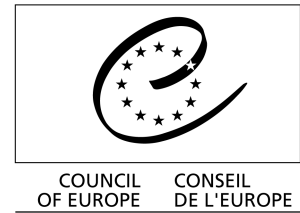


<http://www.coe.int/tcj/>



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English only

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

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

ASSISTING IN JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION¹

Role and activities of the PC-OC
A short overview

¹ This draft leaflet, updated following the proposals by the PC-OC during its 61st meeting, aims at giving practitioners some information on the role and activities of the PC-OC and offers them the possibility to benefit from the PC-OC's extensive experience by asking questions.

Judicial co-operation in criminal matters (Cover/Intro?)

International judicial co-operation is based on three fundamental principles namely: goodwill, knowledge of the applicable legal instruments and the adequate use of the available tools to facilitate co-operation.

The committee known as the PC-OC (Committee of experts on the operation of European Conventions on co-operation in criminal matters) is one of these tools and national practitioners can take advantage of the expertise of the PC-OC Secretariat and its national experts. A website has been set up containing useful information and documentation regarding this co-operation in the fields of extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons and other matters.

[For instance, when requesting mutual legal assistance one should not only ask for acts to be executed but one should also check how the other jurisdiction can help / what the other jurisdiction can do in order to obtain the evidence sought and to make it admissible in front of the court.

When dealing with extradition and a request is to be made, an assessment must be carried out on double incrimination, lapse of time and the rule of speciality. Where a decision is to be taken, looking at human rights issues is fundamental.]

What is the PC-OC?

The PC-OC is a Council of Europe committee of experts in the field of international co-operation in criminal matters.

The committee is composed of representatives of the central authorities of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe and observers.

The PC-OC monitors the application of the Council of Europe conventions related to international co-operation in criminal matters and proposes new instruments in this field. It also produces helpful tools, such as country information, model forms, practical guidelines etc for practitioners who deal with these instruments. Its main domains of activity include extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of sentenced persons.

Practitioners from all States Parties to the Council of Europe conventions on international co-operation in criminal matters are invited to visit the PC-OC website at: www.coe.int/tcj.

The public area of the PC-OC website contains:

- information on the activities of the PC-OC including its upcoming and past meetings and events;
- legal standards and useful background material for practitioners (country information, tools for implementation) in the key areas of work of the PC-OC (extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons and other);
- archives of past activities, studies, papers and publications of interest;
- relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
- useful links to other websites of interest to the activities of the PC-OC.

Can I ask the PC-OC a question?

Questions about the application or interpretation of the Council of Europe instruments in the field of international co-operation in criminal matters are most welcome. They will help the PC-OC in continuing the development of these instruments. These questions may be submitted to your national PC-OC representative.

Questions about the functioning and activities of the PC-OC may be sent to the Secretariat at the following e-mail address: Dg1.tcj@coe.int.