

JACQUES BARROT

Vice-président de la Commission européenne

Brussels, 15 JUIN 2009
FA/ad D(2009)1326

Dear Professor Matt,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 2009 concerning procedural rights.

I welcome the support of the ECBA for the Commission's planned proposal for a Framework Decision on the right to interpretation and to translation in criminal proceedings, scheduled for adoption by mid-July. The Commission also plans to put forward a document containing Recommendations for Best Practice (covering training, accreditation and registration of interpreters and translators) at the same time.

The Commission has worked fruitfully with the ECBA for many years now. We appreciated the support of the ECBA for the 2004 proposal, which was, as you mention, unsuccessful ultimately.

Let me assure you that the Commission keeps providing a high level of support and cooperation to the forthcoming Swedish Presidency in relation to the stated intention of the Swedish Justice Minister, Beatrice Ask to put forward a Roadmap for procedural rights. I have discussed the Roadmap personally with Minister Ask and assured her of my support for the initiative. The Roadmap will cover a number of rights, and it is therefore likely that the rights you list as being important will feature on the Roadmap as subjects for future initiatives.

The department is closely following the discussions concerning the Roadmap, and will be represented at the Stockholm Conference you mention.

The aims of the ECBA in promoting an EU founded on mutual trust match those of the Commission and I thank you once again for this expression of support.

Yours sincerely,


Jacques BARROT

Prof. Dr Holger MATT
Chairman of the European
Criminal Bar Association
25 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4HD
United Kingdom