



Network for investigation and  
prosecution of genocide, crimes  
against humanity and war crimes

## **Conclusions of the 1st Meeting of the European Network of Contact Points for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes**

**23-24 November 2004, The Hague**

1. Cooperation between all authorities involved is essential to successful investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, both between different authorities in Member States, between competent authorities in various Member States and between these authorities and the ICC.
2. It is therefore paramount that the list of contact points in Member States drawn up by the EU Council Secretariat always contain the names and relevant data of the persons and (specialized) units that are actually involved in this type of work. Member States should therefore commit themselves to keeping these names and data up-to-date.
3. The EU network of contact points on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes has the potential to become an efficient instrument for exchange of information and best practices, discussion on jurisdiction and other legal issues and other forms of cooperation among EU Member States and with the ICC in this area.
4. The Members of the Network concluded that it should meet once per Presidency to exchange experiences and discuss challenges. They suggest that future Presidencies continue to involve relevant international organisations, governmental as well as non-governmental, in the activities of the Network.
5. The Members of the Network are of the opinion that some organizational preconditions will have to be met to ensure that subsequent meetings take place and therefore call on future Presidencies to take initiatives to that effect.
6. The members of the Network are aware that timely sharing of relevant information with competent authorities in other Member States is essential in bringing perpetrators of international crimes to justice and could also be instrumental in deciding which Member State is best placed to initiate such a prosecution with any prospects of success.
7. In addition, the members of the Network could envisage that background information on countries of origin where international crimes have occurred and other relevant information on experiences gained by competent authorities in a Member State be somehow made available to the benefit of any competent authorities in all Member States.