



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Directorate B: Criminal justice  
Unit B.2 : Procedural criminal law

## *Report from the Plenary meeting of the Victims' Rights Platform*

*23 February 2021, 10:00 – 13:00*

On 23 February 2021, DG Justice organised **the first Plenary meeting of the Victims' Rights Platform via WebEx.**

The objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the current and future actions in the area of victims' rights. The participants also commemorated [the European Day for Victims of Crime of 22 February](#).

The Plenary meeting regrouped over 40 participants, including members of the Victims' Rights Platform and Commission experts, responsible for the victims' related strategies adopted in the past months. A representative of the Portuguese Presidency was invited as a guest.

**Alexandra Jour-Schroeder, Deputy Director-General of Directorate General Justice (acting)** opened the event and made a comprehensive overview of the Commission's actions on victims' rights, including the state of play of implementation of the [Victims' Rights Strategy](#) and upcoming strategies. It was followed by **Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, EC Coordinator for victims' rights** who also moderated the meeting. The Coordinator focused on the role of the [Victims' Rights Platform](#) and presented a planning for the next meetings. **Silvia Boto from the Portuguese Presidency** presented the Portuguese priorities in relation to victims' rights focusing on the work on vulnerable adults and on digitalisation.

### *Panel I. Victims' rights and equality – fundamental rights' perspective to victims' rights*

The first panel was opened by **Sami Nevala, from the [Fundamental Rights Agency \(FRA\)](#)** who presented the key findings from the recent report on [Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights – Fundamental Rights Survey](#). Mr Nevala stressed the scale of victimisation and of crime underreporting in the EU. It was followed by **Martina Törnkvist, from Directorate General Justice** who made an overview of the implementation of the [Gender Equality Strategy](#). Mrs Törnkvist presented a state of play of legislative and non-legislative actions and encouraged participants to participate in the open public consultation on [Violence against women and domestic violence – fitness check of EU legislation](#) until 10 May 2021. **Didier Houttequiet from DG Justice** presented the state of play of the [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy](#) and focused on aspects important for victims of hate crime, hate speech and violence, including a possible criminalisation of hate crime. The panellists reminded about the upcoming funding opportunities under the [CERV programme](#).

## *Panel II. Victims' rights and security*

**Antonio Labrador Jimenez from Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs** presented the state of play of the [EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse](#). In particular, Mr Labrador Jimenez presented victims' related actions, such as the upcoming European Centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse. **Mathieu Orsi from Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs** focused on victims' related actions in the [Counter-Terrorism Agenda](#), including a possibility of the future EU Centre for victims of terrorism within a larger EU knowledge hub. It was followed by **Aleksandra Ivankovic from the EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism** who presented the recently published [EU Handbook on rights of victims of terrorism](#).

## *Panel III. Improving victims' access to justice: focus on judicial training and digitalisation of justice*

**Peter Csonka, Deputy Director in Directorate General Justice** opened the panel on access to justice with an overview of the [2020 European judicial training package](#). Mr Csonka presented the [European judicial training strategy](#), informed about funding opportunities in relation to training activities and presented the [2020 report on European judicial training](#). **Alexander Ivantchev, from Directorate General Justice** gave a comprehensive overview of the recently adopted [package on digitalisation of Justice in the EU](#) – focusing on the role of e-justice portal, and possible legislative changes aimed at facilitating judicial cooperation in cross-border cases. The panel ended with a presentation by **Anne Stephan from the European Network on victims' rights** who presented the newly created application – "[Find my victim support service](#)", which is available on the networks' portal.

Each panel ended with an exchange of views.

**The EC Coordinator for victims' rights, Mrs Janicka-Pawłowska** concluded that the event was a good start of the Victims' Rights Platform. Mrs Janicka-Pawłowska also added that a clear need to stress the intersectionality (including disability, gender and anti-racism actions) of the victimisation has been demonstrated during the discussions. The EC Coordinator also took note of the calls to ensure that victims' needs are taken into account when developing EU policies on security, digitalisation and judicial training.

At the next meetings of the Platform, in particular at the upcoming ad hoc meetings, the members of the Platform, including civil society, will be able to present their actions relevant for the implementation of the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights.