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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT

COMPONENT III: CRIMINAL AND PENITENTIARY LAW

1st Training Seminar: “International conventions on criminal law” London (UK), 12-14 November 2013

INFORMATIVE NOTE

The 1st 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 on 12-14 November 2013 in London (UK).

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The speakers came from Spain and United Kingdom; in addition, the General Secretary of the European Judicial Network (EJN), Ms Fatima Martins, also took part in the seminar as speaker.

The training seminar was opened by Ms Kimberley Davis, National Focal Point for the Euromed Justice III Project in the United Kingdom. The background, the context and the structure of the training seminar, including the overall approach and the main topics suggested for discussion, were introduced by the Project Leader and the Course Manager of the Project Team.

Then the participants took the floor to introduce themselves and to present the current situation concerning the topics addressed by the seminar and on the legislative policy in the ENPI South Partner countries concerning the ratification of international conventions in this field.

Furthermore, four presentations were made during the seminar: “Overview of the major international judicial conventions in the field of criminal law. EU/international legislative initiatives in the pipeline.”; “The work developed during the first phase of the project: the Euromed Fiches”; “The composition, role, function and work of the EJN on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal justice - Relations to Non-EU MS and other operative structures and networks. Future relations in the field of justice Affairs between the EU and the ENPI South Partner countries”; and “International Criminal Cooperation: the UK experience”.

During these presentations, the speakers analysed the different approaches related to the topics being considered, especially from a practical point of view, as well as the legal international framework. Lastly, during the seminar two workshops were carried out.

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 keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topics covered by this seminar and 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.
- To further strengthen cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice and to explore the means to further promote an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices.
- To be informed of the TAIEX instrument and of the possibility that they, the participants, could suggest/propose to their NFP the gaps to be filled or the needs for further Technical Assistance requests, as a follow-up of this Euromed Justice III Project training session, should they consider them useful and linked to the work developed during the seminar.
- To get a better insight into the current international framework related to international conventions on criminal law.
- To discuss on the main problems to be faced on this topic and future perspectives in this field.
- To be informed of the work carried out during the 1st phase of the EMJ III project, i.e. the EUROMED Fiches related to the international criminal cooperation legal framework regarding the countries that took part in the activities of the 1st phase.
- To discuss from a practical point of view through a workshop Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters taking into account the International legal framework.
- To discuss the composition, role and work developed by the networks operating in international criminal cooperation.
- To analyse from a theoretical and practical point of view the procedures related to cross-border cooperation in criminal justice.
- To have an in-depth discussion and a practical approach on the day-to-day work developed by the liaison magistrates.
- To be made familiar with the content and functioning of the project's website.
- To receive the suggested reading documentation list related to the topics examined as support to facilitate the discussion and debate during the training seminar.

Participants are grateful to the United Kingdom, host country, to the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this training seminar.

London, 14 November 2013