

e-CODEX General Assembly

January 15th 2014

Vienna, Austria

Information about EURegio (Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands)

Digitalisation of the Data Exchange in Criminal Matters between the Judicial Authorities in the Meuse-Rhine and Rhine-Meuse-North Euroregions

Early on in the e-CODEX project it was decided that Secure Data Exchange at the European level in civil as well as in criminal matters should be pilot-tested. The reason for this is to prove that the developed e-CODEX solution supports the entire range of judicial data exchange.

In the border area of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands intensive and effective cross-border cooperation of the national prosecuting authorities are established. The goal of this cooperation is to curtail as far as possible the offenders' freedom resulting from opening of the borders within the scope of the Schengen process and the different legal systems.

To further strengthen this successful cooperation the Ministers of Justice of Belgium, The Netherlands and North-Rhine Westphalia decided within the scope of a meeting held in Maastricht on 18th February 2013 to go digital in regards of the mutual legal assistance correspondence between the relevant judicial authorities.

In 2013 e-CODEX was approached by a regional cooperation in the so called "Euregio area" for a request for collaboration aiming on the digitalization of the Data Exchange in Criminal Matters between the Judicial Authorities.

The General Assembly on 12. + 13. June 2013 in Rome gave its consent to work on "the digitalisation of the data exchange for criminal prosecution purposes" by using the e-CODEX infrastructure, building blocks and methodology in their project.

Based on that decision the work has started and is progressed in so far that it is anticipated to go live with a limited number of public prosecution offices during the next months. Besides that it was agreed in the last General Assembly that the results must be extensible to other organizations and

other Member States and Associated Countries. Therefore the methodology used in e-CODEX for pilot use cases was followed. Furthermore, the work is foreseen to board EIO-procedure at the time of implementation of EIO in the participating Member States.

The General Assembly of the e-CODEX project is therefore asked to take note and approve the report about EURegio and agrees to add this specific application as a pilot in the area of Secure Exchange of Sensitive Data.