

IRUNE AGUIRREZABAL: Thank you very much.

My name is Irun Aguirrezabal. I'm the Europe coordinator of the Coalition. [Spanish spoken]. I will speak about Europe, and I will touch upon the statement you made yesterday about interdependence of the ICC and the need for coordination and collaboration with interlocutors, and I will focus in Europe.

In talking or speaking about Europe, I want to give you an overview of the supply side as well as the status in Europe both for reaching or seeking for cooperation legislation and to make it possible for the enforcement of the complementarity principle, as well as to manage the expectations that different actors have in your Office and as well as the ICC in general.

The first thing, I think, one has to acknowledge in Europe is there is a huge diversity in the region and it's not surprising since there's between 45 to 50 countries and huge institutions that can offer this technical assistance.

In terms of the status of legislation and implementation, this diversity is seen in this respect. First, while in Eastern Europe and Western Europe, led by the European Union, the process is very advanced and most countries, almost all of them have ratified and are in the process of implementing legislation. On the other side, in the new independent republics, Central Asian republics as well as in Turkey, these countries have not ratified, sometimes not even signed the Rome Statute, and the ICC is far from being a reality. The political willingness is not really there. Indeed, the ICC is seen as an attack to their sovereignty. Not surprisingly, it is precisely in these countries -- or these countries are precisely more likely to have conflicts if they don't have them already.

This brings me to the second question in terms of diversity, and

that's the actors that you will have. You can see that in these two areas you will have many actors that will be willing and ready to support your work in Eastern Europe and Western Europe, whereas in the other new independent States, the government support will be less likely; as well, as the NGOs, civil society, is less organised and therefore you will need to find ways to interact with these countries.

In terms of Western Europe and Eastern Europe, what I think you can have is many resources at your disposal, meaning many actors working in support of your work.

First of all, I want to talk about the NGOs. The NGOs, local and international NGOs, are first of all monitoring the implementing legislation and ratification process in these countries as well as outside Europe. I'm only told the extradition agreements and other arrangements that might be in contravention with the obligations stemming from the Rome Statute.

This is what we are doing. The Coalition office in Brussels, the Helsinki Committee Networks, Open Society, Amnesty International, the European Lawyers and Students Association, all of these NGOs are carrying out specific work in terms of implementing legislation and monitoring and trying to be consulted with governments to make sure that implementing legislation is effective.

On the other side, you have international NGOs like the FIDH, with a huge network of members outside Europe as well that will be helping victim groups to bring cases to the Court and will be in direct contact with you for that purpose. Some of them indeed, as this one, the last one I mentioned, will be sitting in The Hague, with an office in The Hague.

You have other actors that you will be, I hope, dealing with communicating with, of course, media, local and international media - you

mentioned that yesterday as well - the Association of International Journalists on the ICC which also sits in The Hague; governments, and I won't go into details there; and you have international organisations that will be of great help to your work - one of them is the European Union.

I call your attention to the new common position on the International Criminal Court that was adopted yesterday, and which provides for a very pro-active role for Member States and the European Union institutions to support the ICC and specifically to support your work in many different ways. They plan to elaborate country and regional strategic papers to raise ratification, to offer technical assistance to specific countries and bodies. It could also be at the ICC. You also have the European Parliament, a commission. I recommend that you meet with these bodies.

Secondly, you have the Council of Europe - the Parliamentary Assembly has been very useful; the ICRC and the Red Cross; lawyers and prosecutors who are providing for training of judges, of lawyers, et cetera.

I just want to finalise by giving you a set of recommendations very quickly. First, identify all these actors, and we will be happy to help you in that. Convene meetings with all of them; adopt meetings for different purposes; create flexible but permanent institutional frameworks for communicating with them, especially with these institutions that I mentioned - the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE also will be important for you.

I just want to finalise by saying that I'm sure that the coordination on consultation that you might have with all these bodies and actors will facilitate surely your work and the success of your work in ensuring the complementarity principle and the cooperation as well as

managing expectations of your work.

Thank you very much.