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**EUROMED
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PROGRAMME CRIMEX SESSION N°4

21- 23 NOVEMBER 2017
TALLINN, ESTONIA

ELABORATION OF A ROADMAP TOWARDS
EUROMED JUDICIAL PLATFORM

CRIMEX Session Nº 4
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Roadmap towards a EuroMed Judicial Platform

CHALLENGES, POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, BEST PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES IN ESTABLISHING
FORMAL AND INFORMAL NETWORKS OF COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

GENERAL PRESENTATION

EuroMed Justice has a regional scope, addressing to the European Neighbourhood South Partner Countries (SPCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Syria's participation is suspended

EuroMed Justice is funded by the European Union having as the main goal to contribute to the development of a Euro-Mediterranean effective, efficient and protective to the human rights judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal matters.

The EuroMed objective is to build the fundamentals for a Euro-Mediterranean, cross-regional mechanism of judicial and law enforcement cooperation composed of criminal justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, legal advisors from the Justice Ministries and law enforcement officers).

The mechanism should be directly connected with and supported by the *Eurojust and European Judicial Network (EJN)*. Besides *Eurojust and EJN*, some of the activities are developed in cooperation with *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*, *United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CTED)*, *Council of Europe –European Committee on Crime Problems (CoE-CDPC)* and the *International Association of Prosecutors (IAP)*.

CrimEx (EuroMed Group of Experts in criminal matters) - is placed at the core of EuroMed judicial and law enforcement mechanism of cooperation and coordination.

CrimEx exercises the SPCs' ownership in the implementation of the project activities and the monitoring of the results. For two years, during eight sessions, benefiting from Eurojust, EJN, CoE and UN support, CrimEx functions as a real think-tank and a regional forum to build the trust and mutual confidence, to exchange good practices and lessons learned, to carry out thorough analyses of the situation in each SPC and in the whole region, to set up specific recommendations, guidelines, manuals, studies and researches.

CrimEx members are the potential Eurojust and EJN contact points, and the main constituents of the national and regional platforms of cooperation in criminal matters.

PARTICIPANTS

CrimEx Members

Main Stakeholders Representatives – Eurojust, EJM, CTED, UNODC, IAP

EuroMed Police

OBJECTIVE 1: ELABORATION OF A ROADMAP TOWARDS A EUROMED JUDICIAL PLATFORM

During the 21st and 23rd of November, Tallinn Fourth CrimEx Session should identify and explore the possibilities for the establishment of an "*EuroMed Judicial Platform*" - similar to other criminal justice networks of cooperation: Eurojust, the European Judicial Network in criminal matters, Prosecutors Networks from Western Balkans, Sahel judicial network, South East European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG), South European Law enforcement Centre (SELEC), Police Cooperation Convention in SEE (PCC-SEE) - and the establishment of justice focal points in each SPCs.

The "*EuroMed Judicial Platform*" **main purpose** is to improve the transmission and processing of mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests and the expeditious judicial and law enforcement cooperation between SPCs (*South – South cooperation*), and SPCs and the European States – (*South–North cooperation*) since terrorist organisations and transnational organised criminal networks exploit the region’s porous borders.

METHODOLOGY:

The 4th CrimEx will meet during 3 working days to:

1. Identify the challenges for the establishment of a EuroMed Judicial Platform in SPCs;
2. Obtain regional best practices, contrasted to the SPCs needs – Sahel judicial network
3. Obtain international best practices and exchange experiences with
 - a. EU agencies – EJM in criminal matters and EJM Contact Points, Eurojust –
 - b. EU MS liaison magistrates:
 - c. UN experiences, EuroMed Police, International Association of Prosecutors;
 - d. Other regions experiences – SELEC, SEEPAG, WBPN, PCC-SEE
4. Provide practical regional inputs to the elaboration of the recommendations;
5. Elaborate the main steps for the creation of the EuroMed Judicial Platform

OBJECTIVE 2: PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAASTRICHT ROADMAP ON NATIONAL COORDINATION

OBJECTIVE 3: DEBATE TO IDENTIFY THE POSSIBLE REGIONAL NEEDS TO BE COVERED BY THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FACILITY.

The Fourth Session of CrimEx will take place in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English and French.

EXPERTS

- EU Agencies and International Organisations:
 - EuroJust
 - *Mr. Francisco Jiménez-Villarejo, External Relations Team. National Member for Spain*
 - European Judicial Network in criminal matters – the Secretariat and National Contact Points:
 - *Ms. Maria Almeida Gomes, EJM Secretariat*
 - *Mrs. Imbi Markus, Estonian Presidency, Legal Adviser at the Ministry of Justice, EJM Contact Point*
 - *Mr. Christian Schierholt – Chief Senior Prosecutor, Prosecutor General’s Office, Central Unit organised Crime and corruption, German Contact Point*
 - *Mr. Tsvetomir Yosifov – Head of International Department of Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s office, EJM Contact Point in Bulgaria*
 - *Mr. Florin Radu – EJM Expert, SNE at the EJM secretariat, Romania*
 - UNODC
 - *Ms. Siham Al Figuigui, Terrorism prevention branch*
 - International Association of Prosecutors:
 - *Mr. Benn van Alphen, Project & Community Manager, IAP*
- EuroMed Justice Key Experts:
 - *Mrs. Victoria PALAU - Team Leader (FIIAPP - Spain)*
 - *Mr. Virgil IVAN-CUCU - Capacity Building (EIPA - Luxembourg)*
 - *Mrs. Dania SAMOUL - Coordinator (FIIAPP - Spain)*
- EuroMed Police Tem Leader:
 - *Mr. Michel QUILLÉ*

Tuesday 21st November 2017

09.00 **Opening and Welcome**

09.15 **Introduction of the 4th CrimEx Session by the EuroMed Justice Key Experts**

- Presentation of the documents and results of the 3rd CrimEx Session in Paris, 24-26 October 2017:
- CrimEx Presidium

09.30 **(I) European Judicial Network in criminal matters - the Secretariat and the Contact Points**

- *Mrs. Maria Almeida Gomes, EJM Secretariat*
- *Mrs. Imbi Markus – Estonian Presidency, Legal Adviser at the Ministry of Justice, EJM Contact Point - importance of the Network: benefits for practitioners, urgent cases*

10.30 **Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants**

11.45 **Coffee Break**

11.40 **EUROJUST**

- Organisation, Objectives, Functions, Members, Challenges, Best practices, Recommendations for EuroMed
 - *Mr. Francisco Jiménez-Villarejo, External Relations Team. National Member for Spain*

12.15 **Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants**

12.45 **Lunch Break**

14.00 **Moroccan Judicial Network for International Cooperation**

- Organisation – how the networks was established - Objectives, Functions, Members, Challenges, Best practices, Recommendations for EuroMed
 - *Mr. Mohamed Chaidid, Deputy Crown Prosecutor, Rabat Court of appeals, Ministry of Justice*

14.30 **Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants**

14.45 **Coffee Break**

15.00 **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC**

- Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel Countries
- Other existing Regional Platforms for Judicial Cooperation
- Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF) in the Middle East and North Africa Region
- Organisation – how the networks were established - Objectives, Functions, Members, Challenges, Best practices, Recommendations for EuroMed
 - *Ms. Siham Al Figuigui, Terrorism prevention branch*

16.00 **Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants**

17.00 **End of the first day**

09.00 (II) European Judicial Network in criminal matters - the Secretariat and the Contact Points

- *Mr. Christian Schierholt – Chief Senior Prosecutor, Prosecutor General’s Office, Central Unit organised Crime and corruption, German Contact Point - German structure of the EJN*
- *Mr. Tsvetomir Yosifov – Head of International Department of Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s office, EJN Contact Point - Bulgarian example of National network. Fighting Terrorism and the role of the networks.*
- *Mr. Florin Radu – EJN Expert (SNE at the EJN secretariat) - Romanian example, the EJN tools and the role of the EJN in judicial cooperation.*

10.30 **CrimEx debates** – comments, proposals for best practices, questions for the EJN contact points

Tour de table : Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon

Representatives of: Eurojust, EJN, UNODC, IAP, from other international organisations are invited to present their comments.

11.40 **Coffee Break**

12.00 **South East European Judicial Networks – PMT**

- SELEC & SEEPAG
- WB Prosecutors Network
- PCC-SEE
- SEPCA
- RAI
- Type of organisation –informal, association, intergovernmental, convention based - Objectives, Functions, Members, Challenges, Best practices, Recommendations for EuroMed
 - *Mr. Virgil Ivan-Cucu, EuroMed Justice Capacity Building Expert*

12.30 **Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants**

12.45 **Lunch Break**

14.00 International Association of Prosecutors (IAP)

- Organisation – how the networks were established - Objectives, Functions, Members, Challenges, Best practices, Recommendations for EuroMed
 - *Mr. Benn van Alphen, Project & Community Manager, IAP*

15.00 Questions and comments from the CrimEx and participants

15.30 Coffee Break

15.50 CrimEx debates – comments, proposals for best practices addressing the following questions:

- It is the establishment of EuroMed Judicial Platform useful for the cross-regional cooperation?
- Challenges, obstacles and possible solutions
- Scope and nature – formal or informal
- Models of networks to be followed- organisation - members, partners, structure and functions
- Budget
- Recommended Steps

Tour de table: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon

Representatives of: Eurojust, EJM, UNODC, IAP, from other international organisations are invited to present their comments.

17.30 End of the second day

Thursday 23rd November 2017

08.45 **All SPCs** CrimEx representatives will attend the [49th EJM Plenary Meeting](#) until 13h00

13.15 [Lunch Break](#)

14.30 **Presentation of the National Reports on the measures taken for the implementation of the Maastricht Roadmap on National Coordination**

Tour de table: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon.

Representatives of: Eurojust, EJM and from other international organisations are invited to present their comments.

Debate to identify the possible regional needs to be covered by the Technical assistance Facility

15.30 [Coffee Break](#)

15.40 **CrimEx Final Debates. Conclusions.**

- Discussions and agreement on the Roadmap containing the main steps for the creation of the EuroMed Judicial Platform
- EuroMed Justice Website and restricted area for criminal matters.
- Preparation for the 5th CrimEx
- Handbook on judicial cooperation and the Digital Evidence Manual

16.45 [End of the third day](#)

***** End of the 4th CrimEx Session *****