



Madeira Declaration

(Ilha da Madeira, 13 October 2008)

I – The participants of the Madeira meeting are delighted that the reflection process on the contribution that the European Judicial Network has made and will in the future make towards building an area of Freedom, Security and Justice was conducted during a meeting bringing together several partners.

This underlines the importance of networking between the institutions and the structures involved in the various aspects of judicial co-operation, with the aim of further sharing experiences and promoting good practices.

II – They acknowledge that the results of the EJNI's activity have proven the importance of the Judicial Atlas and of the other practical instruments for judicial co-operation within the European Union that have been adopted by the EJNI. These instruments have helped make co-operation more effective and meet the challenges posed by the admission of new Member States. Furthermore, the EJNI has inspired projects carried out in other organisations, both within and outside the Union.

III – They stress the usefulness of the EJNI's specific contribution, which is based on direct, informal and personal contacts and reinforced by the judicial and linguistic skills of the points of contact with regard to enhancing the effectiveness of judicial co-operation.

IV – They express their firm belief that the EJNI should improve its co-operation with Eurojust while preserving its identity, which is founded on informal relationships and the proximity of the judicial authorities. Furthermore, reinforcing the complementary nature of these two players would optimise the use of their resources and contribute towards building the European judicial area.

V – They are also convinced that continuing the work done by the EJNI in partnership with other networks, not just at the European level, such as in the sphere of judicial training, but also within an international framework involving the other existing judicial networks, will promote a European and international judicial culture founded on the shared values affirmed by the Treaty on the European Union.



VI – They welcome the political agreement reached between the Ministers of Justice on the draft Council Decision on the EJNI during the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 24 - 25 July 2008, and wish that this instrument, which will make it possible to enhance the value of the Joint Action of 1998, strengthen the Network and consolidate the knowledge gained over the ten years since it was founded, be adopted swiftly.

Rachida Dati
Keeper of the Seals
French Minister of Justice
President of the JHA Council

Jo Vandeurzen
Belgian Minister of Justice

Maria Berger
Austrian Minister of Justice

Alberto Bernardes Costa
Portuguese Minister of Justice