



**Report on the Interconnection Meeting between
the European Judicial Network, UNODC,
Platforms Regional Court of the Sahel and
the Indian Ocean Commission**

30 and 31 January 2012

The Hague,
The Netherlands

30 January 2012

Visit to the International Criminal Court where it was explained the work of the Court and the importance of judicial cooperation in Criminal Matters to progress with the work of the Court.

31 January 2012

Ms Fátima Adélia MARTINS PIRES, Secretary General to the EJN, offered a warm welcome to the participants from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Sahel Countries Network, the UNODC members and the EJN Contact Points. She emphasized the great willing that the participants shown in learning about the EJN and hope that also the visit to the ICC was useful to them as well.

Furthermore, she recalled the speech from the previous evening and mentioned that Mr Francesco Lo Voi Eurojust National Member for Italy and Mr Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor for the ICTY, were also founders of the EJN. Subsequently, with all the active involvement of the EJN Contact Points, the EJN has come a long way.

Ms MARTINS continued stating that the new networks being formed today have also embraced the importance of the human relations as the key factor to reach mutual trust. She highlighted that this meeting was of high importance to continue this great work and improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters at a global level as well.

A tour de table took place where all participants of the different organizations and their responsibilities in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Following a very valuable presentation of all the participants, Ms MARTINS presented the EJN work and the work done to extend the contact beyond the European Union. With a detailed explanation about the history and the composition of the network, Ms MARTINS focused on the main principles ruling the network: the human factor, informality and flexibility. All these are essential factors to



reach *Mutual Trust* and improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Furthermore, she briefly explained the EJN website and numbered all the EJN meetings necessary to build this trust in the Network. In this introduction, the particular work of the National Correspondents and the Tool Correspondents was clarified.

Ms MARTINS, continued introducing the Networks and shown how the networks that are created in other regions of the world are related to the EJN. She highlighted the need to have the cooperation with other regions of the world in cases that exceed the EU borders. These are many cases and to know who to contact and act with speed is mostly key during an investigation of for example drugs trafficking. The aim is to achieve a kind of harmonization around the world to transmit the trust through all the networks to spread the EJN philosophy in Mutual Trust and to learn from each-other.

Mr Christian SCHIEROLT, Senior prosecutor, office of the Prosecutor General Celle, explained the operational difference between EJN and Eurojust. He also provided with a very useful example on how bridging the Contact Points of other networks is essential for the investigation of cases exceeding the EU borders.

Mr Mamadou Tidiane DEMBELE, Directeur des Affaires Judiciaires et du Sceau of Mali presented himself and Mr Idrissa KARIDIO, Magistrate from Niger. Mr KARIDIO introduced the Platform of Sahel countries network: BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA and NIGER. He also explained the reasons behind the creation of the network. The development of terrorism and other serious crimes affecting the Sahel countries triggered the need to join forces since the single responses were not enough: It was essential to reinforce the judicial cooperation in criminal matters to speed the procedures and to extend the understanding of other systems.

Mr KARIDIO gave details of the functions of their focal points and the kind of meetings that are taking place to increase understanding on what is needed in relation to training, technical skills and tools. Recommendations have been taken as well to continue the work for the future. These involve the website and the relations with other networks around the world. Links to other countries for cross-border matters, EJN, Eurojust and COI are also on the list of priorities of the network. Mr KARIDIO also invited other Sahel countries to join the platform.

It was also explained that since the platform is getting to be more known, they are receiving more requests. National Meetings are also taking place in order to create awareness in the Sahel countries. The aim is to have a formal recognition at a ministerial level in each country member and to maintain internal meetings.

The work of the UNODC in the area of training was remarked. The different kinds of training are of essence for the development of judicial cooperation in criminal matter. The aim of the platform is also to continue development and sharing best practices and legal instruments.

The Indian Ocean Commission was founded in 1982 and institutionalized by the Victoria Agreement in 1984, the Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization of regional cooperation that groups five member states: Union of Comoros, France / Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles. After the presentation of the IOC a debate on the key points of judicial cooperation in criminal matters started. A key point is interlinking the work of the networks to assist in simplifying



the requirements or explaining the procedures to make effective requests and enhance the quality of the investigations all around the world. Ms Veronic WRIGHT, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer / Anti-Corruption for UNODC, emphasized that through the EJN Secretariat could be form a possibility to open the cooperation channels with other networks.

Elie-Victor RENARD, Chef du Bureau de l'Entraide Pénale Internationale, Direction des Affaires criminelles et des grâces, Ministère de la Justice, provided an example on how the informal contact has been key in the investigation of cases that seem not to have express solutions. The work of the networks should be publicized to gather more effective links all over the world.

Ms Grazyna STRONIKOWSKA, Prosecutor, Department of International Cooperation, General Prosecutor's office and Ms MARTINS explained the hard work that is to raise awareness about the actual work of the EJN and the complementarity that the network offers to the national judicial systems. This is an essential duty for the network in each MS.

Mr Mamadou Tidiane DEMBELE, Directeur des Affaires Judiciaires et du Sceau, provided an operational example where the contact between Mali and Niger proved to save much time since the case was shared with the other focal point before the official request was received. This proof of trust saves time and provides an opportunity to solve any problems on the request in advance.

Mr Moussa Kolon COULIBALY, Conseiller Technique – Coordinateur National du PNI Mali, addressed the EJN CPs concerns regarding the need to contact other countries that are not currently forming part of the Sahel Platform. He invited the EJN to contact him and he will make sure to establish the right contacts for them.

Ms Theresa ALVES MARTINS, Prosecutor General's Office from Portugal, also exemplified a case with the UK. Also Mr Ahmed YAGHOUB emphasized the importance of focal points for the information to arrive to the right addressee and not be lost in the way. Diplomatic channels can be very long and result in inaccurate requests.

Mr Abdou HAMANI, Chef de Division Affaires Pénales (DAPG/MJ), highlighted the importance of the meeting for Niger since three new conventions have been signed with EU countries. Also he announced to the French EJN National contact point that he will be receiving a request from him in short. This will help to fasten the procedure that has started already 2 years ago.

Mr Ahmed Ould MESSOUD, Directeur des Etudes, de la Législation et de la Coopération from Mauritania, brought up the fears from the national judges to share the information with other countries. Therefore, the work of the network is to ensure that national judges are well aware of the legal tools and the legal systems of other countries to start to trust them and complete investigations.

It was later presented by the COI representative, that the network has a charter as a guiding document for the network.

Francesco Lo Voi, National Member from Italy at Eurojust, recalled that these Networks that were in formation today shared the same the concerns than those that the EJN had at the beginning. He recommended not giving so much importance to the formality and the informality of the network. The EJN has proven that the informal structure of the network has not prevented it to have



successful results. He wished the networks success and ensures that today will be in the future a very important day in our future.

Mr Moulaye BABA, Consultant - Prevention du Terrorisme from UNODC Dakar, also agreed that the human factor influence greatly the work in judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The direct contact between professionals is key to have efficient and effective cooperation. Since the establishment of the UNODC has developed tools which can be found in the website. Furthermore, the legal library is useful to find national information for all countries and provides full access of legislation of other countries.

In the website it is also to find other technical tools: The practical guide is like in service training for all countries to strengthen the expertise of all people working on the area. Also Manuals are published, guidelines, best practices and reports for all practitioners. Also the website counts with a tool to draw up requests for mutual legal assistance and a compilation for addresses of the national authorities.

The UNODC is an essential actor in raising awareness and to incentive the creation of networks and provision of training.

The UNODC representatives made a demonstration on the MLA demo too that will be offered to all practitioners and of the ones that are currently online.

Ms Maria ALMEIDA GOMES, Coordinator of the EJM Secretariat, presented the EJM website in detail. In particular she emphasized the use of the ATLAS, the Fiches Belges and the Compendium to show the participants the possibilities offered to all practitioners around the world. She has also shown the library which gathers all geographical areas of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

The meeting concluded with the final words of the EJM Secretariat, Ms WRIGHT and the cordial agreement to continue the communication between the networks with the aim to improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters beyond the borders of the networks.



Participants List Inter-connection Meeting Sahel Platform, European Judicial Network, IOC Platform <i>30-31 January 2012</i>				
N.	Countries /Organizations	First Name	Last Name	Function
1	Burkina Faso	Mrs Sophie N'dio	BAMBARA	Directrice des Affaires pénales, des Grâces et du Sceau
2		Mr. Sekou	KABA	Substitut du Procureur général près la Cour d'appel de Ouagadougou
3	Mali	Mr. Mamadou Tidiane	DEMBELE	Directeur des Affaires Judiciaires et du Sceau
4		Mr. Moussa Kolon	COULIBALY	Conseiller Technique - Coordinateur National du PNI Mali
5	Mauritania	Mr. Ahmed Aloueimine	YAGHOUB	Premier Substitut du Procureur de la République près du Tribunal de Wilaya de Nouakchott
6		Mr. Ahmed Ould	MESSOUD	Directeur des Etudes, de la Législation et de la Coopération
7	Niger	Mr. Idrissa	KARIDIO	Magistrat
8		Mr. Abdou	HAMANI	Chef de Division Affaires Pénales (DAPG/MJ)
9	UNODC Dakar	Mr. Moulaye	BABA	Consultant - Prevention du Terrorisme
10	UNODC Vienna	Ms. Karen	KRAMER	
10		Ms Virginia	DE ABAJO MARQUES	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer / Anti-Corruption
11		Ms Veronic	WRIGHT	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer / Anti-Corruption
12	Comores	Ms Maoulida	DJOUBEIRE	Judge to the Moroni Tribunal



13		Ms Ali Thanay	TASMINE	General Inspector, Judicial Affairs, Ministry of Justice
14	Madagascar	Ms Marie Noeline	RALAIVELO	Director, Management of Courts, Ministry of Justice
15		Ms Marie Simone	RALINIRINA	Chief, Civil Affairs Branch, Directorate of Management of Courts, Ministry of Justice
16	Mauritius	Mr. Shah Nawaz	NAMDARKHAN	Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Office
17	Seychelles	Ms Alexandra	MADELEINE	State Counsel in the Office of the Attorney General
18		Ms Sylvie	POOL	Assistant State Counsel in the Office of the Attorney General
19	France/ La Reunion	Mr. Elie-Victor	RENARD	Chef du Bureau de l'Entraide Pénale Internationale, Direction des Affaires criminelles et des grâces, Ministère de la Justice
20	Germany	Mr Joachim	ETTENHOFER	Senior prosecutor, office of the Prosecutor General Munich
21	Germany	Mr Christian	SCHIERHOLT	Senior prosecutor, office of the Prosecutor General Celle
22	Portugal	Ms Anabela	MONTEZ	Senior Presecutor, Department of Investigation and Prosecution, International cooperation , Lisbon
23		Ms Paula	MOURA	Prosecutor, Department of Investigation and Prosecution, International cooperation , Lisbon
24		Ms Teresa	ALVES MARTINS	Prosecutor General's office, Documentation and comparative law office
25	Spain	Ms Ester	ONTENIENTE	Subdirector, International Legal cooperation, Ministry of Justice
26		Ms Arancha	GONZALEZ	Deputy Prosecutor, International Cooperation Unit of the General Prosecutor's office
27	UK	Mr Dominic	BERRY	Specialist Prosecutor, Crown Prosecut



28	Belgium	Mr Jean	MUES	Conseiller, direction générale de la législation, service Public federal Justice
29	Poland	Ms Grazyna	STRONIKOWSKA	Prosecutor, Department of International Cooperation, General Prosecutor's office
30	EJN SEC	Ms Fatima	MARTINS	Secretary to the EJM
31		Ms Maria João	GOMES	Coordinator EJM Secretariat
32		Ms Ianina	LIPARA	EJM Legal Assistant