

**Public Hearing**  
**«IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE:  
THE ROLE OF E-TOOLS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS»**

**26 MARCH 2012**  
**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS (Jozsef Antall, Room 6Q1)**

**SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**H.E. Ms Margarita Popova**

*Vice-President of The Republic of Bulgaria*

Ms Popova started her legal career as a Junior Prosecutor in Pirdop from 1990-91, then served as Regional Prosecutor in Svoge from 1991-93, and administrative head and regional prosecutor in Sofia district from 1996 to 2006. In 2006 she became a Prosecutor at the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation. Her work there included heading up a unit working to counteract financial crimes against the EU.

In July 2009 she was named Justice Minister in the cabinet of newly elected Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. As Minister she has championed the cause of judicial reform.

In October 2011, Ms Popova was elected Vice President of Bulgaria. She took up her new office in January 2012.

Margarita Popova graduated Bulgarian philology in University of Sofia in 1980, and later (1989) law in the same university. She was lecturer in the national Police academy (2001 – 2004) and National institute of justice (2005 – 2009).

**Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva**

*Member of the European Parliament, EPP Group*

Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva is Member of the European Parliament from Bulgaria's ruling GERB party (Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria). She is a full member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and of the Committee on Petitions. She is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Social Affairs and Environment of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. She is a substitute member in the Committee on Civil liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and in the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Nedelcheva is an expert in political parties and government, and European law. She has completed her Ph. D. at the Institute of Political Studies in Bordeaux and at the Institute of Political Science of Brussels Free University. Previously she was assistant professor, lecturer and researcher in Comparative Politics and International Relations at the Political Science Institute in Bordeaux, France, and at Michel de Montaigne University, Bordeaux, France.

More information on her background and on her current activities are available on: [www.mariya-nedelcheva.eu](http://www.mariya-nedelcheva.eu)

**Ms. Monica Luisa Macovei**

*MEP, EPP Group, Romania*

Monica Luisa Macovei is a Romanian politician, lawyer and former prosecutor, currently a Member of the European Parliament from the Democratic Liberal Party. She was the Minister of Justice of Romania in the first cabinet of Prime Minister Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu. In this position she was credited with implementing justice reforms that helped Romania enter the European Union (EU) on January 1, 2007.

Prior to her appointment as Justice Minister, Macovei was a civil society activist for political reform, democratization, and human rights in post-1989 Romania. She served from 2001-2004 as president of the Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania - The Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH). She has served as an expert/advisor to the Council of Europe, the European Roma Rights Center, the UN Development Program, the Open Society Institute, and the International Helsinki Federation

for Human Rights. She was a founding member of Transparency International-Romania. Macovei was nominated for the Campaigner of the Year 2006 award, as part of the European Voice Europeans of the Year Awards, for "driving through tough laws tackling corruption and reforming the judiciary, improving her country's readiness to join the EU."

Monica Macovei graduated in 1982 with honors from the Law Faculty of the University of Bucharest; in 1994 she received a master's of law in comparative constitutional law from the University of the State of New York/Central European University. She has served as a lecturer in law at the University of Bucharest. She has also authored a number of books and articles on legal and human rights themes.

**Mr. Jaroslaw Paszke**

*Director, Department of Informatization and Court Registers, Ministry of Justice of Poland*

Since 2008, Mr. Paszke is the Director of the Department of Information Technology and Court registers of the Ministry of Justice of Poland. In this capacity he contributed to the development and implementation of central and centralized systems (EPU - e-court, hearings record - e-protocol, Electronic Supervision System of convicts, e-service platform of justice, e-access to the National Court Register).

He graduated from the Military Technical Academy, Faculty of Technical Cybernetics and postgraduated in Economics and Management studies at the University of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, as well as postgraduated in Internal Audit and Financial Control at Polonia University in Czestochowa. He gave lectures and training for military personnel, Social Insurance Institutions, the judiciary and prosecutors' offices and the University of Wroclaw.

**Mr. Dick Heimans**

*Deputy Head of Unit, Unit B2: Criminal Law, DG Justice, European Commission*

**Dr. Maria Yordanova**

*Director of Law program, Center for the Study of Democracy (Sofia, Bulgaria)*

Dr. Maria Yordanova joined the CSD in the late 1998 and has since directed the CSD Law Program. She has led the Center's law drafting efforts aimed at approximation of Bulgarian legislation to acquis communautaire, and at establishing and supporting contacts between the Bulgarian legal community and government agencies. Other areas of Dr. Yordanova's specialization include promotion of the EU standards in human rights protection through introduction of the ombudsman institution in Bulgaria and development of the legal and strategic framework of anti-corruption for Bulgaria, including regional cooperation. She has coordinated a number of projects in the area of human rights, justice, liberty and security, several research initiatives to improve prison conditions and rights of victims of crimes, as well as studies on public confidence in the criminal justice system. In the period 1999-2003 she was coordinator of the Judicial Reform Initiative for Bulgaria. Since 2008, she is the Center's representative in the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and Member of the Board of Advisors of International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She is also Member of the Advisory Group to the Asia-Europe Foundation's Asia-Europe Democratization and Justice Series. Previously, she was Assistant Professor on Comparative Constitutional Law and Systems at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia and senior legal advisor at the United Bulgarian Bank Ltd. She holds a PhD in Law, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

**Mr. Nicola Giovannini**

*President, Droit au Droit – Right to Law (Belgium)*

Nicola Giovannini is founding member and President of *Droit au Droit* ("Right to Law"). He has a considerable experience in the implementation of projects, advocacy initiatives and scientific research in relation to the promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, international justice and institutional building (carried out at EU level, in the MENA region and in Africa), on behalf of various international non-profit organisation (No Peace Without Justice, Institute for International Law and Human Rights). From 1999 to 2004, he served as senior political advisor of the Lista Bonino, a European Parliament bloc. He has also worked as a post-graduate researcher on European Welfare and social issues at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and he served, from 1999 to 2011, part-time assistant at the Department of Political Sciences of the ULB and Scientific Collaborator of the Centre

of Political Theory directed by Prof. Jean-Marc Ferry. He is the author as well as translator of numerous books and articles on political and legal theory, as well as co-editor of “The Use of Solitary Confinement in European Prisons” (Bruylant, 2004). Nicola holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with focus on International Relations as well as a Master of Arts in European Law and Political Theory from the ULB. He is fluent in French, English, Italian and Spanish.

**Mr. Francesco Contini**

*Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG-CNR, Bologna), Italy*

Francesco Contini is a Researcher at IRSIG (Research Institute on Judicial Systems) of Italy’s National Research Council. His research work is on ICT-based organizational and institutional innovation in the Italian and European judiciaries. He edited with Marco Fabri the volumes *Judicial Electronic Data Interchange in Europe* (Lo Scarabeo, 2003) and *Justice and Technology in Europe* (Kluwer Law International, 2001)

**Mr. Marco Velicogna**

*Scientific expert, European Commission on the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe (CEPEJ)*

Marco Velicogna is a scientific expert for the CEPEJ and a researcher at the Research Institute on Judicial Systems of the Italian National Research Council (IRSIG-CNR). His research interests are in the areas of judicial administration, comparative judicial systems, court technology, evaluation and management of innovation. He has been involved in research activities in these areas since 2002, participating in a number of national and international research projects. He has served as consultant for the Italian Ministry of Justice, and collaborated with several international institutions such as the UNODC, OSCE, and the CEPEJ. Among others, he is the author of the CEPEJ Study No. 7, /Use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in European judicial systems / (2008), co-author of the CEPEJ Study No. 6, (2008), and contributed to Contini F. & Lanzara G.F. (eds.) /ICT and Innovation in the Public Sector/ (2009, Palgrave Macmillan).

**Mr. Maurice van der Velden**

*Effective Justice Platform Manager, Effectius, Belgium*

Effectius is a non-profit association dedicated to identifying and promoting effective justice solutions worldwide. Effectius is building a justice effectiveness platform which aims at promoting innovative solutions in the domain of justice and foster the exchange of justice practices, help our members understand the strengths and weaknesses of different justice systems, and identify the effects of past and present justice reforms.

**Mr. Dimitar Markov**

*Senior Analyst and Project Director, Law Program, Center for the Study of Democracy (Sofia, Bulgaria)*

Dimitar Markov works in the fields of human rights, criminal law and judicial reform. He has assisted CSD’s task force on introducing the ombudsman institution to Bulgaria doing research on the foreign and international legislation in this area and coordinating the web-based Ombudsman Information Network launched in 2002. He is member of CSD’s task forces on electronic signature and on registration reform and has worked on the Law on the Electronic Document and the Electronic Signature, the Law on the Commercial Register and legal commentaries on the two laws. In the field of judicial reform Dimitar Markov has assisted the development of the Program for Judicial Reform (1999) and the Judicial Anti-Corruption Program (2003). He is involved in the research on the use of information technologies for judicial case management and in the elaboration of indicators for measuring public confidence in criminal justice. He has also done studies on the legal framework of cybercrime, the rights of prisoners, the protection of victims of crime and the fight against organized crime. In the period 2006-2011 he has coordinated the work of CSD as a National Focal Point of the Racism and Discrimination Network (RAXEN) of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and since 2011 is responsible for the activities of the CSD as a member of the Rights, Equality and Diversity (RED) Network. He holds a Master’s Degree in Law, specialization in Administration of Justice, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia.

**Ms. Dominika Hojerova**

*Program Officer, European Public Law Organization (EPLO), Greece*

Prior to joining EPLO, Ms. Hojerova has been working at the Legal Department of the Greek Council for Refugees and at the Department for Culture and Massmedia of the National Assembly of Slovak Republic. She is Doctor of Law from Charles` University of Prague.

**Mr. Pawel Wilinski**

*Professor of Criminal Law, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland)*

Prof. UAM dr hab. Paweł Wiliński - Professor of law, Chief of the Department of Criminal Procedure at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Senior Counsel and Vice-director of the Constitutional Complaint Department at the Constitutional Court of Poland. Ad-hoc Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France (2010-2012). Member of the Codification Commission of Criminal Law. From 2001 onwards Member of the Board of Polish Legal Clinics Foundation. 2006-2009. Visiting professor on Polish criminal procedure at European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. Working also in a European dimension such as being a member of international research groups (AGIS I and AGIS II projects); working in various types of teams - from research teams to non-governmental organizations; British Council expert, member of the Government Commission for the separation of the office of the Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General, Poland. Author of over 100 publications on criminal procedure, criminal law, international criminal procedure. Selected publications (books): Criminal procedure from Constitutional Perspective, Warsaw 2011; Handbook of Polish Law, co-editor, Warsaw 2011; Fair trial standard in polish and international jurisprudence, editor, Warsaw 2009; Principles of International Criminal Law, Warsaw 2008, co-author; Principles of the right to defense in polish criminal procedure, Warsaw 2006; International Criminal Court, Cracow 2004, co-author; Anonymous witness in polish criminal procedure, Cracow 2002.

**Mr. Piotr Karlik**

*Faculty of Law and Administration, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland)*

**Ms. Sophie de Biolley**

*Interdisciplinary Research Center on Deviance and Penalty, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium*

**Ms. Malena Zingoni-Fernandez**

*Lawyer and Secretary General of Right to Law, Spain*

Malena Zingoni is a founding member and Secretary General of *Droit au Droit* ("Right to Law"). She is also the representative in Spain of the FIDAS Foundation (Fundación Instituto de Desarrollo Argentino Sustentable), founded by the former President of Argentina Republic, Eduardo Duhalde. From 2001 to 2006, she served as political advisor of the Lista Bonino, a European Parliament bloc. She has a solid experience in the conduction of scientific studies on comparative Criminal Law in the European Union, in the framework of EU-funded projects under AGIS, CRYME and CRIMINAL JUSTICE programs. She is a Lawyer at Courts of Spain (Madrid Bar Association number. n.83439) as well as qualified to act at the Court of Justice of the European Communities. She is fluent in Spanish, Italian, French and English.