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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT

COMPONENT III: CRIMINAL AND PENITENTIARY LAW

Third Training Seminar

“Problems of International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters: effective exchange of information, mechanisms in order to recover assets from abroad and extradition”

Maastricht (NL), 25-27 March 2014

INFORMATIVE NOTE

The 3rd training seminar under component “Criminal and Penitentiary Law” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held in Maastricht (NL) on 25-27 March 2014. The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. All the participants were experts in the field covered by the meeting; many of them had a long-standing experience and they showed a deep interest in the different presentations and topics discussed. Each presentation was followed by a debate and the discussions were constructive and very fruitful. The training seminar was opened by Mrs Marga Pröhl, Director-General of the European Institute of Public Administration, and Mr. Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project, who welcomed the participants. The seminar was closed by the members of the Project Team.

The agenda of the meeting included presentations made by the key experts of the Project Team. Furthermore, four thematic presentations were made during the seminar. On this occasion, the PT presented, in a comparative view, the “Euromed Fiches”, the methodology applied for the elaboration of this document, its contents and an analysis of the contents and the information of each ENPI SPC included in the document that was presented during the second Regional Conference in June 2013, as well as the major differences between this overview and the “standard” in criminal procedure law. The second presentation dealt with **Effective methods for the exchange of information between national authorities in the context of judicial cooperation in criminal matters**. The third was on **Extradition** and finally the last thematic session was devoted to **Obtaining criminal evidences and criminal procedures, with a focus on evidence obtained in a foreign country, in particular in terrorism cases**. Lastly, a workshop was organised on **Recovering assets from abroad, international approach and the context of the Euro-Mediterranean area**.

Considering the objectives of this training seminar and taking into account the debate and discussions held during the seminar, the participants had the opportunity to examine over a period of three days, and from an international angle, the different topics on the agenda and to keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topics covered by this seminar. They were also able to have a fruitful debate on the state of play in this field in the ENPI South area, whilst presenting their respective experience and legal framework. In addition, this seminar was also an opportunity for the participants to explore the means to further promote an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices, to get a better insight into effective methods for the exchange of information between national authorities in the context of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, to be updated on the situation with regards extradition between the EU and the ENPI SPC, and vice versa, and to discuss problems in recovering assets from abroad according to the international approach and in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Participants were grateful to the Dutch Ministry of Justice, to the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this training seminar.

Barcelona, April 2014