



Bundesministerium
der Justiz



Ministry of
Justice, Employment
and European Affairs
of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein



Ministry of Justice of
the Land of
Mecklenburg-
Western Pomerania

**13th Meeting of the Prosecutors General
of the Baltic Sea States
from 30 September until 2 October 2009
in the Hanseatic City of Lübeck**

Conference Resolution

At the joint invitation of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Justice of the Land of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania and the Ministry of Justice, Employment and European Affairs of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein, the Prosecutors General and other representatives of Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden, as well as the representative of the Secretariat of the Council of Baltic Sea States and the representative of Eurojust convened from 30 September until 2 October 2009 in Lübeck / Schleswig Holstein for their 13th conference. They discussed the next steps to take and resolved on measures serving to intensify collaboration on criminal matters between the states of the Baltic Sea region.

The meeting of the Prosecutors General:

expressed awareness of the special significance of an effective fight against transnational crime in safeguarding peace under the law in their respective countries.

took note of new challenges, which include combating transnational crime, in particular international organised crime and piracy, as well as the fight against international terrorism.

took into account the results obtained by the work group “Combating Environmental Crime”.

Having shared with each other the practical experience gained by working together in joint investigation teams, the participants of the conference:

- concur in their assessment that, where appropriate, joint investigation teams may represent a particularly effective form of collaborating on matters governed by criminal law;
- once again reiterate their intention to review, in cases in which transnational crimes are prosecuted, whether the institution of a joint investigation team might be considered.

The participants of the conference agree:

- that wherever appropriate, the option of videotaping the questioning of witnesses should be used, in accordance with existing legal provisions laid down in international agreements.
- that the practical details concerning questioning by means of videoconferencing could be improved. The conference will work towards establishing a register of the equipment, technology and contact persons available in a given region and towards providing templates for the relevant requests to be submitted for conducting questioning via videotape.

The participants of the conference emphasise:

- the exceptional importance of combating the financing of terrorism;
- that they are prepared and willing to collaborate closely with one another in this field;
- the significance of the Second Additional Protocol of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- their intention to avail themselves of the assistance of Eurojust wherever appropriate.

The participants of the conference welcome the specialisation of public prosecutors in the field of environmental crime and concur in their assessment that:

- This specialisation will promote the prosecution of environmental crimes, and that
- Specialist public prosecutors will be able to form a national knowledge base in this field.

The conference resolves that:

- the expert group “Environmental Crimes” is to be renamed “Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO)”;
- the Network shall convene once a year at a conference;
- Finland shall chair the next two meetings of the Network, after which the chairmanship, will rotate, with countries following each order in alphabetical order (using their names in English), beginning with Germany.-

The conference determines that:

- the threat to the international shipping industry posed by piracy has increased to a disturbing degree;
- piracy is not restricted to the Horn of Africa and also may occur in other regions of the world;
- the international community wishes to combat piracy and considers it useful to have pirates prosecuted before an international court of justice;
- The consistent prosecution of piracy crimes is an absolute necessity and that international collaboration in the sense of efficient judicial aid is especially important in this regard.

The conference participants are agreed that:

- an exchange of experience obtained in returning confiscated assets to foreign countries would be welcome;

- this exchange of experience should address all options available under existing national laws and international treaties for the return of such assets.

The Conference of Prosecutors General resolves to

hold the 14th Annual Meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States in Finland.