



Conclusions of the Meeting of National Representatives on the prosecution with regard to the downing of flight MH17

13th of June 2019, The Hague (Eurojust)

The Meeting of National Representatives from the countries involved in the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), Eurojust, and countries that suffered the tragic loss of their nationals in the downing of flight MH17, took place at Eurojust in The Hague on the 13th of June 2019. The meeting brought together experts and representatives from countries involved.

The main topic was identifying mutual interests, most notably concerning the next of kin, during the prosecution stages. Through a plenary session and discussions, the representatives exchanged views on the envisaged practical issues in this regard. No information was given with regard to the content of the next of kin meeting and the press conference that will take place on the 19th of June.

1. General observations

The Representatives underlined that establishing the facts with regard to the downing of flight MH17 and ensuring justice are a matter of utmost importance. The Representatives have taken due notice that, after careful consideration, the JIT members previously decided that the perpetrators of the downing of flight MH17 will be prosecuted in the Netherlands by the National Prosecutor's Office, in accordance with the national legislation of the Netherlands on the basis of thorough, impartial investigation, done by the JIT formed by the Netherlands, Australia, Ukraine, Belgium and Malaysia with Eurojust's support. During the meeting on 13 June 2019, the Representatives expressed their trust in the Dutch criminal system and underlined the importance of serving the interests of the next of kin through rendering guidance on exercising their rights pending the trial proceedings.

2. Common goals

a. Support for and communication with the next of kin

The National Prosecutor in the Netherlands explained to the Representatives that prosecution will seek justice for the next of kin of the 298 victims. In accordance with the applicable law of the Netherlands, the full panoply of rights will be available in the Dutch criminal procedure for all next of kin of the 298 victims. Amongst these rights are the right to express views in the criminal proceedings and to have access to relevant documents.



The Representatives highlighted the importance of providing support, including regular, timely and consistent communications, to the next of kin during proceedings. For this purpose, the Representatives seek to appoint per country case managers for its nationals with the task of assisting them through the trial proceedings. The case managers will also serve as a point of contact and nexus to the Netherlands' National Prosecutor's Office on matters of judicial procedures.

b. Public communication during prosecution

The Representatives stressed the importance of ongoing public communication throughout the prosecution. They welcomed the proposed establishment of an international press centre to support media participation.

c. Expertise and assistance

The Representatives share the intention to provide other expertise and assistance to the prosecution in the Netherlands, in accordance with applicable treaties and national legislation, whenever this may be deemed necessary.