

30th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of justice
“transparent and efficient justice”
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SPEECH

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Mr. Minister, Madam, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first express my gratitude to the Government of Turkey, and in particular to His Excellency Sadullah Ergin and to Her Excellency Madame de Boer-Buquicchio for hosting this conference, and for the effort and devotion that they have put into the preparation of this meeting.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Minister, for bringing this topic to the attention of ministers of justice of member states of the Council of Europe and for preparing this complex document. I also admire the effort of Turkey in implementing its national e-Justice plan with some very inspiring elements. In recent years, the Czech Republic has also undergone judicial reform focused on improving the efficiency of justice and introducing ICT tools.

Some tools, already serving citizens, provide information on court proceedings on-line via the national justice portal and access to electronic judicial registers (such as commercial register, insolvency register, list of certified experts and interpreters).

Other tools are part of larger eGovernment projects creating a system of obligatory certified data boxes, used for all official correspondence among public authorities and other legal entities, as well as citizens who can apply for certified data box on voluntary basis. Unfortunately this system is only used on national level. Citizens can also get official extracts from nearly all public registers at so called CzechPoints – in official centers accessible in all regions at post offices and many other places.

Our long term goal is to introduce electronic judicial files which will be the main source of documents for judicial proceedings. This effort goes also hand in hand with the necessary changes of relevant legislation and procedure codes.

At the European as well as national level we also aim at promoting use of videoconferencing equipment mainly for hearing of the witness in judicial proceedings in cross-border and national cases. For European citizens the European e-Justice portal became an important source of information about access to justice and we are fully prepared to cooperate further with other member states on interoperability projects of e-Justice field.

Council of Europe has prepared many useful documents concerning modern, transparent and efficient justice in recent years. Member states themselves are improving their systems on national bases to achieve such goal. Our today's Conference gives us good opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices and I sincerely hope that subsequently all citizens will be able to notice further improvements in their access to modern, transparent and efficient justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your attention.