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EuroMed Justice III Project

**Component 3: Criminal and Penitentiary Law
Working Group 3.3**

**Working Group on Criminal Law in order to prepare a tool equivalent to the so-called
“fiches belges”**

London (UK), 19-21 March 2013

INFORMATIVE NOTE

The 3rd Meeting of the Working Group 3 on the component “Criminal and Penitentiary Law” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held on 19-21 March 2013 in London.

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The British National Focal Point, Ms Kimberly Davis, took part in the meeting.

Moreover, the Palestinian minister of Justice addressed the participants during the last day of the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Antonino Crea, Head of sector Migration, Justice, Police, European Commission, EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General, Unit F4 - Regional programmes Neighbourhood South; by Mr. Kevin Barry, Head of the International Projects Team, Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom; and Andrés Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project, who welcomed the participants. The meeting was closed by Antonino Crea.

Two thematic presentations were made during the meeting. The first one on “Current situation regarding criminal law and procedural criminal law related to: Witnesses, victims, suspects - Summoning and hearing. The British experience”, was delivered by Ayo Awoyungbo, Senior Crown Prosecutor at the Crown Prosecution Service, United Kingdom.

The second presentation on “The European Judicial Network (EJN): Vision, Mission and future perspectives”, was made by Fátima Martins, Secretary to the European Judicial Network, Head of EJN Secretariat. These presentations were followed by an interesting and lively debate between the speakers and the participants.

Considering the objectives of this meeting and taking into account the recommendations made during the working sessions and the debate, the participants are of the opinion that this third and last meeting gave them the opportunity:

- a) To continue the debate and the overall approach to the handbook (*fiches belges*-like type).
- b) To follow the methodology agreed during the previous meetings of this Working Group. In this respect and in order to achieve the main objective of this Working Group,

this methodology will allow us to obtain an instrument equivalent to the so-called “*Fiches belges*” from the perspective and current legal framework of the Beneficiary Countries.

- c) To have the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion on the following measures: **Places - Visit and search:** Visit to and search of homes. Visit and search on the site of an offence. **Witnesses, victims, suspects - Summoning and hearing:** Summoning witnesses. Hearing witnesses: standard procedure. Hearing witnesses: by video conference. Hearing witnesses: by telephone. Hearing children. Hearing persons collaborating with the inquiry. Hearing victims/plaintiffs; Hearing experts. Summoning suspects/persons accused. Hearing suspects/persons accused: standard procedure. Hearing suspects/persons accused: by video conference. Hearing suspects/persons accused: by telephone. Confrontation. **Cross-border operations:** Cross-border observation. Cross-border hot pursuit. Cross-border tracking (by placing a beeper on a vehicle or a person). Controlled deliveries. Joint investigation teams.
- d) To promote mutual understanding and knowledge of the different judicial systems concerning criminal law in the different countries that took part in the meeting.
- e) To further strengthen cooperation among the Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice and criminal law matters.
- f) To have a fruitful debate on the state of play in the field of criminal law in the Mediterranean countries, while presenting their respective experience and legal framework related to the topics discussed during the meeting. These presentations gave the participants the opportunity to compare the different legal frameworks and criminal procedural legal regulations existing in the region.

Participants are grateful to the British Ministry of Justice, to the Directorate-General Development and Co-operation - EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this meeting.

London, 21 March 2013