



EuroMed Justice Programme

TOPIC 5: MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: MANAGEMENT OF PROCEDURES, COMPUTERISATION

Seminar 1: Judicial systems I

PROGRAMME

Athens, 12-15 February 2007



**MEDA Programme of the European Commission
(EC) – EuropeAid Co-operation Office**

Programme Management Unit:



**Institut Européen
d'Administration Publique – Centre Européen des Régions (IEAP-CER)**

**European Institute
of Public Administration – European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR)**

INTRODUCTION and GENERAL INFORMATION

Presentation of the Programme

This Regional Cooperation Programme in the field of Justice and Home Affairs (EuroMed Justice Programme) for the Mediterranean Partners falls under Chapter 1 of the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995. This programme represents among others a significant step towards creating an area of peace and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The EuroMed Justice Programme has an overall objective of creating an inter-professional community of magistrates, lawyers and court registrars in the framework of an open and modern justice service, strengthening the rule of law and the effective pursuit of Human Rights.

The programme's main objectives are to encourage an exchange of experience, knowledge and good practices and to set up a Euro-Mediterranean network in the field of judicial cooperation.

Seminar

The current seminar on "Judicial systems I" is the first of four seminars falling under the fifth topic of the Euro-Med Justice Programme on "*Management and administration of justice: management of procedures, computerisation*". During this seminar, participants will work on their different judicial systems, analysing similarities and differences between the various judicial systems and exchanging good practices and experiences. They will also discuss in open debates and working groups in order to find common ways of cooperation.

This seminar is hosted by Greece and will benefit from the support of the Greek Ministry of Justice.

Participants

The participants should be judges, magistrates, court registrars, lawyers, training officers and any other practitioners of the legal professions of the 10 Mediterranean Partners and of the EU Member States.

Working methods

The seminar will combine plenary sessions and parallel working group sessions.

Considering the high profile of the participants, Mediterranean Partners are invited to play an active role in the development of the seminar and will, among others, present the situation in their respective countries as well as the new developments in this field. We would welcome that, after attending the seminar, participants disseminate the outputs of the seminar through their professional network in order to increase the impact of the seminar.

The seminar will also include case studies, where officials from the EU Member States and Mediterranean Partners will share and discuss their experiences in the areas covered by the seminar. Each sub-group will appoint a chair who will lead the debate and a “rapporteur” in charge of presenting the conclusions of the group during the plenary session on the last day of the seminar. The purpose of the working groups is to give rise to a debate among participants in order to find possible solutions. Participants will exchange information and viewpoints on their respective legal systems and will try to find possible points of synergy.

The chairperson in every session will introduce the speaker and conduct the debate.

During the last day, participants will make an evaluation of the seminar. Moreover, at the end of the seminar a final declaration will be read for approval.

Basic Documentation provided to participants

The following documents will be distributed to participants on a CD-ROM at the beginning of the seminar:

- Final Declaration of the Opening Regional Conference of the EuroMed Justice Programme from the 20th of December 2004 in Brussels and Minutes of the Conference;
- Relevant United Nations' Conventions on the topic (EN-FR);
- Council of Europe relevant legal documents (EN-FR);
- Euro-Med Association Agreements;
- Relevant documentation produced by the European Union: conventions, White papers, recommendations, etc.
- Relevant web pages, etc.

Working Languages

The seminar will be held in English, French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation during the working sessions.

Venue and Accommodation of the seminar:

Divani Acropolis Palace Hotel
Parthenonos 19 – 25
EL - 117 42 Athens
Phone: +210 92 80 100
Fax: + 210 92 14 993
Email: divanis@divaniacropolis.gr
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Programme Management Unit:

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PROGRAMME

Monday 12 February 2007

09.00 Opening session and welcome speech

Anna ABARIOTOU, Principal Administrator in charge of the EuroMed Justice Programme, DG EuropeAid Co-operation Office, European Commission, Brussels (BE)

09.15 *Anastasis P. PAPALIGOURAS*, Minister of Justice, Athens (EL)

09.30 Presentation of the EuroMed Justice Programme

Eduardo SÁNCHEZ MONJO, Director of the EuroMed Justice Programme and of the European Institute of Public Administration-European Centre for the Regions, Barcelona (ES)

10.00 Presentation of the seminar about “*Judicial Systems I*”.

Alejandra MARTINEZ BOLUDA, Assistant to the Director, EuroMed Justice Programme, European Institute of Public Administration-European Centre for the Regions, Barcelona (ES)

Javier SEOANE, Spanish Magistrate collaborating to the EuroMed Justice Programme, European Institute of Public Administration-European Centre for the Regions, Barcelona (ES)

10.15 Self-presentation of participants and presentation of the situation in the MEDA Partners.

Each delegation will have **no more than 10 minutes** to present itself and to present a report giving a general current overview about the topic of the seminar under discussion in its own country. This report should be written in **English or French** and presented to the Programme Management Unit during the seminar.

11.30 Break

- 12.00 Sub-topic 1: Approaches to assessing legal and judicial systems; creating a successful legal and judicial system.**
- Chair: *Maria GAVOUNELI*, Attorney at law and Lecturer in International Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Athens, Athens (EL)
- Speaker: *Pim ALBERS*, Special Advisor to the CEPEJ (European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice), Directorate General I – Legal Affairs, Council of Europe, Strasbourg (FR)
- 12.45 Open debate**
- 13.15 Lunch**
- 14.45 Sub-topic 2: Judicial structures and political systems: searching for a common interaction**
- Chair: *Nada ASMAR*, Judge, President of the Court of Appeal, Mont Liban (LB)
- 2 Speakers: *Marie Odile DEVILLERS*, Head of the Comparative Law Office, Ministry of Justice, Paris (FR)
- Hasan SÖYLEMEZOGLU*, Judge Reporter, DG of European Union Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ankara (TR)
- 16.15 Open Debate**
- 16.45 End of the day**
- 20.00 Dinner offered by the Greek Ministry of Justice.**

Tuesday 13 February 2007

09.15 Sub-topic 3: Supporting fair legal systems: the OSCE experience

Chair: *Mohamed EL WEEZA*, Judge, Primary Court of Tanta (EG)

Speaker: *Vasily VASHCHANKA*, Rule of Law Adviser, ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights), OSCE, Warsaw (PL)

10.00 Open debate

10.30 Break

11.00 Sub-topic 4: Judicial Systems: Exchange of experiences and judicial practices; different views and common approaches; the examples from an EU and a MEDA partner.

Chair: *Panagiota SIMIGIANNI*, Public Prosecutor at the Court of Pirgos Ilias (EL)

2 Speakers: *Georgios PAPAGEORGIOU*, President of the Court of First Instance of Chalkida (EL)

Najib LYAN, Lawyer, Beirut (LB)

12.30 Open Debate

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Working Group: Search for common and fundamental values of justice: theory and practice.

This working group will be divided into 4 groups. Each working group will designate a chair to moderate the works and a “*rapporteur*” that will present the conclusions at the plenary session on the last day of the seminar.

The report should be written in English or French and presented to the Programme Management Unit before the same plenary session.

17.00 End of the day

Wednesday 14 February 2007

09.15 Sub-topic 5: Cooperation between national authorities and the Council of Europe: experiences in capacity building of the judiciary

Chair: *Leila HAMMAMI*, Judge of Family matters, First Instance Court of Manouba (TN)

Speaker: *Pim ALBERS*

10.00 Open debate

10.30 Sub-topic 6: Creation of a new Judicial system in a post-conflict environment: the experience of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

Chair: *Abdul Karim PHARAON*, Judge of the Supreme Court of Jordan, Amman (JO)

Speaker: *Carol PERALTA* (MT), Chief International Judge of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Pristina – Kosovo

11.15 Open debate

11.45 Break

12.15 Cultural visit to the Acropolis offered by the Greek Ministry of Justice

14.00 Lunch

15.30 Definition of a fair and successful judicial system

Expert's panel: question time

Experts: *Javier SEOANE, Vasily VASHCHANKA, Carol PERALTA, Pim ALBERS, Panagiota SIMIGIANNI and Najib LYAN*

16.15 Open debate

16.45 End of the day

Thursday 15 February 2007

09.00 Sub-topic 7: Judicial Systems and Human Rights

Chair: *Engin DURGANÖL*, Judge, Head of Section at the Personnel Department, Ministry of Justice, Ankara (TR)

Speaker: *David BONDIA GARCIA*, Professor of International Public law, University of Barcelona; Director of the Institute of Human Rights of Catalonia, Barcelona (ES)

09.45 Open debate

10.15 Break

10.45 Plenary session - Presentation of the working groups' conclusions.

Each “*rapporteur*” of each working group should present in no more than 5 minutes all the conclusions reached in the groups, followed by a general discussion if necessary.

11.15 Presentation of new developments in each country.

Each delegation will have **no more than 10 minutes** to present – through a written report - a general Action Plan about the future activities related to the topic of this seminar that will be implemented in its country. This report should be written in **English or French** and presented to the Programme Management Unit during the seminar.

12.15 Final Declaration

Eduardo SÁNCHEZ MONJO

12.30 Closing of the Seminar

Zoe PAPANICOLAOU, Head of the Section for Programmes Coordination and International Relations, Ministry of Justice, Athens (EL)

Eduardo SÁNCHEZ MONJO

13.00 Lunch

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