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## **EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT**

### **COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID**

#### **Second Training Seminar: “Methodologies for Electronic Case Management”**

**Sofia (BG), 17-19 December 2013**

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#### **DRAFT FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

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The second training seminar on the component “Access to Justice and Legal Aid” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held on 17-19 December 2013 in Sofia (BG).

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The speakers came from Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom (one representative of the ENCJ) and from the host country, Bulgaria.

The training seminar was opened by Mr Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the Project Team implementing the EuroMed Justice III project, who welcomed the participants.

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 Team Leader and by Mr José María Fernández Villalobos, Course Manager of the Project Team implementing the EuroMed Justice III Project.

Then the participants took the floor to introduce themselves and to present the current situation concerning “Electronic collection and management of judicial dossiers: training in electronic case management of staff of courts and public prosecutor’s offices in the ENPI South Partner countries”.

Furthermore, five presentations were made during the seminar: “Presentation of the work developed during the 1st phase of the project related to Justice and the use of new technologies.”, “The legal framework of E-Justice and the legal framework for the use of IT by the Justice Administration”, “Techniques for the improvement of the circulation of legal materials. The EU/local approach”; “E-Justice: The Bulgarian experience”; and “Guidelines for effective justice delivery: Special reference to the case management, simplification and digitisation - The ENCJ approach”.

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.

In addition during the training seminar several workshops took place on “Framework of the electronic case management” and “The videoconference and its use by the justice administration”.

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.
- To keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topics covered by this seminar.
- To have a fruitful debate on the state of play in this field in the Euro-Mediterranean Partners' area and to present their respective experience and legal framework.
- To receive a general overview related to the work developed during the first phase of the project, with special reference to the publication titled "Handbook describing approaches and best practices with regards to the use of new technologies for case management, circulation of materials, data collection in the legal field and communication of case law to the public".
- To analyse and discuss from a comparative international point of view the importance of an appropriate legal framework in order to guarantee an adequate use of E-justice and the use of IT by the Justice Administration.
- To have a fruitful debate from a practical and regional approach on the state of play of the implementation of the different e-Justice systems and tools, with special reference to the electronic case management in the Justice Administration.
- To get a better insight from a practical and comparative approach into how to introduce techniques for the improvement of the circulation of legal materials.
- To analyse and discuss from a theoretical and practical point of view the use of the videoconference by the justice administration.
- To discuss on the main problems to be faced on these topics and future perspectives in this field.
- To have an in-depth discussion on and a practical approach to how to improve effectiveness of justice delivery, with special reference to the case management, simplification and digitisation of the proceedings.
- To further strengthen cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice.
- To explore the means to further promote an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices, including information about the utilisation of the TAIEX programme.
- 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 Bulgaria, host country, to the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this training seminar.

The participants present during the reading of this document approve the conclusions of this seminar.

Sofia, 19 December 2013