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House of Parliament
Hotel Margitsziget Termál

RECOMMENDATION REC (2000) 19
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SWEDEN

by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Sweden

Before the 1st of January 2005 the country was divided into six public prosecution districts with the Office of the Prosecutor General as the central administrative authority. Each district had a regional public prosecution authority, headed by a Director. Under the authorities were some 40 local public prosecution offices, responsible for the operational public prosecution activities.

The 1st of January 2005 the new Swedish Prosecution Authority was established through reorganisation.

The new Prosecution Authority has merged the former seven Authorities (the Prosecutor General and the six public prosecution districts) into one authority, the Swedish Prosecution Authority. This allows resources to be concentrated on development and operative work instead of administrative tasks.

The Prosecutor General is - as before the reorganization - the highest prosecutor in Sweden and as such acts for legal development and guidance for the application of law in the Supreme Court. The Prosecutor General is in charge of the public prosecution service.

At the Office of the Prosecutor General four divisions has been established, namely the Legal Division, the Division for Prosecutorial matters, The Division of Administration and the Division of Communication.

The Legal Division is responsible for the Prosecutor Generals activities in the Supreme Court, international judicial cooperation, legal development and general legal matters on a central level.

The Division for Prosecutorial Matters is the Public Prosecution Offices contact point concerning operative matters and coordination. The Division for Prosecutorial Matters is also responsible for the supervision and control of the Public Prosecution Offices and of all internal and external training.

The Division of Administration shall support the Public Prosecution Offices as well as the Office of the Prosecutor General. The division shall continuously develop the administrative service level and strive to reallocate resources to the operative activities.

The Division of Communication is responsible for internal as well as external information and public communications.

Four Development Centres has been established in four of our biggest cities. Their task is to work on methods and judicial development in different categories of crime on a national basis. Judicial follow-up and supervision is also part of the work. All appeals against decisions by prosecutors are handled by the Development Centres. The Development Centres answers for the accumulated knowledge in each area of responsibility.

The regional public prosecution authorities headed by a Director have been abolished. The operative prosecutorial tasks are practised in 43 independent Local Public Prosecution Offices. Six out of these are special International Public prosecution Units where the prosecutors have special skills and competence to combat international organised crime.

Two units combating corruption respectively crime by police officials has nationwide competence.

The special public prosecution organization – the Economic Crimes Bureau – is still responsible for fighting economic crime.

The annual budget for the public prosecution organization is approximately 750 million SEK. Out of the more than 1 000 employees, approximately 700 are prosecutors while the rest work with administration.