



CRYSTAL SCALES OF JUSTICE

In Brussels, on Friday 5 June 2009, during the Annual Meeting of the Justice Forum, the European Commission and the Council of Europe awarded the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize and three special mentions.

The Prize went to the Central Prison Service Board from Poland for the initiative 'Voluntary work of convicts'. **Three special mentions** were awarded to the General Public Prosecutor's Office of the Land Brandenburg from Germany for 'SAS – e-justice used in the Public Prosecutor's office', the Association for Probation and Mediation in Justice from the Czech Republic for its 'Mentor Scheme' and to the Amsterdam District Court, Criminal Law Department from the Netherlands for its 'European Criminal law and Human Rights Chamber'.

Over 80 representatives of European organisations and associations gathering legal practitioners as well as officials from the Council of Europe, the EU institutions and the EU Member States participated in the Annual Meeting of the Justice Forum. The Award Ceremony was also attended by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Mr Jean-Louis de Brouwer, Deputy Director-General of Directorate General Justice Freedom and Security, European Commission.

Since 2005 the European Commission and the Council of Europe have awarded the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize for innovative practices in civil justice. The 2009 edition was devoted to initiatives in the field of criminal law and procedure. The prize was awarded with the aim of identifying and promoting innovative practices in respect of conduct of criminal proceedings, court organisation and general functioning of the criminal justice system.

Contact person: Kasia Lach
DG JLS E.1
Phone number: +32 2 29 91144