

EuroMed Justice Programme

Seminar on “International Judicial Cooperation: nature and standards ruling this cooperation” (Lisbon, 10-13 May 2005)

Final Declaration

1. The seminar about the International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal matters, first seminar organised under topic 1 on the 'Initiation to and training in cooperation and international judicial mutual assistance in criminal matters' of the EuroMed Justice Programme within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the EU, funded by the MEDA funds, was held in Lisbon on 10-13 May 2005 with the participation of the delegations of the following Euro-Mediterranean partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, France and Portugal). The participants(*) are of the opinion that:

in conformity with:

1. The guiding principles of the EuroMed Justice Programme agreed in the framework document adopted in the meeting in Valencia in 2002, i.e. :
 - a. The strengthening of cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean partners in the field of Justice;
 - b. The promotion of an exchange of experience, knowledge and best practices;
 - c. The creation of mechanisms allowing the practical implementation of this cooperation through, for instance, the development of a Euro-Mediterranean network in the field of judicial cooperation;
2. The operational conclusions of the opening conference of the EuroMed Justice Programme held in Brussels on 20 December 2004;
3. The operational conclusions of the first preparatory session of topic 1 of the Programme held in Lisbon on 31 March and 1 April 2005.

They acknowledge that this seminar has allowed them:

- (a) To become familiar with the different realities concerning international judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
- (b) To get a better insight into the tools for cooperation and mutual assistance used at national and international level;
- (c) To stimulate the exchange of practices and experience and set up contacts among participants in order to promote cooperation with various institutions represented in the field of justice.

Read and approved in Lisbon, on 13 May 2005

(*)List in annex