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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS

(CDPC)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

ON THE OPERATION OF EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS

ON CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

(PC-OC)

**Preparation of the meeting to promote the interconnection of international judicial
networks**

Proposal by the Secretariat

Dear Madam, Sir,

The Council of Europe is planning to organise a meeting of the Secretariats of the most relevant international judicial and police networks of relevance in the fight against transnational organised crime (TOC). The meeting will take place on ...2018 in Paris.

This meeting is closely linked to the commitment taken by the CoE to implement an Action Plan on combating Transnational Organised Crime (2016-2020). This Action Plan ([link](#)), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in March 2016, is based on the findings contained in the White Paper on Transnational Organised Crime ([TOC link](#)).

The first Key area of this action plan “ Enhancing international co-operation through networks” , contains in its Action 3: the task to “Build up the connection of judicial networks”. The Action Plan states on its page 12 “To this end, Council of Europe should organise a high-level meeting with the persons responsible for the most relevant judicial networks already in place in the European, Euroasian and Euro-Atlantic sphere in order to start the discussions on the possibility of linking the judicial networks or strengthening the existing co-operation agreements. Secondly, a workshop on the present co-operation among the existing judicial networks should be held, with the aim of identifying if co-operation in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), or appointing a contact person to act as a liaison point between the different judicial networks, would be feasible options. Thirdly, upon the results of those activities, an analysis of the legal framework for implementing the connection of the judicial networks should begin.”

In order to start the implementation, the Secretariat invited an expert, Ms Esther George (UK) to make an overview of the most relevant existing judicial networks and to make proposals on ways to interconnect them. This report (in attachment) contains a , necessarily non-exhaustive list of international judicial networks, including a description of their purpose and scope, and contains proposals on how the existing networks could be interconnected.

In order to prepare this meeting, it has been decided to invite the Secretariats of the most relevant networks and similar bodies, including the one you are serving as their Secretariat, and asking them to reply to the following questions:

1. Is your network/body well described in the attached document? If not, please feel free to correct
2. Is your network/body relevant to the fight against transnational organised crime? If so, please reply to the following questions:
3. Who are the members of your network (function/profession, nationality, number)?
4. What are your working methods (meetings; online forum or data exchange; request forms etc.)?
5. Could you please describe the services and information you offer to the members of the network and of relevance to the fight against TOC? And to third parties, other networks? If you do not usually share information or services, please specify what could possibly be shared and what not.
6. Which additional information or additional services would be helpful to the members of your network in order to fight TOC?
7. Referring to the proposals to interconnect existing judicial networks mentioned in the attached report, would you have any comments or proposals?

I should be very grateful if you would send your replies by 1 December 2017 to...

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions