

Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



Kornelia Nehse

EFG - chairperson



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Contents

1. **Situation in Europe**
2. **The Role of ENFSI**
3. **Tendencies**

Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

ENFSI Members

- 61 member institutes
- 34 countries
- 30 different languages
- different legal systems



+Associate Members in Working Groups

(Australia, Canada, Europe, Israel, USA)



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group





Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



Mission Statement

ENFSI has been established with the purpose of sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences and coming to **mutual agreements** in the field of forensic science.



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Aim

ENFSI is recognized as a pre-eminent voice in forensic science worldwide by ensuring the quality of development and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe. It will therefore:

- strengthen and consolidate ENFSI
- expand the membership throughout Europe while maintaining the development and credibility of ENFSI
- establish and maintain a working relationship with other similar organizations
- encourage all ENFSI laboratories to comply with best practice and international standards for quality and competence assurance



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

What is the general intention regarding report writing?

- to harmonize the scale of conclusion
- to implement an approach for evaluation of evidence
- to educate the employees on the subject
- to inspire the employees on the subject



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Structure of reports - EXAMPLE UK

- Qualifications and Experience
- Information received
- Continuity
- Purpose
- Technical Issues
- Examination and Results
- Interpretation**
- Conclusion**

Structure of reports - EXAMPLE D

- Material received
- Material Assessment
- Examination Order/Purpose
- Methods/Technical Issues
- Information received
- Examination and Results
- Interpretation**
- Conclusion**

Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

**What is
the role
of the expert?**

- state bare facts?
- interpret analytical results/spectra (discuss error rates etc.)?
- interpret the evidence on a source level?
- interpret the evidence on the activity level?



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Forensic investigation

Facts

interpretation

Conclusion

*Reporting (written, oral)
with transparency*

Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Harmonise the scale of conclusion

- general scale introduced 2004-10-01

Verbal expression

... extremely support...

...strongly support...

...support...

...weakly support...

...support neither...nor...

...weakly support...not...

...support...not...

...strongly support...not...

... extremely strongly support...not...

Level

Level +4

Level +3

Level +2

Level +1

Level 0

Level -1

Level -2

Level -3

Level -4





Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

The Likelihood Approach

also called

The logical approach

Based on Bayes rule



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

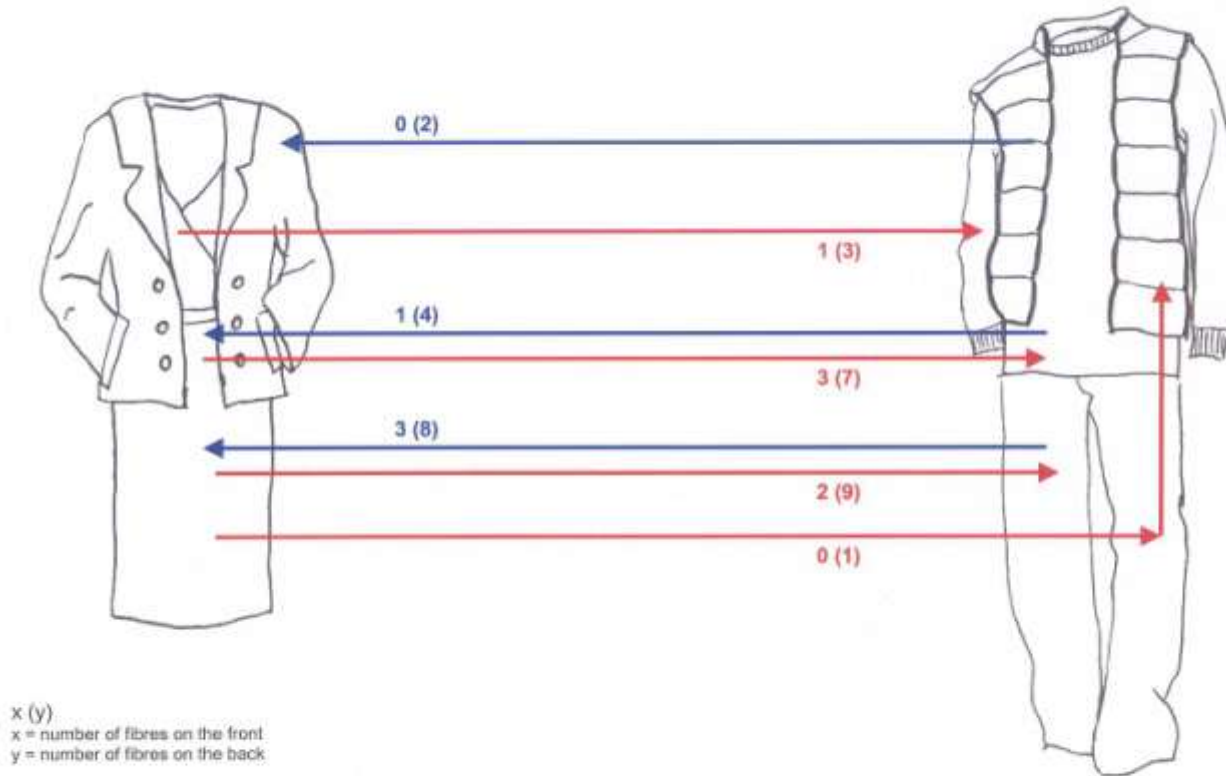


Example

The victim was attacked by an offender from behind

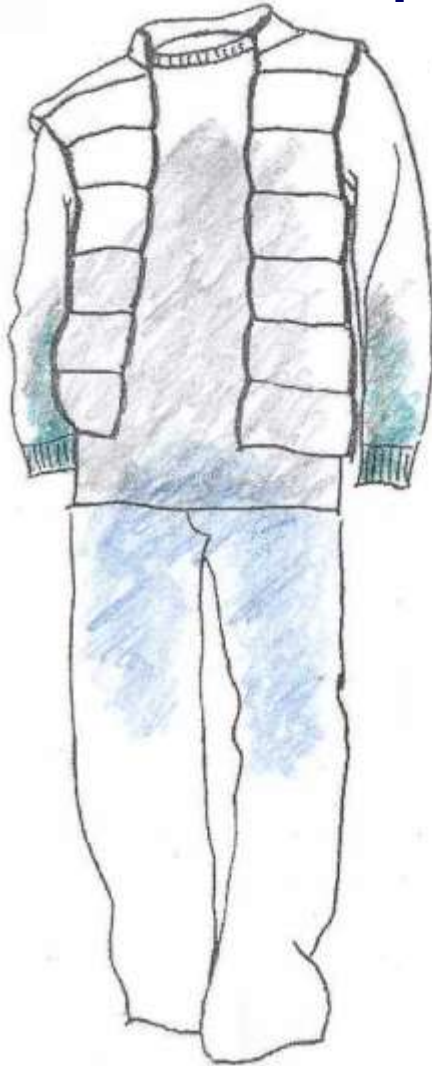
Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Fibre transfer

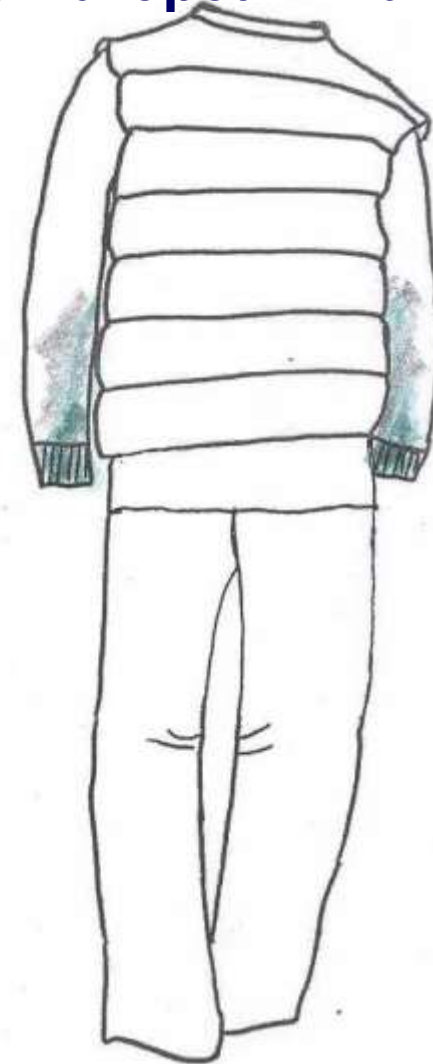


() numbers in brackets indicate the findings on the back side of the garments

Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



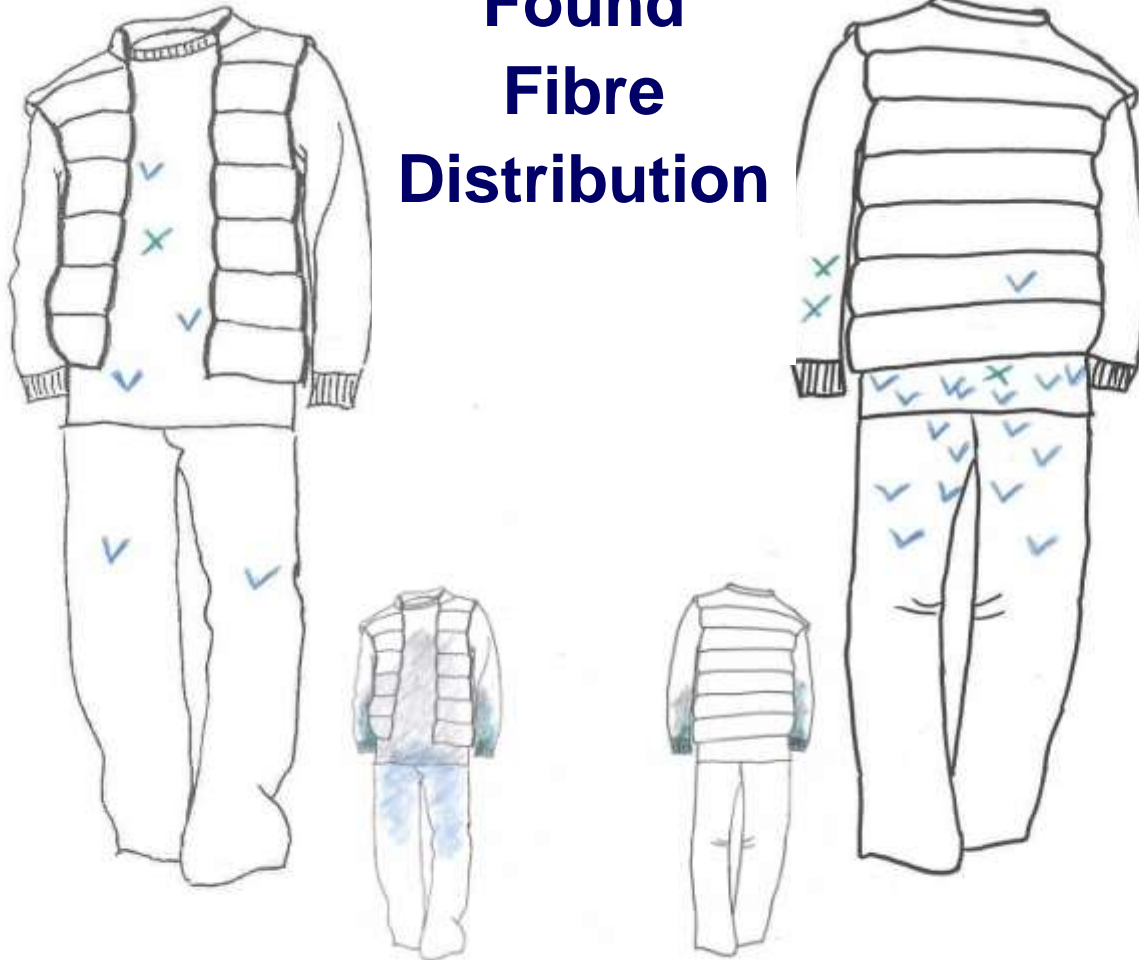
**Expected
Fibre
Distribution**



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Found Fibre Distribution

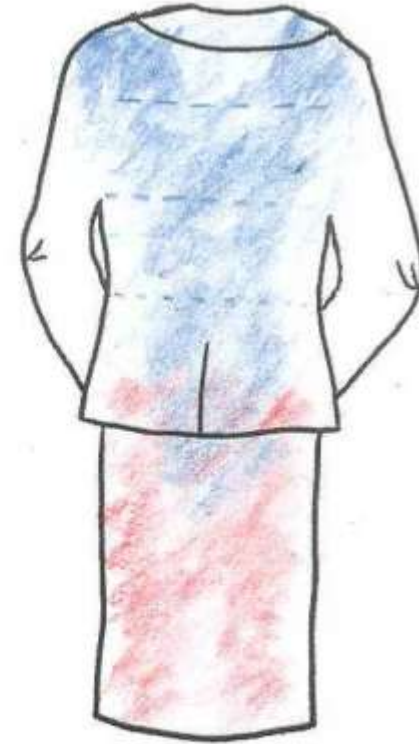


Victim's fibres on suspects clothes

Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

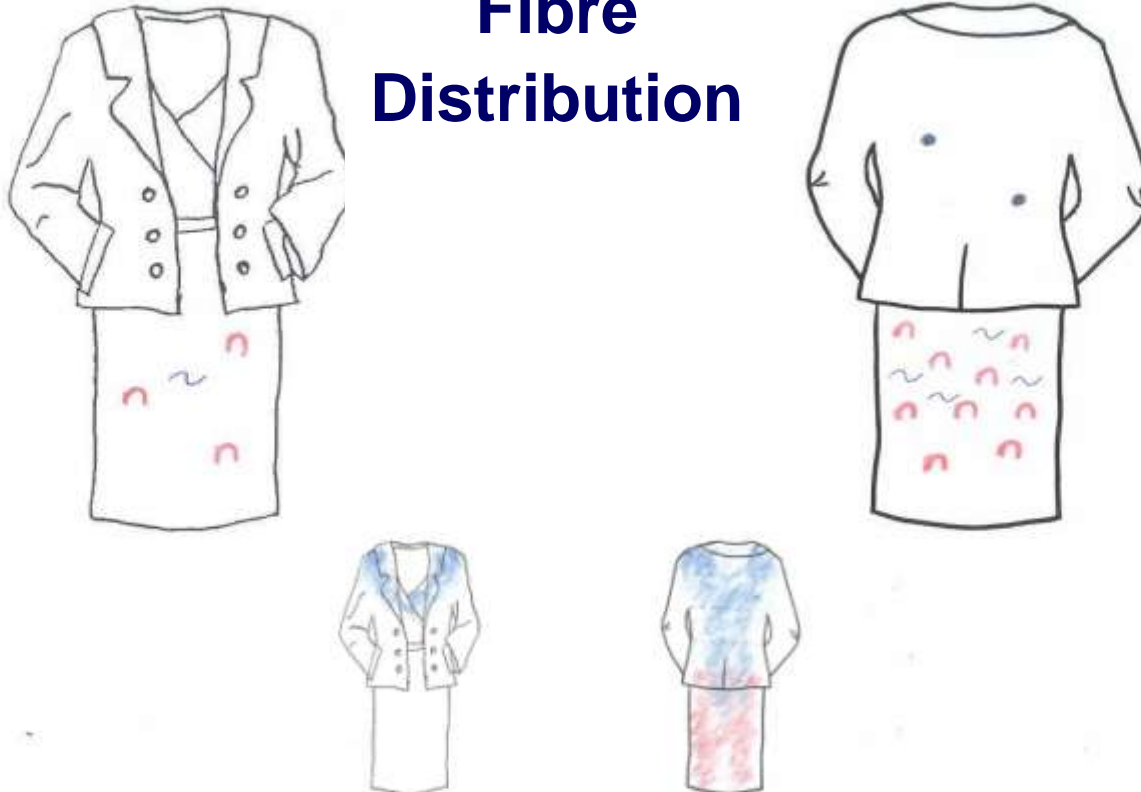


**Expected
Fibre
Distribution**



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Found Fibre Distribution



Suspect's fibres on victims clothes



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

...“all the responsibility of medicine, the intricacy of the law and the universality of science. In as much as it carries higher penalties for error than other professions, it is not a matter to take lightly, nor to trust to luck“

Paul L. KIRK



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

What do we expect the expert to do?

→state that there is a disagreement between location of findings and the victims' stated case history which needs further discussion



Report Writing in the EU
from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

**What happened
from „Crime Scene“
to
Laboratory?**



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group





Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group





Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group





Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group





Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

The Likelihood Approach

Based on Bayes theory.

Evaluation is done in the **framework of the case** circumstances

At least **two propositions** (hypotheses) should be addressed, often the prosecution versus the defence.

The role of the forensic expert is to express **the probability of the findings according to a given hypothesis** and NOT the probability of the hypothesis according to the actual findings (transposed conditional, "prosecutors fallacy")

Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Interpretation is the process on the way to a conclusion/statement

Background information and data

Framework of the case
What has happened?
What is alleged?

**Observations/
Findings**

Personal experience

Other knowledge
Colleagues!
Literature!





Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Example

PURPOSE

The purpose of my examination was to assist in determining whether or not either of the two suspects had worn the items of clothing discarded in the alleyway close to the burglary.

Ray Palmer, FSS



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

INTERPRETATION

In order to assess the significance of the findings in this case, I have considered two proposals:

Messrs SUSPECT 1 and SUSPECT 2 had been in recent contact with the coat (ALM/01)

Messrs SUSPECT 1 and SUSPECT 2 had not been in recent contact with the coat (ALM/01) and the findings are coincidental.

Ray Palmer, FSS



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

The results of published studies have consistently shown that the chances of finding significant numbers of a particular non-ubiquitous fibre type/ colour combination on a random surface are extremely small.

If Messrs SUSPECT 1 and SUSPECT 2 had not been in contact with the coat (ALM/01), then I would not have expected to find fibres matching its lining on their clothing.

Ray Palmer, FSS



Report Writing in the EU

from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

Published studies have also shown that the majority of fibres transferred to a garment will be lost in the first 2 hours following contact.

The results of the fibre analysis relating to Mr SUSPECT 1 are what would be expected from a prolonged and relatively forceful contact with the lining of the coat (ALM/01) such as if he had worn the garment.

I therefore consider there to be greater support for the first proposal than the second.

Ray Palmer, FSS



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the results of the examination in this case provide;

Strong support for the view that Suspect 1 had been in recent contact with the coat (ALM/01)

Strong support for the view that Suspect 2 had recently worn the coat (ALM/01).

Ray Palmer, FSS



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group

...“all the responsibility of medicine, the intricacy of the law and the universality of science. In as much as it carries higher penalties for error than other professions, it is not a matter to take lightly, nor to trust to luck“

Paul L. KIRK

**This is the way some labs in Europe go
in the meantime**

- take a logic approach**
- look at cases from a broader perspective**
 - move to the activity level**
 - take on more responsibility**

Report Writing in the EU
from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



Thank you for your attention

Kornelia Nehse, EFG-chairperson, LKA KT Berlin
phone: +49 30 4664 974500 e-mail: kornelia.nehse@polizei.berlin.de



Report Writing in the EU from the perspective of the European Fibres Group



EAFS 2012

The Hague, Netherlands



<http://www.eafs2012.eu/upload/0-announcement.pdf>