

## Introduction

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the European Arrest Warrant Project of the ECBA. During the conference Jelle Knol will demonstrate our website, [www.ecba-eaw.org](http://www.ecba-eaw.org). This sheet will provide you with general project information and information on the progress made in the project.

## The European Arrest Warrant Project

The European Arrest Warrant Project was financed through a grant under the AGIS programme of the European Commission. Its aim was to establish a pan-European network of national correspondents to report on the national implementation of European Arrest Warrant (EAW) legislation and supply information on practice, commentaries and relevant jurisprudence. The goal is to establish a knowledge centre on the EAW and a database with information on the EAW, to exchange research, to identify best practices, to discuss and disseminate research results and to organize seminars, workshops and conferences. The database will be extended and it is publicly available on the ECBA-EAW website. The objective of the ECBA is to build a network of specialized defence lawyers in the EU Member States.

As a partner organisation of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague, the ECBA is an active partner in the AGIS funded programme on the EAW. The Project is run by T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in collaboration with the Max Planck Institut (Freiburg), University of Lund, University of Amsterdam, ECBA, Ministry of Justice (Romania), Justice (NGO from London) and the National Library of Estonia.

For more detailed information about the European Arrest Warrant Project you can visit the website of the project: [www.eurowarrant.net](http://www.eurowarrant.net).

## The EAW Project and the ECBA

The ECBA expertise covers the defence rights of suspects and defendants within the framework of the European Arrest Warrant and has received AGIS-funding to realise the following project.

The main objective of the ECBA was to create a database system for practitioners defending persons who are subject of a European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This system has to provide for practical information for practitioners such as jurisprudence, possible defences and specific information about the criminal procedure in the diverse EU countries systems. This database is now publicly available through our website, [www.ecba-eaw.org](http://www.ecba-eaw.org).

Also, it was (and is) the objective of the ECBA to build a network of specialized or interested criminal defence lawyers in every EU Member State.

## Building a network

In the past two and a half years we have contacted lawyers throughout the EU, asking them to participate in the project or to provide us with names of possible participants.

At this moment, we have at least one contact in 19 Member States. We are still trying to find contacts in the Czech Republic, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Sweden. Also, we will try to extend the network.



### Collecting information

All participants were asked to fill in a questionnaire. They answered questions on the criminal procedural law in their jurisdiction. The information they provided is now published on the website in the Basic Criminal Procedural Law section.

Also, the participants were asked to fill in case forms on important EAW surrender cases in their country. We asked them to provide information on the defences raised and what the decisions were. This turned out to be difficult, as cases are not always made publicly available.

### Expert Meetings

Two Expert Meetings were held (November 2005 and September 2006). These were used to collect more information and to improve the website. It was, for instance, decided that the information on basic criminal procedural law should not be published in Q&A format (as it was received through the questionnaires, but should be ordered (chrono)logically and made to be easily readable texts.

### Participating in the Project

The AGIS funding ended in the end of 2006. We are still trying to find contacts in the Czech Republic, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Sweden. Also, we are trying to find more contacts in the other Member States. We need your help to extend our network and to keep the website up-to-date.

**If you are interested in participating in the Project or if you know a colleague who might be interested, please contact us.**

Also, if you have suggestions on the website or if you have questions on the Project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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