



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry of Justice Sweden

Minister for Justice

Invitation to speak at our conference *Justice in the EU – from the Citizen's Perspective*

Dear Prof. Dr. Matt

Access to justice for citizens is a crucial factor in maintaining and developing an area of freedom, security and justice in Europe. During our upcoming Presidency of the EU, we would like to take the opportunity to discuss this vital issue in a general context. We will thus be holding a conference entitled *Justice in the EU – from the Citizen's Perspective* in Stockholm on 22 and 23 July 2009. The conference is co-funded by the European Commission's Civil Justice-programme with Finland's Ministry of Justice as co-beneficiary. The target group is policy-makers, legal practitioners and civil servants of the European institutions, Member States and neighbouring countries.

The theme of the conference will be citizens' access to civil justice and their rights in criminal proceedings. This main topic will be approached from different angles, such as the practical impact of EU legal instruments relating to judicial cooperation in civil matters with regard to cross-border litigation, communication of different kinds between courts and citizens, support to victims of crime and the rights of suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings.

The conference will open with a plenary session where high-level speakers will address the subject from different perspectives. The opening session will be followed by related workshops. A closing plenary session will conclude the conference. The conference will be conducted in English, without interpretation.

In view of your skill and experience in this area, I would be very pleased if you could attend the conference and participate as a speaker at a

Postal address
SE-103 33 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Telephone
+46 8 405 10 00

E-mail: registrator@justice.ministry.se

Visitors' address
Rosenbad 4

Fax
+46 8 20 27 34

Telex
178 20 PREMIER S

workshop on procedural rights for suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings.

In this context I would very much appreciate if you could share your views on the present situation on procedural rights in the European Union and by what means procedural rights can be promoted in the Member States.

Deputy Director Signe Öhman (direct no. +46 8 405 47 99, email: signe.ohman@justice.ministry.se) will be contacting you shortly with more detailed information about the conference and information on practical issues.

We look forward very much to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beatrice Ask', written in a cursive style.

Beatrice Ask

Minister for Justice



Preparing for the Swedish Presidency of the EU

1 July – 31 December 2009

Ministry of Justice, Sweden

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME • ANNEX 1

Justice in the EU – from the Citizen's Perspective

22–23 July 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden

Place: City Conference Center Norra Latin, Stockholm

Wednesday, 22 July 2009

9.00	Registration and coffee
10.00	Opening of the conference (plenary session): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome address by Swedish Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask- Speech by Vice-President of the European Commission Jacques Barrot- Speech by German Federal Minister for Justice Brigitte Zypries
11.00	Presentation of the workshop topics (plenary session)
12.30	Lunch at Norra Latin
14.00	Three parallel workshops (see workshop descriptions below): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Effective access to civil justice in the EU – how do we make it a reality for the individual?</i>- <i>How can procedural rights for suspects and defendants in the EU be enhanced?</i>- <i>How can communication between victims of crime and the judicial system in criminal proceedings be improved?</i>
15.30	Coffee
16.00	Workshop sessions continue
18.00	End of workshop sessions
19.00	Transport to the dinner venue from Norra Latin
20.15	Guided tour of the Vasa Museum
20.45	Dinner at the Vasa Museum

Programme continues on page 2



Justice in the EU – from the Citizen's Perspective

Continued from page 2

Workshop 2 - How can procedural rights for suspects and defendants in the EU be enhanced?

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 defendants 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 defendants, 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.

Contact: Ms Signe Öhman, signe.ohman@justice.ministry.se, +46 8 405 47 99

Workshop 3 – How can communication between victims of crime and the judicial system in criminal proceedings be improved?

Protecting the citizens is one of the key tasks of the EU. The Union needs to ensure that citizens who have been subjected to crime have access to justice as well as to adequate help and support. Being subjected to a crime is often experienced as difficult and it can be both traumatic and intimidating. This holds especially true if a person is subjected to crime in another Member State than the one of his/her residence.

The purpose of this workshop is to put focus on problems that victims of crime may face in criminal proceedings concerning communication (i.e. translation, interpretation and information). The topic will be highlighted and discussed from different perspectives, through presentations by the European Commission, NGOs, the European Court of Human Rights (tbc) and the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority. The Commission's internal evaluation and a Community sponsored project on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision of 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings will both be presented and discussed as will good practices that could be used as models for developing better communication in this respect.

Contact: Mr Christian Olsson, christian.olsson@justice.ministry.se, +46 8 405 47 24



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Government Offices
of Sweden