

8th European Regional Conference

On 12 -14 March 52 prosecutors from 20 jurisdictions and 2 international organisations, the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTY and the OSCE, met in The Hague for the 8th IAP European Regional Conference. After a reception at the IAP offices and dinner at a local restaurant on Wednesday evening, work began the following morning with a welcome address from Han Moraal, member of the Dutch Council of Procurators General, which set the scene for our discussions on the theme of the conference: Hate Crime.

On the first day our speakers were IAP General Counsel Elizabeth Howe (England & Wales), Michael Whine (Community Security Trust/European Jewish Congress, UK), Frits van Straelen (The Netherlands), Ales Butala (Slovenia), and Nasrin Khan (OSCE). In addition to hearing a series of excellent presentations from these colleagues, participants also visited the premises of Eurojust. There they were greeted by its Vice-President, Mrs. Michelle Coninx, who made a detailed presentation about the role of Eurojust *on* mutual legal assistance in Europe and beyond. There was also an opportunity for participants to meet IAP President Francois Falletti, Eurojust representative for France, over a pleasant lunch with other country representatives at Eurojust.

The day finished with consideration and discussion of a number of case studies within workshops followed by a reception in The City Hall addressed by Bob Lagerwaard who, on behalf of the Mayor of The Hague, welcomed participants to the city which is now without doubt “the legal capital of The World”.

On the final day, participants heard presentations from Debbie Carroll (Scotland) and Andriy Ivanov (Ukraine). The workshops then reconvened to consider general principles and recommendations for good practice. It is intended that these will be developed for the purpose of a Good Practice Guide possibly in collaboration with the OSCE. A full report upon the outcome of the Conference will be available from The General Counsel of The IAP.

After a feedback session and a final discussion forum the conference ended with a lunch.

We thank all participants for having made this a very enjoyable and productive conference. The evaluation of the event by the participants was very positive. The IAP provides a platform for such events but success comes from active contributions from those members of the Association who attend. We should also like to thank the City of The Hague for providing us with excellent facilities in the City Hall and for their generosity to the IAP.