



Brussels, 12 December 2016
(OR. en)

15333/16

JAI 1066
GENVAL 142
DROIPEN 210
COPEN 377

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conclusions of the second meeting of the European Network on Victims' rights ("ENVR") - 21st November 2016, Bratislava

1. On 21 November 2016, the Second Meeting of the European Network on Victims' Rights ("ENVR"), convened and organized by the Slovak Presidency in close cooperation with the Support Group composed of the Netherlands, France, Ireland and Hungary, took place in Bratislava.
2. The meeting focused on the development of more effective access to information in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA ("the Victims' Rights Directive").
3. The Slovak EU Presidency and the ENVR stressed the importance of the ENVR's activities in developing more effective access to information for victims, as well as for experts working with victims on every day basis.

4. The first step was already done in February at the First Official Meeting of ENVR in Amsterdam, where the following topics were classified as the most problematic while implementing the Victims' Rights Directive: provision of information, individual assessment and cross border cooperation.

During the preparatory seminar held in November 2015 in Luxembourg, the contact points of ENVR expressed their interest to receive more information on existing European networks.

5. A list of the most relevant networks and fora/agencies was prepared with a short indication of their relationship with ENVR. This analysis showed that apart from the network on compensation of victims of crime, no network for the authorities of Member States specifically devoted to the positions of victims existed at that time. For that reason it was confirmed that ENVR would fill a gap in the existing cooperation in the domain of victims' rights.
6. It was suggested that a Support Group consisting of the Netherlands, Slovakia, France, Ireland and Hungary would introduce the ENVR to the mentioned networks, fora and agencies.
7. Bearing in mind the 47th Plenary Meeting of European Judicial Network in criminal matters ("EJN") in Bratislava was to be dedicated to victims' rights, a fact that has enhanced the significant importance of this topic, the Slovak Presidency launched the idea to connect the meetings of ENVR and EJN with the topic of the complementarity of these two networks regarding victims' rights agenda.
8. In general, it was confirmed that it is necessary to improve the knowledge of various networks to share resources and to cooperate with the relevant agencies, in order to benefit from their knowledge and experience in the area of victims' rights.

9. The contact points of ENVR took note on the activities of the EJM. They welcomed the potential for cooperation and stressed the importance of exchanging contacts.

It was stressed that EJM and ENVR are complementary. The difference between ENVR and EJM was clarified and contact points of both networks identified methods for future cooperation. In this respect, both networks established their future communication channels and stressed the need to exchange information.

In this respect EJM offered to provide information about ENVR in the EJM website at the partners' section and details of contact points in the protected area. Both networks also expressed their interest to organise joint training sessions and To establish communication between each other's contact points.

10. Article 4 of Victims' Rights Directive deals with access to information, in particular, how Member States provide information to victims about their rights.
11. ENVR discussed the possibilities of the creation of a simplified system of sharing information considering the importance of using the existing tools. The E-justice portal could be used as a tool for receiving all kind of information for all victims of all crimes.
12. COM in close cooperation with the Support Group of ENVR prepared a questionnaire aimed at updating information about victims' rights which is available on the portal: <https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do>. The questionnaire will be sent to the national contact points in December.

ENVR contact points discussed the content of this information and the method for providing them to victims. It was acknowledged that the European E-justice portal can be used as a tool for ensuring implementation of Article 4 of the Victims' rights Directive and beyond.

The E-justice portal can be used as a one stop shop for information for all victims of all crimes. The current victims' corner should be remodeled to include more comprehensive information for victims and for persons coming into contact with victims. It can include information about specific groups of victims, such as victims of trafficking, child victims of sexual exploitation or victims of terrorism. The e-justice portal can also work as a forum to exchange information between the ENVR contact points and the results of the ENVR meetings can be published there.

13. With regard to the question of a common model of sharing information, the contact points of ENVR agreed on the need of a common approach.
14. The contact points of ENVR appreciated the presentation of the Austrian and German systems regarding legal assistance and psycho-social assistance with a view to sharing best practices among the Member States.
15. Regarding to the preparation of discussions in the future, ENVR expressed an interest in discussing topics related to:
 - common EU approach for providing information and the role of the E-justice portal as a one stop shop for all victims of all crimes,,
 - cross-border cases,
 - compensations, with a special focus on the manner to improve the practical implementation of the Compensation Directive,
 - individual assessment,
 - victims of terrorism,
 - legal aid for victims,
 - focus on restorative justice: the role of mediation between victim and perpetrator,
 - models and best practices for providing emotional support for victims.