

Press Release of the Luxembourg Public Prosecutor's Office

Fight against phishing scams

(30.01.2026)

In addition to the latest press releases, and recalling that the precautionary measures addressed to the public remain fully relevant, the Luxembourg Public Prosecutor's Office provides an update on ongoing investigations into phishing-type scams aimed at the fraudulent acquisition of personal and banking data, intended to divert funds to the detriment of victims, notably through the use of individuals acting as financial intermediaries ("money mules").

The investigations have been expanded within the framework of close cooperation with foreign police and judicial authorities. These efforts have resulted in the identification of a person regarded by the judiciary as playing a central role in phishing-type fraud schemes, notably via SMS, as well as in the laundering of funds diverted from victims located in Luxembourg. This person is suspected of having participated in structuring the fraudulent activities and of having recruited numerous money mules in Luxembourg, in connection with a group of other young participants.

This individual was the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice issued by the Luxembourg judicial authorities since July 2025. They were tracked down in the United Arab Emirates by the Fugitive Active Search Team (FAST Luxembourg) and apprehended in Dubai in December 2025, following a request from the Luxembourg authorities and on the basis of an international arrest warrant issued by a Luxembourg investigating judge.

Extradition to Luxembourg took place on 29 January 2026, thanks to close cooperation involving diplomatic channels, liaison officers from the United Arab Emirates and EUROPOL, the Fugitive Active Search Team (FAST Luxembourg), as well as the Anti-Money Laundering Section of the Financial and Economic Crimes Department of the Judicial Police. This constitutes the first extradition to Luxembourg from the United Arab Emirates.

Upon arrival in Luxembourg, the individual was taken in charge by investigators from the Judicial Police for questioning and brought before an investigating judge on 30 January 2026, who ordered their placement in pre-trial detention.

Furthermore, in the context of the same investigation, a second person considered a presumed key actor was arrested in Luxembourg on 27 January 2026. This second individual is currently serving a 12-year prison sentence to which they were previously sentenced in another case. They are being prosecuted for the same offences. Both individuals are suspected of belonging to the same group of young people operating in Luxembourg.

At this stage of the investigation, more than a dozen victims have been identified, with total damages estimated at approximately 113,000 euros, corresponding to funds diverted and laundered in connection with offences committed between December 2022 and August 2023.

The investigation is ongoing.

It is recalled that any person implicated benefits from the presumption of innocence.

This case illustrates the continued efforts of law enforcement and Luxembourg judicial authorities to identify and prosecute those responsible for fraudulent networks, beyond the direct perpetrators, thanks to extensive police investigations and international cooperation.

The judicial authorities reiterate once again that passwords, LuxTrust security certificates, and banking details must never be disclosed to third parties, regardless of the form or the pretext. The same applies to any request inviting individuals to connect to suspicious internet links, especially when accompanied by messages, of any form, encouraging the transmission of personal or confidential information. Previously published warnings on this topic remain fully relevant.

Persons referred to as money mules, meaning individuals who make their bank accounts or payment instruments available to third parties to transfer or conceal funds of fraudulent origin resulting from such scams, are also reminded that these actions constitute distinct criminal offences and are systematically prosecuted by the judicial authorities.