligation for the RIPE NCC to perform the transfer
- The order must state the specific resources at issue
- Each order will be reviewed on a case by case basis

# Key Takeaways



- This sets a new precedent for the RIPE NCC
- No change to our existing procedures is required
- Civil law seizure not criminal law
- More information on RIPE Labs:
  - [https://labs.ripe.net/Members/ciaran\\_byrne/seizure-of-the-right-to-registration-of-ipv4-addresses](https://labs.ripe.net/Members/ciaran_byrne/seizure-of-the-right-to-registration-of-ipv4-addresses)



# Questions



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