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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON THE OPERATION OF EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS
ON CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS
PC-OC

Draft recommendations to facilitate the submission of questions
to the PC-OC by practitioners

Secretariat memorandum prepared by
the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (DG-HL)

The PC-OC plenary should:
- encourage all its members to promote the work of the PC-OC in their respective countries;
- appoint one general rapporteur and two assisting members for each one of the main conventions (extradition, MLA, transfer of sentenced persons) responsible for selecting interesting cases to be brought to the Committee;
- adopt support materials, which would help national representatives to advertise and disseminate information on the work of the PC-OC, in particular for newcomers ("welcome pack");
- seek to achieve a representative overview of the approach of its different delegations on the questions discussed, identifying if there is a consensus regarding the interpretation and application of provisions of the relevant conventions, in order to make its feedback as concrete as possible;
- ensure the development of its electronic discussion forum with a view to ensuring open, constructive and confidential exchanges of views between its users;

Members of the PC-OC should:
- disseminate information on the PC-OC to relevant practitioners in their country, pointing to the possibility of submitting questions on the interpretation and application of the Conventions (possible selection criteria to be defined for "practitioners");
- fulfil a filtering function: examine any such questions, if necessary directing the practitioners to the resources already made available by the PC-OC;
- where they consider that a question raised is of particular interest, submit this question to the PC-OC through the online forum;
- if the question is of particular interest to all PC-OC delegations, ensure that the question is submitted to the plenary [option: through a rapporteur];
- ensure that the information on the PC-OC website concerning their country is up-to-date;
- regularly check the forum and share their relevant experience with colleagues;
- designate other practitioners who should have access to the forum;
- inform practitioners about the work of the PC-OC on a regular basis and report the outcome of discussions to them;

The Secretariat should:
- ensure that the discussion forums and the electronic resources of the PC-OC remain up to date;
- ensure that the results of previous discussions in the forum are accessible to users of the forum in a structured manner;
- ensure that the discussions on practical questions have a written trace in meeting reports and that the commentaries on the relevant conventions are regularly updated with this information;
- encourage PC-OC members to submit relevant information on national developments concerning the implementation of the relevant conventions and disseminate this information on the public or restricted website.

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