



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



16.11.09

Evidence in criminal matters

COM (2009) 624 – Green Paper on obtaining evidence in criminal matters from one Member State to another and securing its admissibility

The existing rules on obtaining evidence from another Member State consist of a number of co-existing instruments based on different underlying principles and scopes. This makes the application of the rules burdensome and may cause confusion among practitioners and lead to situations where they do not use the most appropriate instrument for the evidence sought. Ultimately, these factors may hinder effective cross-border cooperation.

This Green Paper aims to take further action to improve cooperation between Member States on obtaining evidence in criminal matters. The Commission considers replacing the currently fragmented legal regime on obtaining evidence in criminal matters by a single instrument based on the principle of mutual recognition covering all types of evidence and introducing common standards with a view to secure its admissibility before the Courts. The Green Paper consults Member States and relevant stakeholders on the validity of this approach and on a number of issues that are relevant in this respect.

European Citizens' Initiative

COM (2009) 622 – Green Paper on a European Citizens' Initiative

By means of this Green Paper the European Commission is launching a wide public consultation to help to define the practical details of the Citizens' Initiative foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty.

Introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, the Citizens' Initiative enables one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States to directly request that the Commission brings forward an initiative of interest to them in an area of EU competence.



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The Green Paper identifies practical questions regarding how the Initiative can best work in practice. Questions such as the number of countries from which people must come, how to check that signatures are real, what form a petition should take, time limits etc.

The Chief Justice attends meeting of senior members of the Judiciary of the Member states of the EU

The Chief Justice, Dr Vincent De Gaetano has attended a two-day meeting in Luxembourg of senior members of the judiciary and other judicial officers of the member states of the European Union.

The meeting, convened by the President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, discussed, among other things, matters connected with the procedure of the European Court of Justice, the more recent case-law of the Court, as well as the Lisbon Treaty in so far as it affects the Court.