

Concept Note

Joint cross-border meeting, consultations, exchange of experience and operational challenges on combating trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling

10 – 11 May 2023, Eurojust – The Hague

1. Justification

One of the EuroMed Justice Programme key objective consist in organising regional meetings when cross-border cases involving SPCs are identified - EMJ Programme Component 4.

The Joint meeting organized on 10 – 11 May 2023 at Eurojust is implementing the Action Plans - Action Plan A. Countering the trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants within the cross-Mediterranean region, Strategic Goal 2. Operational cooperation; Actions 2.1, 2.2. designed by CrimEx and endorsed by the 3rd PG Forum in November 2021.

2. Background

EMJ facilitates the dialogue and operational contacts among EMJ stakeholders for the implementation of the actions 2.1 (*to explore the possibility to set up operational groups on countering THB corresponding to the geographically criminal realities observed on the ground*) and 2.2 (*to jointly debate and identify practical solutions, facilitate first contact, expedite judicial cooperation*).

Considering the importance of creating and maintaining connections between the criminal justice authorities from SPCs specialised in the fight against THB and smuggling of migrants with their counterparts from EU MS,

EuroMed Justice Programme is organizing a joint meeting of high-level criminal justice and law enforcement officials specialised in countering THB and migrants smuggling from Israel, Jordan and Netherlands who together with representatives of Eurojust College Working Group on anti-trafficking and JITs Secretariat will exchange their professional experience in **The Hague at Eurojust on 10-11 May 2023**.

3. Objectives

Bringing together high – level criminal justice practitioners from South Partner Countries and European Union Member States together with representatives of Eurojust and EuroMed Justice to exchange experience, operational challenges and best practices on preventing, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating THB and migrant smuggling offences.

3. Organisation

Location: Eurojust headquarters, The Hague, The Netherlands

Dates: 10 May in the afternoon - 11 May 2022 all day

Duration: 1 ½ days meeting

Participants:

- **Up to 5 high level representatives** from each country, specialised and active in combating THB and countering smuggling of migrants as following:
 - 1) The head of the national authority in the field
 - 2) The head of the specialised national directorate from the Ministry of Justice
 - 3) The head of the specialised national directorate from the Prosecution General Office
 - 4) The head of the specialised national law enforcement police – directorate/unit
 - 5) Police representative

EMJ covers for the SPCs participants

- Flight and transfer airport/ hotel and return
- Hotel with meals – Accommodation for three nights with breakfast and dinner to 11 May 2023)
- Catering at the Eurojust (10 -11 May 2023) – Lunch and 2 coffee breaks/ day
- Interpretation English/ Arabic/English

Agenda version 05.05.2023

Wednesday 10 May 2022 – Day 1

12.00 Participants arrival at Eurojust Premises welcome and registration

12.30 Lunch at Eurojust Premises

Meeting Room Pollux -2 Floor

*Moderators: Virgil Constantin Ivan-Cucu, EuroMed Justice Programme Coordinator
Alexandru Frunza Nicolescu, EuroMed Justice Legal Officer*

13.45 Opening of the meeting

Introduction of the topic

EMJ 2022-25 Strategy and Action plan on migrant smuggling. EuroMed Justice Team to present the action plan on migrants smuggling and how “*to transform the plan into action*”

- *EMJ Team*

14.15 Fighting THB and Smuggling of migrants at EU level

Eurojust Report on THB - Eurojust judicial cooperation tools and ways of cooperation as best practices.

- *Eurojust Chair of the College Anti-Trafficking Working Team*

14.45 Coffee Break

15.00 Fighting THB and Smuggling of migrants at national level

- *Jordan experience (30 min)*
- *The Netherlands experience (30 min)*
- *Israel experience (30 min)*

16.30 *Coffee Break*

16.45 Open floor to participants - Sharing of experience and practices on how to improve national, regional and cross-regional cooperation in criminal matters to better address THB and smuggling of migrants?

17.30 *End of day 1*

Thursday 11 May 2022 – Day 2

Meeting Room Pollux -2 Floor

*Moderators: Virgil Constantin Ivan-Cucu, EuroMed Justice Programme Coordinator
Alexandru Frunza Nicolescu, EuroMed Justice Legal Officer*

10.00 Open floor to participants: discussions, exchange of experience, operational challenges – justice and law enforcement - and the best practices on preventing, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating THB and migrant smuggling offences.

11.15 *Coffee Break*

11.45 Joint or parallel investigations – the key to success in addressing smuggling of migrants

- *JITs Secretariat*

12.30 *Lunch break – Eurojust*

14.00 EuroMed Justice Network of Contact Points (EMJ Net)

EMJ Team will introduce the EMJNet and explain how to use it in smuggling of migrants cases.

- *Interventions from participants*

15.00 *Coffee Break*

15.30 Open floor to participants – general comments, recommendations regarding THB and smuggling of migrants within the Mediterranean

16.30 *End of the meeting*