



Project Funded by the
European Union

EUROMED JUSTICE II PROJECT



TRANSPOSITION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CRIMINAL AND PRISON LAW

WORKING GROUP 3

REFORM OF CRIMINAL AND PRISON LAW

1st MEETING

THE GLOBAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

13-14 November 2008

AGENDA

Wednesday 12 November 2008

20.30–22.00 Welcome dinner for the representatives of the MEDA countries

Thursday 13 November 2008

08.45–09.00 Registration of participants

09.00–09.30 Welcome speech.

Representative of the Belgian Government (*to be confirmed*)

Presentation of the Working Group and of the Project: *Anna ABARIOTOU*,
Principal Administrator in charge of the EuroMed Justice II Project, EuropeAid Co-
operation Office, European Commission, Brussels (BE)

09.30-09.45 Presentation of the general framework of this component, the main topics
suggested for discussion, the working programme and the methodology to be
followed during the meeting.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO, Magistrate, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice II
Project, EIPA-ECR, Barcelona (ES)

- 09.45-10.00 Self-presentation by the participants
- 10.00-10.45 1st Presentation on “UN Conventions and Cooperation systems in criminal matters”
- Expert: *Valérie LEBAUX*, Chief, Organised Crime and Criminal Justice Section, Treaty Affairs Division, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna (AT)
- 10.45-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-11.45 2nd Presentation on “The bilateral agreement model for international cooperation in criminal matters”
- Expert: *Ana GALLEGO TORRES*, Deputy Director for International Judicial Cooperation, International Judicial Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Justice, Madrid (ES)
- 12.00-13.00 Discussion
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 Presentation of the current situation in this field in each country by the respective participants of the MEDA countries and debate on the replies to the questionnaire.
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 15.30–16.30 The current situation in the MEDA countries concerning the ratification process, application and effectiveness of international conventions.
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 16.30-16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45- 17.30 Bilateral agreement and MEDA countries: practical problems.
- The role of the executive and of the judiciary in international cooperation in criminal matters in the MEDA countries.
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 19.00 Official dinner offered to the participants by Mr. Alain Bourlet, President of the SPF Justice, *Fondation Universitaire*, Rue d’Egmont 11, Brussels
- End of the 1st day

Friday 14 November 2008

08.45–10.30 Debate. Main shortages identified under this topic that need to be improved in the MEDA region.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

10.30–10.45 Coffee break

10.45-11.45 Debate. Specific proposals in order to improve transposition of international conventions in criminal and penitentiary law in the MEDA region.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

12.00-13.00 Debate. Discussion on the recommendations and training activities to be adopted.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Presentation to the participants of the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities.

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Adoption of the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities.

Agreement on the WG meetings calendar and methodology to be followed during the WG meetings.

17.30-17.45 Closure.

End of the meeting.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Presentation

This meeting takes place under the third main component of the project: “Criminal and Prison Law: Transposition of international conventions on criminal and prison law, and criminal cooperation.

During this first meeting devoted to “UN Conventions and Cooperation systems in criminal matters” and to “The bilateral agreement model for international cooperation in criminal matters”, we are going to share the international experts’ opinion and the participants’ approach on this topic from their own perspective and respective competences. Through an in-depth and detailed discussion, we will know the current situation related to the topics under discussion, among others the practical problems and the role of the executive and the judiciary in international judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the MEDA countries. In this way, we will know what are the priorities and needs to be addressed through training activities and study visits. We will also define how to better focus the seminars on this component and what are the major issues and elements to be taken into account in order to reach the objectives of this project. We will also discuss the expected results related to this topic as well as the dates and venues of the activities. In addition, some recommendations on this topic will be adopted and we will start a debate on the final document to be delivered by the working group: the text of the Conclusions.

The recommendations formulated during the 4 meetings of this Working Group will be presented during the regional Conference in May 2009.

Working Method

The starting point is that all the participants should be aware that they are the main players of the Working Group in order to provide the information required and to cooperate in defining the strategy and objectives to be achieved through this project.

We expect the experts participating in this working group to have an in-depth knowledge of the topics under discussion and to be able to provide us with a detailed vision of the current situation in their respective countries. We also expect them to have previously prepared themselves for the discussion in order to achieve the most fruitful results. In this context and to ensure a good preparation, the Project Team will provide the participants, at least two weeks before the meeting, with a Summary Note and the topics to be addressed. Nevertheless, the participants should feel free to propose any other topics of their interest.

As the Working Group meeting will only last 2 days, the preliminary preparation of the experts is more than welcome to reach the objectives at such short notice.

Experts

The experts should have the appropriate profile, a comprehensive knowledge and vision, and a sound experience in this field and willing to make an effective contribution to the working group. This will require not only that their country of origin allows them to have enough time available to attend the four meetings planned per component, but more specifically, that between each meeting they have enough time to continue to work together and with the Project Team, virtually through the Project website and/or other means (email, etc.) so as to allow for the continuity of the work and an exchange of information, documentation and ideas with each other.

The quality of the experts proposed is the main guarantee that our joint effort during the Working Groups meetings will result in a good analysis and diagnosis of the situation in each component, and in an exchange of useful, reliable and accurate information. This in turn will lead to a number of proposals for action being made by each WG.

Expected Results of the Working Group 3

1. To define the overall approach of the topics to be discussed by the international and MEDA experts.
2. To keep abreast of the current situation of transposition and application of international conventions on criminal and prison law in each MEDA country and in the field of cooperation in criminal matters.
3. To discuss more specifically how the work of the Working Group could contribute to reach the main goals of the project with regard to transposition and application of international conventions on criminal and prison law, and international cooperation in criminal matters. Indeed, in this component there is a great concern for the less protected and less privileged groups (minors in prison, alternatives to imprisonment, reintegration of former prisoners, etc., represent some of the major concerns of this project). Transposition is an important stage in a process of reform aiming at covering the need for prison staff training, development of training and activities in prisons and support for vulnerable categories of prisoners like minors. At the same time, the project will take account of the need for alignment on international conventions in the light of the requirements of international judicial cooperation concerning the fight against terrorism and other forms of transnational organised crime. The project's priorities will also include: (1) the identification of initiatives to promote the use of alternatives to imprisonment, such as social work or services of general interest; (2) identification of measures that will help the reintegration of former prisoners.
4. To define how to better focus the future activities to be developed under this component (and the major issues and elements to be taken into account in order to achieve the objectives of this project).
5. To draw up a provisional list of possible recommendations that could be developed in the Euro-Mediterranean region related to this component.
6. To start a debate on the drafting of the Policy Paper.

Documentation

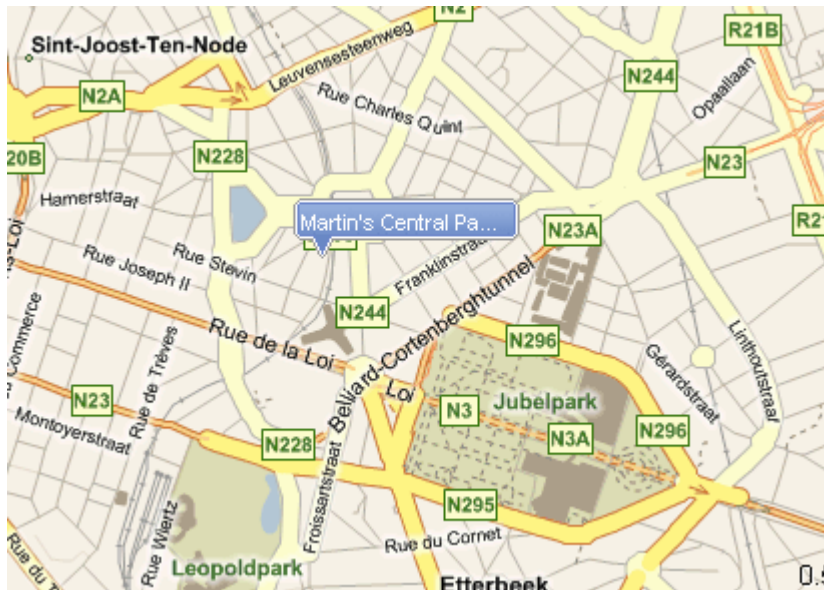
A list of the basic documentation will be provided by the Project Team at least two weeks before the Working Group meeting:

- Timetable of the Working Groups meetings.
- Relevant international documentation on the topic produced by the European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations, etc.
- Other documents, possibly those provided by the participants of the MEDA countries.
- Bibliography

Working languages

English, French and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Venue and accommodation



The Meeting will be held at the:

Hôtel MARTIN'S CENTRAL PARK
Boulevard Charlemagne, 80
Brussels (BE)
13-14 November 2008

where the MEDA participants will also be staying during the meeting