**SPAIN**

Article 3 - Designation of competent authorities

Competent authorities:  
In accordance with the requirements of Article 3(1) of the Directive, we hereby inform you that, for the purposes of the Directive, the authorities competent to issue and transmit a European protection order are the Judges or Courts presiding over the criminal proceedings in which the decision adopting the protection measure was issued. In addition, the authorities competent to recognise and enforce the European protection order are the Examining Magistrates or the Judges for Violence Against Women of the place in which the victim resides or intends to reside, without prejudice to the provisions of the following Article. However, if decisions on probation or alternative measures to provisional detention have been issued, then the same Judge or Court that has already recognised and enforced those decisions is competent to recognise and enforce the European protection order.

Pursuant to Article 4(3) of the Directive and in accordance with Article 6(3) of Law 23/2014, the Ministry of Justice is the central authority for the purposes of Article 4(1) of the Directive.