



Strasbourg, 16 April 2008

RL/BU (2008)1

**EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN
PERSONS AND ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING OF JUDGES AND
PUBLIC PROSECUTORS**

(LISBON NETWORK)

Website of the Lisbon Network: www.coe.int/lisbon-network

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU
Palais de l'Europe (Room 15), Strasbourg, 14 March 2008**

MEETING REPORT

Secretariat memorandum prepared by the
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs

1. The **Bureau** of the European Network for the Exchange of Information between Persons and Entities responsible for the Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors (Lisbon Network) held its seventh meeting on 14 March 2008 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, with the following participants:
 - Ms Edith Van den BROECK (Belgium)
 - Ms Stefica STAZNIK (Croatia)
 - Mr Shota RUKHADZE (Georgia)
 - Ms Nuria BASSOLS MUNTADA (Spain), accompanied by Mr Francisco PUIG BLANES, head of external relations at the Spanish judicial training institute
 - Ms Iryna VOYTYUK (Ukraine).
2. The Secretariat welcomed the participants, in particular the new Bureau members elected for Croatia, Georgia and Spain. It also announced that Ms Ana Rusu had taken over from Mr Jean Claus as Secretary to the Network.
3. The agenda, as adopted by the **Bureau**, is appended to this report.
4. The **Bureau** then unanimously elected Ms Iryna VOYTYUK, Director of the Ukrainian Academy of Justice, Chair of the Lisbon Network.

Information by the Chair and the Secretariat

5. The Chair thanked **Bureau** members for the trust they had placed in her by electing her, which offered an opportunity for the Ukrainian Academy of Justice to become more closely involved in the network's activities.
6. The Secretariat reported on the recent changes in DG-HL: Ms Margaret KILLERBY had been appointed Director of Legal Co-operation as successor to Mr Roberto LAMPONI, who had taken up other duties.

The Secretariat informed the **Bureau** about the work being done by the CEPEJ in connection with the preparation of the new evaluation report on European judicial systems. The evaluation scheme sent to the authorities in each member state included, inter alia, questions concerning the quality of justice, length of proceedings and training of judges and prosecutors. In the case of the CCJE, it was worthwhile mentioning Opinion No 10 (2007) on the Council for the Judiciary at the service of society, which had been published in 2007. Among other things, the opinion stated that judicial training should be included in the broad responsibilities of councils for the judiciary. Moreover, in 2008, the CCJE was working on a draft opinion on the quality of judicial decisions, an issue which was related to the training of judges and the techniques and procedures for drafting decisions, etc. The CCPE had issued Opinion No 1 (2007) on ways of improving international co-operation in the criminal justice field, where a close link could also be seen with training in the various international instruments on criminal matters and in foreign languages with a view to ensuring that requests for mutual assistance were properly drafted and understood.

7. The Secretariat announced that it had visited Brussels on 4 February 2008 at the invitation of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) to attend the meeting of experts on the future of judicial training. The meeting had provided an opportunity to highlight the main thrusts of the co-operation between the EJTN and the Lisbon Network and the possibility of the latter acting as an interface between the EJTN and Council of Europe member states which were not EU members.

Preparation of the 10th plenary meeting of the Lisbon Network (Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 30-31 October 2008)

8. With a view to preparation of the network's 10th plenary meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 30 and 31 October 2008, the **Bureau agreed** that the format of the previous meetings would be retained (round table on recent developments in judicial training in Council of Europe member states, study session, relations with other Council of Europe and outside bodies).
9. For the study session, the **Bureau** proposed the theme of "**Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Media and the Judiciary**", which could be divided into two sub-themes:
 - a) **Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Media and the Judiciary – relationship and co-operation;**
 - b) **The role of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and, in particular, Article 10 of the Convention**
10. Each sub-theme would be presented by two rapporteurs. In this connection, the Secretariat asked the **Bureau** to put forward proposed rapporteurs for sub-theme a) at the earliest opportunity. The Spanish delegation said it would propose a rapporteur (possibly the head of the press unit of the Spanish Council of Journalists), who could give a presentation based on in-depth analysis of the issues and practices observed in relations between the judiciary and the press during the "11-M" trial concerning the 2004 Madrid bombings. The **Bureau** believed that a representative of the judicial professions should be invited to the study session concerning the legal aspects, while a journalist should be invited concerning the communication aspects.
11. The **Bureau** also instructed the Secretariat to contact the Media Division of DG-HL and to co-ordinate efforts with colleagues from the HELP programme for the purpose of identifying the rapporteurs for sub-theme b). The latter should also cover aspects concerning the methodology of media training.

Corpus of Council of Europe standards

12. Further to the conclusions of the 9th plenary meeting, the **Bureau** recognised the importance of the Lisbon Network agreeing a minimum corpus of Council of Europe standards which should be taken into consideration by judicial training institutes. The relevant document would provide training institutes with a framework programme which would define both the Council of Europe

instruments which training should focus on and also ways of improving the quality of training in European law.

13. The **Bureau** instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft framework programme by the end of May so that Bureau members could submit comments at the end of June. The final version would be presented for discussion at the network's 10th plenary meeting.

Examination of the proposal by the National Judicial Training Centre of Poland concerning training of prosecutors

14. The **Bureau** instructed the Secretariat to prepare a letter of reply to the Director of the National Judicial Training Centre notifying him of its decision concerning the holding of a conference as part of the Warsaw training initiative in 2008: the Bureau agreed that the conference could take place under the aegis of the Lisbon Network and that several leading experts from the network could take part. Nevertheless, the Council of Europe could not make any financial contribution towards the conference. The **Bureau** also noted that it was necessary to bear in mind the Lisbon Network's position on moving towards unified training for judges and prosecutors and avoiding the establishment of new forums devoted solely to the training of prosecutors.

Possible reinforcement of partnership between the Lisbon Network and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

15. After considering the latest version of the memorandum setting out the principles for the co-operation between the Lisbon Network and the EJTN submitted by the EJTN (document RL/BU (2007)1), the Bureau expressed disappointment at the limited scope of the new version. It therefore proposed that fresh consideration be given to the version proposed at the Bureau's 6th meeting (RL/BU (2007) 2). It instructed the Secretariat to renew the dialogue with the EJTN on this basis and to arrange a bilateral meeting between the new Chair of the Lisbon Network and the new Secretary General of the EJTN with a view to agreeing a long-term co-operation strategy for the benefit of both networks. The meeting could be held in Brussels or Paris in May or June.

Information by the Secretariat on the website of the Lisbon Network

16. The Secretariat said that a discussion forum had been opened on the Lisbon Network website and pointed out that very little use was being made of it by the persons who had access. In order to increase the number of users, the **Bureau** asked the Secretariat to consider ways of making the forum livelier, for instance through thematic discussions or the appointment of an expert for each discussion thread, etc. The issues addressed by the forum could include:
 - a) Difficulties encountered in implementing training sessions;
 - b) How to improve the quality of training?
 - c) How to persuade institutions to contribute to better training?

- d) Discussion of the body of Council of Europe law to be covered in courses in training institutions.

APPENDIX

Seventh meeting of the Bureau of the European Network for the Exchange of Information between Persons and Entities responsible for the Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors

Palais de l'Europe (Room 15), Strasbourg, 14 March 2008 (9.30 am – 6 pm)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Chair
4. Information by the Secretariat
5. Preparation of the 10th plenary meeting of the Lisbon Network (Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 30-31 October 2008)
 - a. Organisation and timing of the plenary meeting (Round Table discussion on the development of judicial training in Council of Europe member states, Study Session, relations with other Council of Europe and outside bodies, election of two new members of the Bureau, etc)
 - b. Study Session of the plenary meeting
 - i. Decision to be taken by the Bureau on the theme and sub-themes¹
 - ii. Identification of the Rapporteurs
6. Examination of possible co-operation arrangements that the Lisbon Network could create or develop, if necessary in co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies, in particular through a framework programme, with a view to contributing to specific methodologies aimed at taking greater account of the Corpus of Council of Europe Law in judicial training institutions and integrating it in initial and in-service training programmes
7. Examination of the proposal by the Director of the National Judicial Training Centre of Poland concerning training of prosecutors, in particular in the field of international co-operation

¹ At its 9th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 2007), the Lisbon Network proposed the theme "Training of magistrates in the field of media and justice".

8. Possible reinforcement of partnership between the Lisbon Network and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

9. Information by the Secretariat on the Website of the Lisbon Network

10. Other business