



**Réseau Européen de Formation Judiciaire
European Judicial Training Network**

“PROGRAMMES” WORKING GROUP

**Minutes of the meeting held on 5 and 6 September 2005, in Riga,
Latvian Judicial Training Centre**

General Secretary of the EJTN Gilles Charbonnier

Secretariat of the EJTN Quentin Balthazart

PRESENT MEMBERS:

Germany

Justizministerium Nordrhein-Westphalen

Gabrielle Morawitz

Belgium

Conseil Supérieur de la Justice/
Hoge Raad voor de Justitie

Jacques Hamaide

Spain

Escuela Judicial

Félix V. Azón Vilas
Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz

France

Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature

Eric Severe-Jolivet

Italy

Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura

Silvia Coppari
Eugenio Albamonte

Holland

Studiecentrum Rechtspleging

Martin Langbroek

ERA (European Law Academy)

Jean Philippe Rageade

Latvia

Latvian Judicial Training Centre

Solvita Kalnina

AGENDA

Monday, 5th September 2005

- 10.00:** Opening speech by Mr. Edgars Purins, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.
- 10.15:** Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (Brussels 14 of June 2005)
- 10.30:** Report of the General Secretary
- 11.00:** 2006 EJTN Catalogue: preparation – examination of members proposals of opened activities – calendar until the Edinburgh General Assembly – evaluation form of the activities.
- 11.30:** Coffee break
- 11.45:** Resumption of works on the 2006 EJTN Catalogue
- 13.00:** Lunch
- 14:30:** Visit to the Latvian Judicial Training Centre
- 16:00:** Knowledge Fair (General Assembly of Edinburgh, 7 and 8 December 2005); Opening of the EJTN premises (Brussels, 28 September 2005).
- 16:45:** Other issues
- 17:00:** End of works

Tuesday 6th September 2005

- 10:00:** 2005 EJTN Catalogue: balance of the training activities – calendar until the Edinburgh General Assembly
- 11:30:** Coffee break
- 11:45:** Exchange Programme 2005 (PEAJ 2005)
- 12:30:** End of works

Monday, 5 September 2005

The meeting was opened at 10 am by Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz, Area Director of Foreign and Institutional Relations of the Spanish Judiciary School, and coordinator of the EJTN "Programmes" Working Group

The first speaker was Mr Edgar Purins, *Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Latvia*, who welcomed the members of the Working Group and wished them success in their meeting. He was followed by the Secretary General of the Network, Gilles Charbonnier, who thanked the Latvian Judicial Centre for its welcome and reminded those present that this was the first meeting held by the Network in one of the new ten Member States of the European Union. Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz, then thanked Solvita Kalnina, Executive Director of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre, for all her help and cooperation in setting up the meeting.

1.- Approval of the Minutes of the "Programmes" Working Group (Brussels 14 June 2005)

The minutes were duly approved

2.-Secretary General's Report

The Secretary General gave a report of the meeting, relating to the JAEP/PEAJ 2005 application, held in Brussels on 28 June 2005 with representatives of the European Commission and in the presence of Jacques Hamaide. During the meeting, various issues, and in particular, budgetary matters were discussed. The application had been submitted on 1 July. The European Commission response was expected some time in September.

The Secretary General informed the meeting of the updated EJTN web site, which had been modernised and improved and made accessible to more judges and public prosecutors in the Member States. The work of modernising the web site was being carried out by the Secretariat of the Network under the supervision of the Secretary General.

The Secretary General also spoke of his contacts with the representatives of the OHIM/OAMI, following the previous Working Group meeting in Brussels on 14 June 2005. He told those present that there would be a further meeting in Brussels in September, which would be attended by Félix V. Azón Vilas, Vice-Director of the Spanish Judiciary School to bring about a collaboration proposal between the EJTN – OHIM/OAMI, for carrying out training activities. This proposal would be submitted for approval in the next General Assembly.

The Secretary General also recalls that the Council of Europe is elaborating a Programme for training in human rights issues (European Convention of Human rights). This programme would be aimed at Judges and Public Prosecutors, amongst others. The Secretary General had been in contact in June with the Council of Europe and expressed the interest of the EJTN in this Programme. It is likely that in the coming months the "Programmes" Working Group will have to design proposals within the framework of this Programme.

Gilles Charbonnier informed the meeting of the imminent official opening on 28 September 2005 of the EJTN premises in Brussels. The invitations which had already been sent were listed and the Working Group members suggested further additional

invitations. Franco Frattini, European Commissioner for Justice and Internal Matters, was expected to attend. It was stressed that at this moment it is important to present the Network officially in its own right, and that it should be seen as different from the various institutions it comprises.

Finally, the Secretary General spoke of the imminent issue of a Newsletter which would be bi-monthly, and which would include information of common interest to Network Members (summarised reports of Network meetings, information on activities organised by its members, current European news etc..).

3.- 2006 EJTN Catalogue: preparation – examination of members’ proposals for open activities –calendar until the Edinburgh General Assembly – activity assessment form.

Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz told that meeting that in the second half of July all the Network members were given by e-mail a form to complete on the training activities proposed for 2006, open to Judges and Public Prosecutors of other Member States. The form was accompanied by a note reminding all Members that this information should be submitted to the Spanish Judiciary School by 30 September. It was hoped to have the 2006 Catalogue available for presentation to the General Assembly in Edinburgh. To date, the Spanish Judiciary School had received very few replies, and so it had been decided to re-issue the memo requesting information for 2006.

The members of the “Programmes” Working Group then discussed the assessment model for open activities. The Spanish School had produced a draft which had already been discussed in the Working Group meeting held in Brussels in June (see minutes). During this meeting various suggestions were made which were finally incorporated in the assessment form. The form is to be submitted to the Steering Committee and the General Assembly, and, following approval, will be used next year.

The Secretary General then raised the question of the role of the “Programmes” Working Group in the selection of activities to be included in the catalogue. Should this Working Group have some control and competence in the activities which the Network members wish to incorporate in the Catalogue? The sole criterion to date is that all the activities financed by the European Union must be included in the Catalogue.

All the members present expressed their views, and it was agreed that it was not the task of the “Programmes” Working Group to act as controller of Institutions when open activities were proposed by these bodies. The Working Group members considered that most of the open activities should be of a cross border nature or should have a European dimension, without excluding the presence in the catalogue of training activities of a purely national interest. In this case it would be necessary for the catalogue information to be very clearly expressed to avoid misunderstanding on the part of foreign applicants for a specific activity.

Some members of the “Programmes” Working Group stressed the need to incorporate English or French as working languages for as many open activities as possible. The use of one of these languages, as well as that of the organising State, would help participation in training activities for Judges and Public Prosecutors of third countries.

The open activities assessment form will be included in the 2006 catalogue.

4.- Visit to the Latvian Judicial Training Centre

Solvita Kalnina, *Executive Director of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre*, explained the Latvian Judicial Training Centre activities to the “Programmes” Working Group and gave the history of the Institution. Subsequently there was a guided visit to the Centre’s facilities.

5.- Knowledge Fair in Edinburgh (General Assembly of Edinburgh, 7 and 8 December 2005)

Members of the “Programmes” Working Group discussed the proposal for holding the General Assembly in Edinburgh coinciding with a Knowledge Fair.

Victor Hall had produced a short document detailing the content of the Knowledge Fair, its use and operation, and the means available to the Network members for holding the event in December. The Secretary General informed the meeting that in July he had visited in Edinburgh the venue for the General Assembly.

All Working Group members agreed that it would be a good idea and would serve to increase knowledge on both sides. However, most participants at the meeting stated the difficulties arising from holding this activity; there would not be much time available and in addition, time spent at the Knowledge Fair would be limited if the General Assembly were to be held at the same time. Some members of the Working Group maintained that if the JAEP/PEAJ application were to be approved, an activity such as the Knowledge Fair could be held within the framework of Section C of that Programme.

Finally, it was agreed that the Secretary General would make the necessary contact with Victor Hall in order to report this activity to 2006.

Tuesday, 6 September 2005

6.- 2005 EJTN Catalogue: balance of the training activities –calendar until the Edinburgh General Assembly

The meeting commenced at 10:15 am. Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz, informed those present that in July he had sent a message from the Judiciary School requesting information from all the Network members on open activities held throughout 2005. Although to date there had been very few replies, it was possible to conclude that there had been an increase in the number of participants in the open activities compared to 2004.

The Spanish Judiciary School will urge all Network members to send in their information as soon as possible so that the balance of activities could be prepared for the General Assembly in December.

The incorporation of the information corresponding to JAEP / PEAJ, convened by French ENM, to the 2005 Balance remains to be decided.

7.- Exchange Programme 2005 (JAEP/PEAJ 2005)

The Secretary General informed the meeting that about twenty partnership declarations had been received.

In the context of exchanges between judicial authorities, Gilles Charbonnier stated that a 20% increase was expected for interchanges this year. In addition, there was more opportunity for “Junior Judges” to participate.

The selection procedure for participants in the Programme remained within the competence of each Network member, although it was emphasised that knowledge of the host country language or, alternative a third language was required to ensure communication. The duration of the exchanges was generally set at two weeks and between three to ten weeks for “Junior Judges”.

Three people would be needed to manage the Exchange Programme and they should be contracted as soon as possible following notification of the Commission decision.

In the next Working Group I meeting to be held in November, the decision of the Commission would be announced and the Group would be able to discuss some aspects of implementation of the Exchange Programme.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 12:15.

Barcelone, 14 October 2005

Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz
Escuela Judicial de España

Approved on

Gilles Charbonnier
Secrétaire Général du REFJ