

EuroMed Justice Programme

Seminar on “Training” (Amman, 14-17 May 2007)

Final Declaration

The regional seminar about “*Training*”, fourth and last seminar organised under topic 5 on “Management and administration of justice: management of procedures, computerisation” of the EuroMed Justice Programme within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the European Union (MEDA Programme of the European Commission (EC) -EuropeAid Co-operation Office), was held in Amman on 14-17 May 2007. The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and experts from the following EU Member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, France and Spain). Moreover, the present seminar has brought together representatives from the Council of Europe and the European Judicial Training Network.

The participants (*) are of the opinion that:

in conformity with:

1. The guiding principles of the EuroMed Justice Programme, i.e. :
 - a. The strengthening of cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice;
 - b. The promotion of an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices;
 - c. The creation of mechanisms allowing for the practical implementation of this cooperation through, for instance, the development of a Euro-Mediterranean network in the field of judicial cooperation;
2. The operational conclusions of the opening conference of the EuroMed Justice Programme held in Brussels on 20 December 2004;
3. The operational conclusions of the preparatory meeting of topic 5 of the Programme held in Athens on 10-11 July 2006.

They acknowledge that this seminar has allowed them:

- To examine, over a period of 4 days, the different judicial training systems in the EU Member States and Mediterranean Partners;
- To analyse the quality of the training of magistrates and judicial administrative staff and the common European and Mediterranean standards for judicial training, examining among others the magistrates’ training needs;

- To point out the importance of initial judicial training and in-service training as a guarantee of independence and a successful implementation of justice;
- To get a better insight into the role of the Council of Europe in the field of judicial training, presenting its recent works focused on training through the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice and the Consultative Council of European judges;
- To study the scope of two international networks, the Lisbon Network and the European Judicial Training Network, emphasizing the importance of developing exchanges and contacts, while also enhancing mutual knowledge of judicial systems through, among others, exchange programmes for judges;
- To present and analyse the relevancy of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Network in the field of Judicial Training, promoting dialogue between judicial training institutions of this region, and to agree to set up two working groups on the topics of “Recruitment and initial training systems of judges” and “In-service training for judges” and to report in the final conference of the programme;
- To be aware of the need to strengthen mutual confidence by improving mutual understanding among judicial authorities and different legal systems, improving the quality of training and promoting mutual knowledge as a cornerstone for understanding and cooperation in the field of justice, trying to find the best possible practices in the field of judicial training;
- To get a better insight into performing training activities through the evaluation of training programmes and proposals of new rules for training by means of interactive working groups, round tables and plenary sessions;
- To establish contacts among participants attending the seminar in order to promote cooperation between institutions working in the field of justice in the countries involved;
- To keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topic covered by this seminar;
- To receive the basic legal documentation – on paper and on CD-Rom- as support to deepen the topics dealt with by this seminar.

The participants take note of the upcoming dissemination of this final declaration among the European Commission Directorates-General concerned, the EU Member States and the Mediterranean Partners.

Read and approved by all the participants in the seminar.

Amman, 17 May 2007

(*) See list in annex