

### 3RD EU DAY AGAINST IMPUNITY FOR GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND WAR CRIMES

*20th anniversary of the Rome Statute: achievements of the European Union and the Member States in fighting impunity*

Wednesday, 23 May 2018

International Criminal Court, The Hague, the Netherlands

The 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute is an important opportunity to acknowledge the European Union (EU)'s efforts to end impunity. While all Member States have ratified the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court (ICC) remains complementary to the national systems of criminal law. The obligation to investigate and prosecute people responsible for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes continues to lie with the Member States.

Close cooperation at national and transnational level is the only effective and efficient way to bring to justice the perpetrators entering and residing within the EU's territory.

The launch of the annual *EU Day against Impunity* in 2016 is an important part of the Member States' and EU's commitment on preventing and fighting impunity for core international crimes. The 3rd *EU Day against Impunity* will raise awareness on the various crime areas, on the importance of national investigations and prosecutions in the EU Member States, as well as on another significant component, which is to pay respect and remembrance to the victims of those atrocious crimes.

To attract public and political interest, and as impunity is a common European concern, the 3rd *EU Day against Impunity*, organised under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, will bring together national authorities of the Member States, Eurojust, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the ICC, as well as representatives of other relevant stakeholders, to emphasise the achievements and continuing efforts of the EU and its Member States in the fight against impunity for core international crimes.

Once more, the event is supported by various actors, including speakers from the ICC, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, representatives of national authorities, as well as Public Prosecutors from the Member States, willing to join us on this day and make their valuable contribution. The panel discussion will address the EU's and Member States' achievements in fighting impunity. Germany's contribution will provide a good example of the efforts undertaken by authorities at national level to investigate and prosecute core international crimes. Furthermore, the *Day* will highlight the importance of ensuring public support for the fight against impunity, the shared responsibilities between national jurisdictions and the ICC, as well as the need to render justice to the victims of atrocities. With many ongoing armed conflicts, including in the vicinity of the EU, topics such as judicial cooperation and accountability for impunity gaps will be considered, thereby illustrating the various legal and practical challenges of tackling core international crimes. Looking ahead, the importance of a multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition, as a vital tool for domestic prosecutions of international crimes, will further be discussed.

## PROGRAMME

- 14:00–14:30 **Arrival and registration of participants**
- 14:30–15:00 **Coffee/tea**
- 15:00–15:05 Introduction movie
- 15:05–15:15 **Welcome** remarks by the ICC President, Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji
- 15:15–16:00 **Opening** speeches by:
- the **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria**, Mr Yuri Sterk
  - the **Deputy Chief Prosecutor of Bulgaria**, Mr Borislav Sarafov
- Key note** speeches by:
- the **EU Commissioner** for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Ms Věra Jourová (video)
  - the **Vice-President of Eurojust**, Mr Filippo Spiezia
  - the **ICC Prosecutor**, Ms Fatou Bensouda
- 16:00–18:00 **Panel discussion: 20 years of collective action and cooperation within the European Union to fight impunity and the way forward**
- **Mr Christian Ritscher**, Federal Public Prosecutor of the German Federal Court of Justice: *Endeavours of national jurisdictions to fight impunity — the example of Germany*
  - **Dr Ekaterina Trendafilova**, President of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, and former Judge of the ICC: *Fight against impunity as a shared responsibility of national jurisdictions and the ICC*
  - **Ms Marietje Schaake**, Member of the European Parliament: *Ensuring public support for national and international fight against impunity*
  - **Mr Matevz Pezdirc**, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat, Eurojust: *Judicial cooperation for core international crimes in times of contemporary conflicts*
  - **Ms Catherine Marchi-Uhel**, Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria: *Addressing impunity gaps and ensuring accountability for the future*
  - **Ms Anita Vegter**, Director General for the Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement at the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security: *Ensuring cooperation tools for the future years — Multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition for the domestic prosecution of the most serious international crimes*

Participants' interventions (time permitting)

18:00–19:30 **Light reception**