



Project Funded by the
European Union



EUROMED JUSTICE II

OPENING CONFERENCE

Centre Albert Borschette – meeting room AB-3B

36, rue Froissart – 1049 Brussels

30 June 2008 – 09.00 to 17.00

AGENDA 30 JUNE 2008

- 09.00–09.30 Registration of participants
- 09.30–10.00 Welcome speech, Marcus CORNARO, Director, Directorate EuropeAid A
- 10.00–10.30 Presentation of the project: Anna ABARIOTOU, Principal Administrator in charge of the EuroMed Justice II project
- Eduard SANCHEZ MONJO, Supervisor of the Consortium implementing the EuroMed Justice II project
- 10.30-10.45 Coffee Break
- 10.45 **Presentation of the 3 Working Groups themes of the project.**
- 10.45-11.00 **Working Group 1:** working group on Legislative reform in the field of access to justice.
- José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS, Course Manager of the EuroMed Justice II project
- 11.00-11.30 Debate
- 11.30-11.45 **Working Group 2:** working group on custody and visiting rights in cross-border family conflicts.
- Khaled ABOUALI, Co-ordinator of the EuroMed Justice II project
- 11.45-12.30 Debate
- 12.30-14.30 Lunch

- 14.30–14.45 **Working Group 3:** working group on reform of criminal and prison law.
Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO, Project Leader of the EuroMed Justice II project
- 14.45-15.15 Debate
- 15.15–15.30 Coffee Break
- 15.30-16.30 Draft calendar and organisation of activities
- 16.30–17.00 Closure of the Conference by Mrs Carla MONTESI, Head of Unit, EuropeAid A3

General Introduction

The EuroMed Justice II Project (January 2008 – January 2011) is a three-year project addressed to the 9 Mediterranean Partners and its aim is to contribute to the development of a Euro-Mediterranean area of cooperation on justice.

This project is financed by the European Commission with a budget of 5 Million Euro.

The implementation of the project has been entrusted to a consortium led by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) and composed of the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Administration and Public Policies (FIAPP) and the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ). The European Centre for the Regions, EIPA's Antenna in Barcelona, is the Programme Management Unit for the EuroMed Justice II Project.

The project will promote in the beneficiary countries and in the 3 main components covered (i) Access to justice and legal aid; ii) Resolution of cross-border family conflicts; and iii) Transposition of international conventions on criminal and prison law) the adoption of policy processes and strategies, including legislative reforms, in order to stimulate cooperation in the judicial field, strengthening further the capacity of the institutions in charge of putting into practice the said public policies in the three above-mentioned key sectors covered by the project.

This project has a total duration of 36 months, between January 2008 and January 2011, with 3 Working Groups (12 meetings), 36 training sessions, 10 study visits and 5 technical assistance missions to be developed during this period.

The project will develop its own website, www.euromed-justice.eu (public and restricted part), in order to disseminate information related to the project and support networking among the participants.

Specific Objectives

The main specific objectives of this project are: a) To support the development of the Mediterranean Partners' institutional and administrative capacity and good governance in the field of justice; b) To support the modernisation of justice systems, the simplification/speeding-up of judicial proceedings and improved access to justice; c) To develop judicial cooperation in civil matters, in particular through assistance in the field of family law with a special emphasis on cross-border family conflicts; d) To strengthen judicial cooperation in criminal matters and support initiatives for the reform of criminal and prison law in the Mediterranean partner countries with a view to facilitating the transposition of the relevant international conventions into the domestic law of the beneficiary countries and their implementation; e) To create an inter-professional community of magistrates and law professionals in order to build an open and modern justice system that will uphold the rule of law and the effective implementation of human rights; f) To create a Euro-Mediterranean Network of Judicial Schools.

Opening Conference

The Opening Conference aims to introduce to the participants and partners the main information related to the project. Topics as the content of the main components, the working methodology and the timing of the activities to be developed will be introduced and discussed during this conference.

The participants' attendance will be very much appreciated in order to know their opinions, suggestions and interest in hosting project activities so that a provisional calendar for the working groups meetings can be established.

Three representatives from each MEDA country will participate in the Opening Conference together with representatives of EU Member States.

Simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Arabic will be provided during the conference.

Project Activities

a) Working Groups

Considering the above-mentioned three main components, the main methodological characteristic of this project is to create as "think tanks" three Working Groups made up of high-level officials from the ministerial authorities, magistrates and other legal professionals and decision-makers appointed by the different MEDA countries (2 for each MEDA country) and EU experts. These working groups will be a space for a discussion on and an analysis in details of the situation in each country and to prepare a Policy Paper including proposals for action. These proposals will be presented during the regional conference scheduled at the end of the first year of the project. In addition, training activities, training packages, study visits and technical

assistance missions should be identified by the different working groups on the main component under discussion.

b) Training sessions

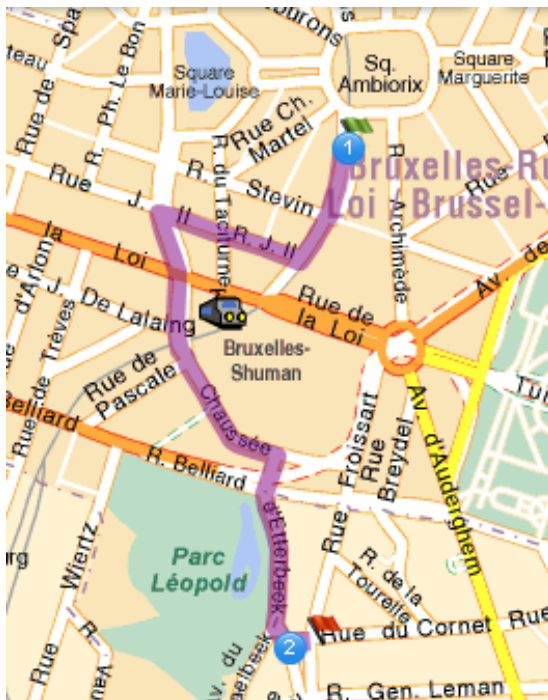
During the project lifecycle, 36 training sessions will be held (4 participants from each MEDA country in each session) on the main components mentioned above. The training sessions should be based on an exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices among participants on the topics selected for each component. The Training sessions Plan for each of the 3 components will be drawn up once the WG have completed their work and will be in line with the evaluation made of the conclusions reached in the policy paper.

c) Study visits and Technical Assistance Missions

10 study visits to EU Member States and Mediterranean Partners institutions will be organised. The aim is to deepen training on specific subjects in each of the three components. Target groups: decision-makers, policy-makers, judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals and officials of the administrations concerned.

In addition, there will also be 5 Technical Assistance Missions, if required, to assist the MP in implementing legislative reform or approximation to international conventions, or to provide any kind of ad hoc assistance to support development in the 3 components of this project.

Venue and accommodation for the Opening Conference



**The Conference will be held in the
Centre Borschette (2)**
Rue Froissart n°36, (Room AB-3B)
Brussels

Participants will receive a nominative invitation and must bring it to the entrance for security reasons.

Participants will be hosted in the:
Hotel MARTIN'S CENTRAL PARK (1)
Boulevard Charlemagne, 80
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. : +32 2 230 85 55