

EuroMed Justice Programme

Seminar on “Forms of interstate cooperation: judicial mutual assistance, extradition and enforcement of foreign decisions” (Barcelona, 13-16 June 2005)

Final Declaration

1. The regional seminar about forms of interstate cooperation: judicial mutual assistance, extradition and enforcement of foreign decisions, second 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, supported by the MEDA funds, was held in Barcelona on 13-16 June 2005 with the participation of the delegations of the following Euro-Mediterranean partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Portugal and Spain). In addition to this, this seminar has gathered representatives of the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nation's mission in Kosovo and the TMC Asser Institute from The Netherlands. 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 extradition and legal mutual assistance in criminal matters as well as enforcement of foreign decisions, bearing in mind the efforts of all parties in the judicial and legal field;
- (b) To get a better insight into the systems of extradition and the new concept of European Arrest Warrant and to benefit from this general framework of mutual assistance;

- (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.

Participants suggest gathering information on the ratification of conventions by each country and on national legislations and procedures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters. This will be developed by the participants themselves.

The participants authorise the dissemination of this declaration to the European Commission Directorates-General, the EU Member States and the Mediterranean Partners.

Read and approved by all the participants in the seminar.

Barcelona, 16 June 2005

(*)List in annex