



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND JUSTICE
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**Next steps in the Preparation of the Regional Arrest Warrant: Regional Network Judges
and Regional Judicial Atlas in Criminal Matters”**

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Speech of Mr. Bence Rétvári

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished colleagues,

Please let me welcome all participants of the conference.

Please allow me to share a few thoughts about the cooperation in international criminal matters.

Hungary – paying attention on the increasing spread of cross border crime – in the past years has been constantly striven to conclude such international agreements, respectively to adopt such internal laws, which during the prevention and detection of crimes, help the cooperation of judicial authorities. A successful action against international – often organized – crime without cooperation is not imaginable.

However in order to achieve an efficient cooperation, the adequate legal background is not sufficient – the human factor is equally important for the establishment of an unimpeded relationship between the authorities dealing with justice affairs. Within the EU, the European

Judicial Network also works for facilitating the cooperation on the field of criminal legal aid, it contributes to the cooperation of national authorities dealing with criminal investigation, whereas EUROJUST helps investigations in cases of organized crime and coordinates joint investigations.

The European Judicial Network pays particular attention to regional cooperation; therefore it supports the exchange of specific experiences and good practices on a regular basis.

For sake of the coherence with the title of this session, we have to note the practical importance of the European Arrest Warrant as well. With the introduction of the European Arrest Warrant, the classical extradition procedure on administrative and political level between the member states has been dissolved. The new policy essentially replaces the inter-state relations among the judicial authorities – especially courts; the execution of the European Arrest Warrant is primarily based on the procedures of judicial authorities. I'm sure that the experiences of this legal institution can be used in the establishment of a similar form of cooperation as well.

In the first half of 2011 Hungary took the rotating presidency of the EU Council. With regard to this, I consider it important to briefly present to you what kind of results we have achieved in certain crucial areas. The Government of Hungary is committed to fight corruption on international, European and national level as well.

Concerning the European Union it is important to mention that the Commission has introduced the anti-corruption package in the Justice and Home Affairs Council during the Hungarian presidency.

The most important element of the package is the 'EU Anti-Corruption Report', which helps to identify the anti-corruption trends appearing in the EU, and which would promote the exchange of information and best practices between the member states. This will certainly give useful ideas and conclusions for the participants of this conference too.

Nevertheless, governments shall also endeavor on national level as well, to find more efficient and more appropriate solutions. This should not necessarily mean the amendment of a law, or the introduction of new institutions; often, the reallocation or appropriate use of existing resources can bring significant results.

Allow me to say a few words about the future plans of the Hungarian Government in this field. Our anti-corruption policy is one of the elements of the objected establishment of the 'good state'. A further principle is fighting corruption in the public sector and fighting economic and political corruption at the same time – with special focus on prevention. The corruption prevention program based on the above mentioned principles will be presented to the Government by the end of this year.

Likewise, Hungary is committed to the legislation regarding the renewal of victim protection as well. The European Commission introduced its package of measures on the 18th May 2011 which includes inter alia the *Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime*. The project is part of Victim Protection Agenda (Roadmap), which has been worked out under the Hungarian presidency of the EU Council.

We are especially glad that the Polish presidency will continue dealing with this issue as a priority. Indeed it would be timely to adopt a new victim-protection legislation on European level, the Budapest Roadmap adopted under the Hungarian Presidency has also reflected on that.

There are many sorts of crimes where victims are children, and as children are the most vulnerable group of the society, if they become victims of a crime it could easily affect and damage the rest of their lives. Hungary primary objects the increased protection of children. In light of this has the Minister of Public Administration and Justice issued the new decree which regulates the introduction of special children friendly interrogation rooms. The main message of the mentioned decree is the following: the children victims of a crime shall not become victims again.

I truly believe that these conferences are - through the evolving personal acquaintance and contact - suitable to contribute to the strengthening of the often mentioned common trust which is getting indispensable in the transnational criminal investigation. Through this, the cross border criminal investigation can be more successful.

I wish you a pleasant time, good work, and fruitful cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention!