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Subject : Report of the Strategic Seminar "Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters between the EU Member States and Southern Neighbours of the EU" (Cyprus 4-5 October 2012)

Delegations will find in the Annex a Report of the Strategic Seminar "Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters between the EU Member States and Southern Neighbours of the EU", held in Cyprus on 4-5 October 2012.

STRATEGIC SEMINAR “JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN THE
EU MEMBER STATES AND SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURS OF THE EU”

(ALGERIA, EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO, PALESTINIAN
AUTHORITY AND TUNISIA)

Limassol, Republic of Cyprus, 4-5 October 2012
Outcome Report

1. Background

The strategic seminar “Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters between the EU Member States and Southern Neighbours of the EU” (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia) was held in Limassol, Republic of Cyprus, on 4-5 October 2012. The seminar was jointly organised by Eurojust, the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus and the European Commission (DG Enlargement-TAIEX).

The seminar focused on four main areas of judicial cooperation in criminal matters: extradition, mutual legal assistance (MLA), transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons. The goals of the seminar were to identify best practices and difficulties encountered in these areas of judicial cooperation, reflect on possible further steps to strengthen cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU, and encourage the appointment of Eurojust contact points in Southern neighbours of the EU.

A total of 100 participants attended the seminar, including experts from EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU, liaison magistrates from Belgium and France posted in Morocco and Algeria, Eurojust contact points in Southern neighbours of the EU, representatives from the Council of the EU, the European Commission (DG Justice and DG Enlargement), the European External Action Service, Frontex and Eurojust.

This report aims to cover the main points of the interventions made by the numerous speakers that took part in the Seminar, and of the ensuing panel discussions and discussions with the audience. The agenda of the Seminar is annexed.

2. Opening session and welcome speeches

The importance of the renewal of contacts between the EU Member States and their Southern neighbours with a view to discussing mutual problems, and exchanging valuable experiences and proposals for improvement of cooperation in the fight against economic and organised crime was highly emphasised.

An overview of Eurojust's external relations and the legal framework on which Eurojust's cooperation with third States is possible was provided together with an overview of the (a) Southern neighbours of the EU that have more frequently been involved in cases opened by Eurojust at the request of Member States' competent authorities, and (b) the most common type of assistance requested from Eurojust. The added value of Eurojust's existing contact points in Egypt, Israel and Tunisia was highlighted, and the remaining Southern neighbours of the EU were urged to appoint Eurojust contact points with a view to fostering further cooperation.

The rule of law, a shared understanding of fundamental rights, the reinforcement of mutual trust between the different judicial systems and a fair and transparent judiciary are pivotal for a fruitful cooperation.

3. State of play of judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU

An overview of Council document 14328/12 on current legal and practical issues, obstacles and best practices in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU, and possible further steps, prepared by Eurojust on the basis of the replies from the Member States to a questionnaire was provided. The low number of bilateral agreements and the considerable amount of cooperation that is carried out on the basis of the principle of reciprocity or under domestic legislation was noted, as was the fact that Israel, out of the remaining Southern neighbours, issues by far a greater number of MLA requests to EU Member States, which is perhaps due to the fact that it has ratified the Council of Europe MLA Convention.

On the basis of some of the current issues in the field of MLA and extradition identified by the Member States in the above-mentioned document, further consideration could be given to: (a) the insufficiency of legal bases for cooperation; (b) the use of multilateral conventions that should be ratified by all concerned countries; (c) the possibility of negotiating EU agreements on MLA and extradition with Southern neighbours; (d) the possibility of Eurojust seconding liaison magistrates to Southern neighbours; (e) the completion of Eurojust's network of contact points in Southern neighbours (f) encouragement of an increased use of Ministries of Justice and Offices of Prosecutors General as channels of communication, and a reduction in the use of diplomatic channels; (g) participation in coordination meetings at Eurojust and in Joint Investigation Teams with the support of EU funding programmes; and (h) the use of best practices.

The relevance of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in connection with judicial cooperation in criminal matters was highlighted. With regard to the EuroMed Justice III Project, reinforcement of cooperation with Eurojust is amongst its objectives.

Liaison magistrates from EU Member States posted in Southern neighbours of the EU (Morocco, Algeria) play an important role, in particular when it comes to accelerating judicial cooperation. The benefits of posting Eurojust liaison magistrates in Southern neighbours of the EU, especially since not all Member States have sufficient casework or resources to justify such postings were well recognised. The importance of extending Eurojust's network of contact points in Southern neighbours was also emphasised.

4. Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: Extradition

Overviews of the legal framework, main issues and best practices identified in the field of extradition in some EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU were provided, and the importance of having agreements (bilateral or multilateral) in place as legal bases for extradition was acknowledged, since the principle of reciprocity shows clear limitations. Examples of bilateral agreements that have significantly improved judicial cooperation in this field were provided, as were recent initiatives taken by Southern neighbours of the EU (*e.g.* Morocco) to review existing bilateral treaties to reflect changes in criminality. Speakers generally noted (*a*) the impossibility of extraditing own nationals (obstacle which can, at times, be overcome through transfer of criminal proceedings); (*b*) insufficiency of channels of communication (diplomatic channels were considered too slow); (*c*) death penalty and related difficulties linked to assurances that the sentence is not carried out, such as consideration of risk of *ultra vires* acts; (*d*) absence of dual criminality; and (*e*) insufficient number of bilateral agreements concluded so far and limitations of principle of reciprocity.

With regard to best practices, the following were identified (*1*) increased recourse to direct contacts between Ministries of Justice to face existing excessive delays in the transmission of extradition requests, and to assist in identifying contact points between central authorities; (*2*) the use of liaison magistrates, as noted above; (*3*) the use of Eurojust; and (*4*) the setting up of an informal network of experts in judicial cooperation (*e.g.* judges, prosecutors and court clerks).

In the ensuing discussion, participants shared their legal position regarding extradition in the absence of a bilateral agreement, exchanged views on channels of communication and related matters and noted that (*a*) the use of diplomatic channels for the transmission of extradition requests results in excessive delays in their execution; (*b*) diplomatic channels provide insufficient information on the progress of the execution of extradition requests; (*c*) some countries only accept the original of the extradition request; and (*d*) the translation of extradition requests is often of poor quality.

To face these challenges, the following best practices were identified: (a) the use of copies through the Ministries of Justice in advance of the transmission of the original extradition request to significantly accelerate the process (e.g. Egypt and Sweden); (b) the establishment and reinforcement of contact points able to provide legal and practical information on a specific legal system; and (c) the reduced use of diplomatic channels with a view to avoiding excessive delays.

5. Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: mutual legal assistance in criminal matters

An overview of the legal framework applicable in the field of MLA in a number of EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU was provided, which included domestic legislation and practices for the issuance and execution of MLA requests. Speakers from the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU shared their main concerns in terms of difficulties encountered in this field of judicial cooperation and exchanged views concerning best practices.

Presentations benefitted from the consideration of actual cases where the assistance by a Member State (e.g. Sweden) to a Southern neighbour of the EU (e.g. Egypt) was requested and successfully obtained as a result, *inter alia*, of the effective assistance provided by the Eurojust contact point in Egypt. Examples of the added value of liaison magistrates were also provided, such as the posting of a French liaison magistrate in Algeria and Morocco.

The following main obstacles encountered in MLA were identified: (a) differences in legal systems and judicial proceedings; (b) language barriers; (c) bureaucracy; (d) difficulties linked to the channels of communication (e.g. diplomatic channels), such as delays and the simultaneous transmission of the request through different channels; (e) insufficiency of contact points and interpersonal relations; (f) death penalty, unless assurances are given that this penalty will not be requested by the prosecution or, if imposed, will not be carried out; (g) lack of information on the progress of execution of a request; (h) refusal of execution of a request without clear grounds therefore; (i) bank secrecy, particularly in relation to requests for confiscation of assets; (j) lack of contact points, including informal ones; and (k) difficulties in understanding the legal systems of the States concerned with the resulting non-execution of the requests.

The following are amongst the best practices and proposed ideas for improvement also identified: (a) the setting up of a network of contact points, with particular emphasis on the establishment of Eurojust contact points in all Southern neighbours of the EU; (b) having the EU prioritise, and the Southern neighbours of the EU consider, the benefits of becoming signatories to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; (c) early communication between requesting and requested State; (d) visits by prosecutors to the requested State in connection with an MLA request; (e) classification of requests (very urgent, urgent, normal, low priority) and the provision of reasons for the urgency; (f) meetings and similar initiatives between practitioners; (g) issuance of MLA guidelines or manuals; (h) role of liaison magistrates in reviewing requests, expediting execution and clarifying legal requirements; (i) appointing official translators specialised in this field of work; (j) early exchange of views prior to the issuance of the request, especially in cases of particular complexity and technicality, to avoid or reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings; (k)

copies of the request sent in advance of the originals to allow possibility to initiate early execution; and (l) training.

Participants discussed, *inter alia*, the benefits that result from the accession to the relevant Council of Europe conventions. The importance of a platform for magistrates and liaison magistrates to allow for the informal exchange of information and discussion of issues such as terrorism was noted, and, by referring to actual cases, participants also acknowledged the numerous benefits of posting a liaison magistrate: (a) assistance in regularly following the progress of the execution of a request; (b) ensuring fast exchange of information; (c) ascertaining the legal (substantive and evidential) requirements; (d) creating trust and encouraging the habit of working together; and (e) ensuring reciprocal sensibility and diplomacy taking into account cultural differences. Linked with the role of the liaison magistrates, a number of participants from both EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU repeatedly welcomed and encouraged the posting of Eurojust liaison magistrates in Southern neighbours of the EU, as well as regular meetings between experts of EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU to evaluate the state of play of judicial cooperation in general and also to discuss actual cases (*e.g.* existing annual meetings between Spanish and Moroccan authorities were mentioned as an example).

6. Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons

Presentations covered issues such as (a) the very limited or, indeed, absence of experience in these two fields of judicial cooperation; (b) the limited international legal bases for cooperation; (c) an overview of domestic legislation in place in the fields of transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons; (d) the main difficulties encountered and possible avenues to address them. Examples of recent cases involving non-extradition of nationals and confiscation of assets that have been successfully resolved by way of transfer of criminal proceedings from Belgium to Morocco were also presented. It was noted that, in the absence of bilateral treaties or international conventions, transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons can, in some countries be carried out on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, while generally recognising that the latter shows limitations as a legal basis for cooperation.

The following potential ways to address the main difficulties encountered were identified: (a) the posting of liaison magistrates from EU Member States and the nomination of Eurojust contact points in Southern neighbours of the EU; (b) in the short term, ratification by Southern neighbours of relevant United Nations and Council of Europe Conventions, as the principle of reciprocity on its own shows limitations; (c) in the long term, consideration of the possibility to conclude EU agreements with these countries; (d) exchange programmes and study visits for investigators and prosecutors; (e) extradition which, in some instances, may constitute an alternative solution to the impossibility of transferring criminal proceedings.

Participants engaged in discussion, with particular input and sharing of best practices by the Belgian liaison magistrate in Morocco and the French liaison magistrate in Algeria. The latter noted that the rights of victims in the requesting country to information and legal assistance need to be taken into account when criminal proceedings are transferred to a Southern neighbour. Victims need to receive all the support they need, including their allocation of a lawyer by the requesting country to represent them in the foreign jurisdiction.

7. Eurojust's practical experience with Southern neighbours of the EU

A statistical overview of Eurojust's casework involving Southern neighbours of the EU since Eurojust's establishment in 2002 was presented, through the identification of (a) the Member States that have more frequently registered cases involving these countries (*i.e.* France, Belgium, Spain and Italy); (b) the Southern neighbours of the EU that have more frequently been involved in cases opened at Eurojust (*i.e.* Morocco, Israel and Algeria); (c) the most common offences (*i.e.* drug trafficking, terrorism, participation in a criminal organisation, money laundering and fraud); and (d) the most common type of assistance requested from Eurojust.

Best practices identified in Eurojust's practical experience with Southern neighbours of the EU include: (a) Eurojust's involvement following transmission of information by Member States (*e.g.* via national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters and other national competent authorities); (b) identification of linked cases by Eurojust; (c) use of Eurojust's contact points in Southern neighbours; (d) use of liaison magistrates or liaison officers in Southern neighbours of the EU; and (e) Eurojust's unique role in ensuring judicial cooperation, recognised at an early stage by the authorities of the countries involved.

Two Eurojust cases involving two Southern neighbours of the EU were presented where Eurojust's added value, especially through coordination meetings that brought together representatives from the countries concerned, was emphasised as it allowed for (a) the exchange of information; (b) clarification of legal requirements and the state of proceedings in the various countries; (c) overcome of difficulties linked with translations; (d) identification of links; and (e) reduction of delays. Finally, the role played by the Eurojust's contact points in Egypt and Tunisia in the facilitation of judicial assistance was emphasised.

8. Practical experience of Southern neighbours of the EU in judicial cooperation in criminal matters with EU Member States

The Tunisian point of view was presented concerning the judicial cooperation between Tunisia and the various EU Member States with the assistance of Eurojust, in particular with regard to one of the cases previously presented. It consisted of a statistical overview of the case, including the number of rogatory letters issued, executed, refused and outstanding, the Member States involved, and the type of judicial assistance most frequently requested. It was noted that given the particularities of the case, the quick response from the Member States was crucial to the success of the investigation and criminal proceedings. Gratitude towards Eurojust was expressed for the facilitation of the establishment of direct contacts between practitioners from Tunisia and various Member States, and the speeding up of the execution of MLA requests. The importance of informal contacts in making judicial cooperation more efficient was reiterated.

9. Eurojust's external relations

Eurojust's External Relations Team endeavours to develop relations with third States within and outside Europe. An overview of the legal framework for Eurojust's relations with third States (Articles 3(2) and 27b (1) and (4) of the Eurojust Decision) and of Eurojust's contact points in third States, amongst which are Egypt, Tunisia and Israel, was provided. Eurojust's contact points are a commonly used tool for improving cooperation between the competent authorities of the EU Member States and third States. The type of assistance provided by Eurojust includes: (a) practical information about the legal systems and competent authorities, including contact details, requirements for MLA requests and legislation; (b) facilitation of MLA requests; and (c) coordination meetings. Two invitations were extended, one to Southern neighbours of the EU to appoint Eurojust contact points, and another to practitioners of the Member States who were encouraged to refer cases to Eurojust involving third States.

10. Data protection aspects in the field of external relations

An overview of the data protection regime at Eurojust and its legal framework, *inter alia*, the Eurojust Decision and the Data Protection Rules was provided. It was emphasised that data protection is a factor that can strongly influence Eurojust's successful performance and the level of trust that other organisations have in Eurojust. The main data protection principles and the system of supervision in place at Eurojust were presented, and the importance of data protection requirements in concluding agreements with third States was underlined.

11. Towards effective cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: best practices and further steps

The final part of the seminar consisted of an overview of the overall debate shared by EU Member States and Southern neighbours. The limited legal bases for cooperation and insufficient ratification or accession to existing multilateral legal instruments, the significant number of requests for judicial cooperation, and the limited experience in certain areas of judicial cooperation between EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU all highlight the added value of the role of contact points in Southern neighbours of the EU, whether they be Eurojust contact points or contact points from Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU, in the facilitation of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

The very positive experience of Eurojust's contact points in Israel, Egypt and Tunisia was acknowledged and illustrated by actual cases, and positive accounts were shared both by participants and speakers from the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU. The role of liaison magistrates posted in Southern neighbours of the EU was praised, as were the positive outcomes of their assistance. Participants also acknowledged the importance of direct contacts between judicial authorities or Ministries of Justice in advance or concurrently with the transmission of requests for legal assistance via diplomatic channels. For this purpose, a list of contact details of participants was distributed at the end of the seminar.

Further best practices identified were (a) the importance of using copies of requests prior to the transmission of the original, (b) the checking of the draft requests prior to issuance with the assistance, when possible, of the contact points or liaison magistrates, (c) the added value of guidelines in the various fields of judicial cooperation in criminal matters by each Member State and each Southern neighbour of the EU, and (d) the updating of EJN tools: Compendium, Atlas and *fiches belges*.

Consideration should be given by Southern neighbours of the EU to the ratification or accession to the relevant Council of Europe and United Nations instruments to which EU Member States are signatories, thus allowing greater flexibility and avoiding lengthy negotiating procedures between individual countries. A suggestion was made that consideration be given to the negotiation of MLA and extradition agreements between the EU and Southern neighbours of the EU. It was observed that the importance of ensuring a coherent EU policy in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters has been recently stressed at European Union level, and, *“neighbouring countries suffering from a period of relative political instability, such as those involved in the transitional phase following the Arab Spring” have been identified as one possible relevant criteria in the classification of third States as priority negotiating partners for the EU.* (See Council document 10072/12).

Overall, participants were in agreement that the common goals of EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU are the avoidance of *lacunae* in international judicial cooperation, the fight against impunity and an increase in the level of crime prevention. The seminar provided an opportunity not only for live testimonials from Egypt, Tunisia, France and Sweden on the added value of Eurojust both through its coordination meetings and spontaneous exchange of information, but also to discuss concrete cases. It was emphasised that “*when there is a will, there is a way*”.

It was also noted that Morocco reaps considerable benefits from a fruitful cooperation with Belgium, France and Spain, and that Eurojust should have a contact point in, at least, those Southern neighbours of the EU where a liaison magistrate is not economically viable. Egypt’s offer to host the next meeting of this kind was shared amongst participants.

12. Conclusions

The importance of strengthening judicial cooperation, and the European Commission’s support to the strengthening of ties between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU, including by way of future assessments of the possibility to negotiate EU agreements, was highlighted.

ANNEX

AGENDA

STRATEGIC SEMINAR ON JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN THE EU MEMBER STATES AND SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURS OF THE EU

**(ALGERIA, EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO,
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND TUNISIA)**

LIMASSOL, REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

3 - 5 October 2012

WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2012	
19:00 – 20:00	Registration of participants
20:00	Welcome reception
THURSDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2012	
07:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
OPENING SESSION AND WELCOME SPEECHES <i>Bacchus Conference Room</i>	
09:00 – 10:15	<i>Katerina <u>Loizou</u>, National Member for Cyprus at Eurojust</i> <i>Petros Clerides, Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU</i> <i>Michèle Coninx, President of Eurojust and National Member for Belgium at Eurojust</i> <i>John Taylor, International Relations Officer, Inter-institutional and International Relations Unit, Directorate-General for Justice, European Commission</i> <i>Christiane Kirschbaum, Head of Section Justice and Home Affairs (TAIEX), Directorate-General Enlargement, European Commission</i> <i>Malči Gabrijelčič, Chair of the External Relations Team and National Member for Slovenia at Eurojust</i>
10:15 - 10:45	COFFEE BREAK

10:45	Press conference	<i>Daphne 1 Conference Room</i>
FIRST SESSION		<i>Bacchus Conference Room</i>
CHAIR: Katerina Loizou		
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>State of play of judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Hans Nilsson, Head of Division, Fundamental Rights and Criminal Justice, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU</i> <p>Judicial cooperation in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Giovanni Cremonini, Principal Administrator, ENP Strategy and Instruments, European External Action Service</i> <p>The EuroMed Justice III Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Andrés Salcedo Velasco, Project Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project</i> <p>Discussion</p>	
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: <u>Extradition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Paula Mongé Royo, Deputy Director General for International Legal Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, Spain</i> ➤ <i>Riadh Belkadhi, Attorney General, Directorate General of Criminal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Tunisia</i> ➤ <i>Hafid Bahaddou, Magistrate, Department for Criminal Cases and Pardons, Ministry of Justice, Morocco</i> ➤ <i>Maryse El Amm, Magistrate, Department of Legislation and Consultation, Ministry of Justice, Lebanon</i> <p>Discussion</p>	
13:00 – 14:15	LUNCH	<i>Poolside restaurant Le Fleuri</i>
SECOND SESSION		<i>Bacchus Conference Room</i>
CHAIR: Katerina Loizou		

<p>14:15 – 16:45</p>	<p>Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: <u>Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Michael Papageorgiou, Chief of the Police, Nicosia, Cyprus</i> ➤ <i>Emmanuelle Legrand, Magistrate, Office for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Ministry of Justice, France</i> ➤ <i>Lars Morand, Specialised District Prosecutor, Public Prosecution Office, Malmö, Sweden</i> ➤ <i>Louise Selby, UK Central Authority, Home Office, United Kingdom</i> ➤ <i>Nacer Zakour, Magistrate, Directorate General for Legal and Judicial Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Algeria</i> ➤ <i>Doha Al Hadid, Legal Researcher, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, Jordan</i> ➤ <i>Essaid Saadaoui, Substitute General Prosecutor, Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Morocco</i> ➤ <i>El Oualid Laggoune, Professor, School of Law, University of Algiers, Algeria</i> <p>Discussion</p>
<p>16:45 – 17:00</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p>
<p>18:00 – 22:00</p>	<p>Social event and dinner hosted by the Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus</p>
<p>FRIDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2012</p>	
<p>THIRD SESSION <i>Bacchus Conference Room</i></p> <p>CHAIR: Michèle Coninx</p>	
<p>09:00 – 10:10</p>	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Practical aspects of judicial cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: <u>Transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Donatella Frendo Dimech, Deputy Attorney General and National Member for Malta at Eurojust</i> ➤ <i>Vincent Macq, Belgian Liaison Magistrate in Morocco</i> ➤ <i>Tal Tavor, Assistant to the State Attorney, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Israel</i>

	Discussion
10:10 – 10:40	COFFEE BREAK
10:40 – 11:40	<p>Eurojust’s practical experience with Southern neighbours of the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Sylvie Petit-Leclair, National Member for France at Eurojust</i> <p>Practical experience of Southern neighbours of the EU in judicial cooperation in criminal matters with EU Member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Brahim Oueslati, Dean of Investigating Judges, Court of First Instance in Tunis, Tunisia</i> ➤ <i>Adi Gilad, Assistant to the State Attorney, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Israel</i> <p>Discussion</p>
11:40 – 12:40	<p>Eurojust’s external relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Malči Gabrijelčič, Chair of the External Relations Team and National Member for Slovenia at Eurojust</i> <p>Data Protection aspects in the field of external relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Diana Alonso Blas, Data Protection Officer at Eurojust</i> <p>Discussion</p>
12:40 – 14:10	LUNCH <i>Poolside restaurant Le Fleuri</i>
FOURTH SESSION <i>Bacchus Conference Room</i>	
CHAIR: Michèle Coninsx	
14:10 – 15:30	<p>Towards effective cooperation between the EU Member States and Southern neighbours of the EU: best practices and further steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Donatella Frendo Dimech, Deputy Attorney General and National Member for Malta at Eurojust</i> ➤ <i>Mohamed Abdel-Moniem Barakat, Counsellor, Ministry of Justice, Egypt</i> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Katerina Loizou, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>John Taylor, International Relations Officer, Inter-institutional and International Relations Unit, Directorate-General for Justice, European Commission</i> ➤ <i>Michèle Coninx, President of Eurojust and National Member for Belgium at Eurojust</i>
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