



## PROGRAMME

# Justice in the EU – from the Citizen's Perspective

22–23 July 2009, City Conference Centre Norra Latin, Stockholm, Sweden

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### Wednesday 22 July 2009

Time	Activity
9.00–10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00–11.00	Opening of the conference (plenary session): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome address by Ms Beatrice Ask, Swedish Minister for Justice</li><li>- Speech by Mr Lutz Diwell, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Justice, Germany</li><li>- Speech (video) by Mr Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission</li></ul>
11.00–11.30	Coffee
11.30–12.40	Speeches by (plenary session): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ms Pauliine Koskelo, President of the Supreme Court of Finland</li><li>- Mr Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for England &amp; Wales</li><li>- Mr Dean Spielmann, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights</li></ul> <p>Presentation of the workshop topics by plenary moderator Lars Werkström, Director-General for International Affairs, Swedish Ministry of Justice</p>
12.40–14.00	Lunch at City Conference Centre Norra Latin
14.00–15.30	Three parallel workshops (see workshop descriptions below): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Workshop 1: Effective Access to Civil Justice in the EU – How do we make it a Reality for the Individual?</li><li>- Workshop 2: How can Procedural Rights for Suspects and Accused Persons in the EU be Enhanced?</li><li>- Workshop 3: How can Communication between Victims of Crime and the Judicial System in Criminal Proceedings be Improved?</li></ul>
15.30–16.00	Coffee



Time	Activity
<b>16.00–18.00</b>	Workshop sessions continue
<b>19.00</b>	Bus from Hotel Scandic Continental and boat trip to the Vasa Museum
<b>20.00–20.30</b>	Guided tour of the Vasa Museum
<b>20.30–22.30</b>	Stand-up dinner reception at the Vasa Museum
<b>22.30</b>	Bus transport from the Vasa Museum to Hotel Scandic Continental

#### Thursday 23 July 2009

Time	Activity
<b>9.30–10.45</b>	Summary of the workshops by the three workshop moderators (plenary session): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr Allan Rosas, Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities</li><li>- Mr Hans G Nilsson, Minister at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU</li><li>- Mr Peter Jozsef Csonka, Head of Unit (Criminal Justice), Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission</li></ul>
<b>10.45–11.15</b>	Coffee
<b>11.15–12.00</b>	Closing session (plenary session): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Concluding remarks by plenary moderator Lars Werkström</li><li>- Closing address by Ms Beatrice Ask, Swedish Minister for Justice</li></ul>
<b>12.00–13.30</b>	Lunch at City Conference Centre Norra Latin

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## WORKSHOPS

### **Workshop 1 - Effective Access to Civil Justice in the EU – How do we make it a Reality for the Individual?**

#### **Panel:**

*Dr Allan Rosas* (moderator)  
Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities

*Professor Dr Burkhard Hess*  
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg

*Mr Alexander Layton QC*  
Barrister, London

*Ms Barbro Thorblad*  
Director-General of the Swedish National Courts Administration

*Mr Jacek Garstka*  
Head of Unit (General Justice Issues and e-Justice)  
Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

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In establishing an area of freedom, security and justice with free movement of individuals, the European Union has adopted a number of instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil matters concerning cross border litigation, such as the Brussels I Regulation, the European Enforcement Order for Uncontested Claims, the European Payment Order, the Regulation establishing a Small Claims Procedure, the Regulation on the Taking of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters and the Regulation on the Service of Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters. It is of vital importance that these legal instruments work in practice and are applied in a manner that enhances access to civil justice for individuals.

Various means to achieve this objective must be explored and implemented. A significant way forward involves promoting knowledge among practitioners and citizens about Community legislation and the different legal systems of Member States. Modern technology, such as video conferencing and e-Justice, and good translation/interpretation may certainly also play an important role in this respect. Effective access to justice requires efficient and effective communication between courts and individuals. Citizens' confidence in the courts of the Member States is a prerequisite. Strengthening public trust in the judicial systems in general, and in the courts in particular, is therefore crucial.

The purpose of this workshop is to deepen the discussion on the objectives and methods mentioned. The specific aim is to identify obstacles encountered by individuals when they make use of community instruments in cross border matters and to examine how to overcome these obstacles. The role of the Court of Justice of the EC and of national courts will be analysed in this respect. A further aim is to achieve a better understanding of how good communication between courts and individuals affects access to justice and public trust in the courts.



## **Workshop 2 - How can Procedural Rights for Suspects and Accused Persons in the EU be Enhanced?**

### **Panel:**

*Mr Hans G Nilsson* (moderator)  
Minister at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU

*Professor Dr Taru Spronken*  
University of Maastricht

*Ms Caroline Morgan*  
Criminal Justice Unit, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security,  
European Commission

*Professor Dr Jörg Polakiewicz*  
Head of the Law Reform Department in the Directorate General of Human  
Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe

*Professor Dr Holger Matt*  
Chair of European Criminal Bar Association

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In a European Union characterised by free movement, an increasing number of people are involved in criminal proceedings in another Member State. These people often do not know the language used by the authorities in that state and are less likely to possess knowledge about their rights. It is essential that suspects and accused persons have confidence in the fairness of the criminal proceedings regardless of where they are subject to criminal suspicion or indictment.

However, despite the fact that the vast majority of Member States subscribe to the importance of minimum standards of procedural rights for suspects and accused persons, discussions on procedural rights have demonstrated that the issue is complex and sensitive. Although all EU Member States are party to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, there are numerous reports of violations of procedural rights in many of the Member States. These reports clearly underscore the need to explore ways to move forward in this area. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the present situation on procedural rights in the European Union and by what means procedural rights can be promoted in the Member States. In the discussions, representatives from e.g. the European Commission, the Council of Europe, NGOs and universities will participate.



### **Workshop 3 – How can Communication between Victims of Crime and the Judicial System in Criminal Proceedings be Improved?**

#### **Panel:**

*Dr Peter Jozsef Csonka* (moderator)  
Head of Unit (Criminal Justice),  
Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

*Dr Päivi Hirvelä*  
Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

*Mr Jaap Smit*  
President of Victim Support Europe

*Lord Justice Thomas*  
Vice-President of the Queen's Bench Division and Deputy Head of Criminal Justice as well as judge in charge of European relations; President of the Network of Councils for the Judiciary

*Ms Margareta Bergström*  
Director-General of the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority

*Mr Ulf Hjerppe*  
Lawyer and public relations officer, the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority

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Protecting the citizens is one of the key tasks of the EU. The Union needs to ensure that citizens who fall victim to crime have access to justice as well as to adequate help and support. Falling victim to crime is often a difficult experience and can be both traumatic and intimidating. This is especially true when people fall victim to crime in countries other than that in which they reside.

The purpose of this workshop is to focus on problems that victims of crime may face in criminal proceedings with regard to communication (i.e. translation, interpretation and information). The topic will be highlighted and discussed from different perspectives, through presentations by the European Commission, the European Court of Human Rights, Victim Support Europe, the Network of Councils for the Judiciary and the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority. The implementation of the Council Framework Decision of 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings will be discussed on the basis of recent evaluations of that Framework Decision, along with good practices that could be used as models for developing better communication in this respect.