

Editorial

In December 2009, the European Criminal Policy Initiative published a Manifesto on European Criminal Policy. The Manifesto focused on principles for “criminalisation” on a European level: When is it justified to take measures under Article 83 for the purpose of harmonising substantive criminal law provisions of the Member States by introducing minimum levels as regards offences and sanctions?

At the end of 2013, the sequel (to use a term from the world of film) appeared: A Manifesto on European Criminal Procedure Law. This time the manifesto focused upon the principles for criminal law cooperation between the Member States, including cooperation based on the principle of Mutual Recognition.

The Manifesto was first presented on the 12th November, 2013 at a conference hosted by the Bavarian representation in Brussels. The conference included a presentation of the Manifesto as well as two panels discussing both the general development of European Criminal Law cooperation in general and the Manifesto in particular. The commissioner, vice president of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, honoured the conference with her

presence and gave a speech entitled *Believing in people: Balancing the scales in European Criminal Law* (the speech is available at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-914_en.htm).

The Manifesto is built around six demands: (1) the limitation of mutual recognition (which is an umbrella for several different demands as regards mutual recognition), (2) balance of the European criminal proceedings, (3) respect for the principle of legality and judicial principles in European criminal proceedings, (4) preservation of coherence, (5) observance of the principle of subsidiarity and (6) compensation of deficits in the European criminal proceedings.

This is not the place to go into details as regards the Manifesto (it is available on-line at www.zis-online.com/dat/artikel/2013_11_777.pdf, where one can find not only the demands, but also quite extensive explanatory notes regarding the demands). We sincerely hope, however, that the Manifesto will contribute to an intensified debate and—ultimately—to a more sustainable and balanced approach in the development of the future criminal law cooperation within the union. We hope to see further debate and discussion, as well as results, in 2014, both in this journal and elsewhere!

The Editors

