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**Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe
3rd Session**

**organised by the
Council of Europe
in co-operation with the
Prosecutor General of Slovenia**

Ljubljana, 12 – 14 May 2002

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**International co-operation in criminal matters:
Establishment of a network of CONTACTS
between Prosecution Services**

**Technical memorandum by the *Bureau of the Conference*
(2 May 2002)**

Recommandation (2000) 19 provides, in Article 38 c., for the establishment of contacts between Prosecution Services in different countries. At its meetings in STRASBOURG and BUCHAREST, the Conférence instructed its Bureau to look into the related question of establishing appropriate relations with EUROJUST. This memorandum sets out the Bureau's proposals on this point.

I.- PROSECUTION SERVICES and INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Generally speaking, the *Bureau* considers it appropriate that the *Conference* should

- state its position, at its LUJBLJANA meeting, on ways of improving international co-operation in criminal matters and express an official view, on behalf of Europe's Prosecution Services, on all the desirable reforms, based on proposals made by the PC-S-NS group, in the framework of OCTOPUS or at the Conference's first meeting in STRASBOURG.

- look at ways of organising Prosecution Services internally with regard to international co-operation, in order to be able to recommend those which appear to be most relevant and most efficient. The *Bureau* is gathering the necessary information for this purpose.

II.- Establishment of NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

While the member states of the European Union and the applicant states have numerous judicial co-operation tools – such as the contact points of the European judicial network and EUROJUST -, the other Council of Europe countries at present seem bereft of any comparable machinery.

The absence of any appropriate pan-European machinery, especially in the criminal justice field, is an obstacle to international exchange and co-operation at a time when crime is becoming increasingly internationalised.

Accordingly, the *Bureau* proposes **establishing a network of national contact points** which, to begin with, would concern all the states not included in the above-mentioned European judicial network, then, at a second stage, after negotiation with the European Union, all 43 member states of the Council of Europe.

Each national contact point, designated within the Prosecution Service concerned, would serve to facilitate international exchange and co-operation, in particular:

- _ by helping to determine the authorities enjoying territorial jurisdiction, both internally on behalf of requesting Prosecution Services, and externally for the benefit of its own authorities;

- _ by facilitating contact between foreign Prosecution Services and requesting or requested internal authorities;

- _ by advising foreign Prosecution Services on procedure;

- _ and by passing on requests for mutual assistance to the Prosecution Service concerned and monitoring their execution within the required time-limits.

Training for these contact points should be provided by the Council of Europe at regular meetings also intended to foster mutual acquaintance and exchange on questions of common interest.

The *Conference of Procutors-General of Europe* is invited to discuss the principle of establishing such contact points at its meeting in LJUBLJANA.
