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**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF PROSECUTORS**

*Organised by the Council of Europe  
and the Ministry of Justice of Poland*

*Warsaw, 4-5 June 2007*

**WAYS TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD**

**CONCLUSIONS**

## CONCLUSIONS

A European Conference of Prosecutors, the first conference held in pursuance of the terms of reference of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE)<sup>1</sup>, took place in Warsaw on 4 and 5 June on the theme: "International Co-operation in the Criminal Justice field".

This conference is a concrete response to the conclusions adopted at the end of the high-level Conference of Ministers of Justice and the Interior on the application of European conventions in the field of criminal justice (Moscow, 8-10 November 2006) and is closely linked to the work of the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC). It is, moreover, in keeping with the Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, May 2005), which provide for the strengthening of the rule of law and of the security of European citizens. It also draws on the conclusions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe (CPGE) (Moscow, 5 and 6 July 2006).

At the end of the discussions, in the light of the information provided by the experts, the participants – prosecutors general and other prosecutors from Council of Europe member states – adopted the following conclusions:

1. International co-operation in the field of criminal justice is a fundamental procedural tool enabling public prosecutors to perform their work and ensure that criminal justice is effective.
2. This co-operation needs to be further developed and strengthened, particularly for the purposes of combating the most serious forms of crime such as terrorism, trafficking in human beings and child abduction.
3. Members of prosecution services do not make full use of the existing legal provision for international co-operation in the field of criminal justice, which comprises binding and non-binding, general and specific standard-setting instruments, and as a result this co-operation does not always function properly.
4. Given that the human factor is crucial in improving and making full use of international co-operation, the Conference, drawing attention to the importance which Recommendation Rec(2000)19 affords the training of prosecutors, strongly emphasises that appropriate training must be provided, in particular in order to keep pace with developments in international crime.
5. The Conference underlined the need to improve the efficiency of prosecution services in terms of international co-operation, both from a general standpoint and with regard to certain specific forms of serious crime. It encouraged prosecutors to establish links facilitating constructive co-operation based on the Council of Europe's existing conventions. Nevertheless, the importance of

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<sup>1</sup> The CCPE is a body that advises the Committee of Ministers on issues relating to the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2000)19 on the role of public prosecution in the criminal justice system and any other matters concerning the profession of prosecutor.

complying with the principles of the rule of law and human rights should always have precedence over the requirement of efficiency.

6. The Conference took note with interest of the Polish initiative designed to promote exchanges between European prosecutors with regard to training in matters of transnational importance and invited the CCPE to discuss this issue as soon as possible and forward its conclusions to the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE).

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The Conference extended its warmest thanks to the Polish authorities for the excellent organisation of the European Conference of Prosecutors, for their generous hospitality and for the warm welcome that all the participants have received.