

OUNCIL FRAMEWORK DECISION 2008/909/JHA

of 27 November 2008

on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 31(1)(a) and 34(2)(b) thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Council meeting in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999 endorsed the principle of mutual recognition, which should become the cornerstone of judicial cooperation in both civil and criminal matters within the Union.
- (2) On 29 November 2000 the Council, in accordance with the Tampere conclusions, adopted a programme of measures to implement the principle of mutual recognition of decisions in criminal matters ([1](#)), in which it called for an assessment of the need for modern mechanisms for the mutual recognition of final sentences involving deprivation of liberty (Measure 14) and for extended application of the principle of the transfer of sentenced persons to cover persons resident in a Member State (Measure 16).

- (3)The Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union ([2](#)) requires Member States to complete the programme of measures, in particular in the field of enforcing final custodial sentences.
- (4)All the Member States have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons of 21 March 1983. Under that Convention, sentenced persons may be transferred to serve the remainder of their sentence only to their State of nationality and only with their consent and that of the States involved. The Additional Protocol to that Convention of 18 December 1997, which allows transfer without the person's consent, subject to certain conditions, has not been ratified by all the Member States. Neither instrument imposes any basic duty to take charge of sentenced persons for enforcement of a sentence or order.
- (5)Procedural rights in criminal proceedings are a crucial element for ensuring mutual confidence among the Member States in judicial cooperation. Relations between the Member States, which are characterised by special mutual confidence in other Member States' legal systems, enable recognition by the executing State of decisions taken by the issuing State's authorities. Therefore, a further development of the cooperation provided for in the Council of Europe instruments concerning the enforcement of criminal judgments should be envisaged, in particular where citizens of the Union were the subject of a criminal judgment and were sentenced to a custodial sentence or a measure involving deprivation of liberty in another Member State. Notwithstanding the need to provide the sentenced person with adequate safeguards, his or her involvement in the proceedings should no longer be dominant by requiring in all cases his or her consent to the forwarding of a judgment to another Member State for the purpose of its recognition and enforcement of the sentence imposed.
- (6)This Framework Decision should be implemented and applied in a manner which allows general principles of equality, fairness and reasonableness to be respected.
- (7)Article 4(1)(c) contains a discretionary provision which enables the judgment and the certificate to be forwarded, for example, to the Member State of nationality of the sentenced person, in cases other than those provided for in paragraphs 1(a) and (b) or to the Member State in which the sentenced person lives and has been legally residing continuously for at least five years and will retain a permanent right of residence there.
- (8)In cases referred to in Article 4(1)(c) the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate to the executing State is subject to consultations between the competent authorities of the issuing and the executing States, and the consent of the competent

authority of the executing State. The competent authorities should take into account such elements as, for example, duration of the residence or other links to the executing State. In cases where the sentenced person could be transferred to a Member State and to a third country under national law or international instruments, the competent authorities of the issuing and executing States should, in consultations, consider whether enforcement in the executing State would enhance the aim of social rehabilitation better than enforcement in the third country.

- (9) Enforcement of the sentence in the executing State should enhance the possibility of social rehabilitation of the sentenced person. In the context of satisfying itself that the enforcement of the sentence by the executing State will serve the purpose of facilitating the social rehabilitation of the sentenced person, the competent authority of the issuing State should take into account such elements as, for example, the person's attachment to the executing State, whether he or she considers it the place of family, linguistic, cultural, social or economic and other links to the executing State.
- (10) The opinion of the sentenced person referred to in Article 6(3) may be useful mainly in applying Article 4(4). The words 'in particular' are intended to cover also cases where the opinion of the sentenced person would include information which might be of relevance in relation to the grounds for non-recognition and non-enforcement. Provisions of Articles 4(4) and 6(3) do not constitute a ground for refusal on social rehabilitation.
- (11) Poland needs more time than the other Member States to face the practical and material consequences of transfer of Polish citizens convicted in other Member States, especially in the light of an increased mobility of Polish citizens within the Union. For that reason, a temporary derogation of limited scope for a maximum period of five years should be foreseen.
- (12) This Framework Decision should also, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the enforcement of sentences in the cases under Articles 4(6) and 5(3) of Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European Arrest Warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States ([3](#)). This means, *inter alia*, that, without prejudice to that Framework Decision, the executing State could verify the existence of grounds for non-recognition and non-enforcement as provided in Article 9 of this Framework Decision, including the checking of double criminality to the extent that the executing State makes a declaration under Article 7(4) of this Framework Decision, as a condition for recognising and enforcing the judgment with a view to considering whether to surrender the person or to enforce the sentence in cases pursuant to Article 4(6) of Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA.

- (13) This Framework Decision respects fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised by Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union and reflected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Chapter VI thereof. Nothing in this Framework Decision should be interpreted as prohibiting refusal to execute a decision when there are objective reasons to believe that the sentence was imposed for the purpose of punishing a person on the grounds of his or her sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, nationality, language, political opinions or sexual orientation, or that that person's position may be prejudiced on any one of those grounds.
- (14) This Framework Decision should not prevent any Member State from applying its constitutional rules relating to due process, freedom of association, freedom of the press and freedom of expression in other media.
- (15) This Framework Decision should be applied in accordance with the right of citizens of the Union to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States conferred by Article 18 of the Treaty establishing European Community.
- (16) This Framework Decision should be applied in accordance with applicable Community legislation, including in particular Council Directive 2003/86/EC ([4](#)), Council Directive 2003/109/EC ([5](#)) and Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ([6](#)).
- (17) Where in this Framework Decision reference is made to the State in which the sentenced person 'lives', this indicates the place to which that person is attached based on habitual residence and on elements such as family, social or professional ties.
- (18) When applying Article 5(1), it should be possible to transmit a judgment or a certified copy thereof and a certificate to the competent authority in the executing State by any means which leaves a written record, for example e-mail and fax, under conditions allowing the executing State to establish authenticity.
- (19) In cases referred to in Article 9(1)(k), the executing State should consider the possibility of adapting the sentence in accordance with this Framework Decision before it refuses to recognise and enforce the sentence involving a measure other than a custodial sentence.
- (20) The ground for refusal provided for in Article 9(1)(k) may be applied also in cases where the person has not been found guilty of a criminal offence although the competent authority applied the measure involving the deprivation of liberty other than a custodial sentence as a consequence of a criminal offence.

(21)The ground for refusal relating to territoriality should be applied only in exceptional cases and with a view to cooperating to the greatest extent possible under the provisions of this Framework Decision, while taking into account its purpose. Any decision to apply this ground for refusal, should be based on a case-by-case analysis and consultations between the competent authorities of the issuing and executing States.

(22)The time limit referred to in Article 12(2) should be implemented by the Member States in such a way that as a general rule, the final decision, including an appeal procedure is completed within a period of 90 days.

(23)Article 18(1) states that, subject to the exceptions listed in paragraph 2, the specialty rule applies only where the person has been transferred to the executing State. It should therefore not be applicable where the person has not been transferred to the executing State, for example where the person has fled to the executing State,

HAS ADOPTED THIS FRAMEWORK DECISION:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Framework Decision:

- (a) ‘judgment’ shall mean a final decision or order of a court of the issuing State imposing a sentence on a natural person;
- (b) ‘sentence’ shall mean any custodial sentence or any measure involving deprivation of liberty imposed for a limited or unlimited period of time on account of a criminal offence on the basis of criminal proceedings;

- (c) ‘issuing State’ shall mean the Member State in which a judgment is delivered;
- (d) ‘executing State’ shall mean the Member State to which a judgment is forwarded for the purpose of its recognition and enforcement.

Article 2

Determination of the competent authorities

1. Each Member State shall inform the General Secretariat of the Council which authority or authorities, under its national law, are competent in accordance with this Framework Decision, when that Member State is the issuing State or the executing State.
2. The General Secretariat of the Council shall make the information received available to all Member States and the Commission.

Article 3

Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this Framework Decision is to establish the rules under which a Member State, with a view to facilitating the

social rehabilitation of the sentenced person, is to recognise a judgment and enforce the sentence.

2. This Framework Decision shall apply where the sentenced person is in the issuing State or in the executing State.

3. This Framework Decision shall apply only to the recognition of judgments and the enforcement of sentences within the meaning of this Framework Decision. The fact that, in addition to the sentence, a fine and/or a confiscation order has been imposed, which has not yet been paid, recovered or enforced, shall not prevent a judgment from being forwarded. The recognition and enforcement of such fines and confiscation orders in another Member State shall be based on the instruments applicable between the Member States, in particular Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties ([7](#)) and Council Framework Decision 2006/783/JHA of 6 October 2006 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to confiscation orders ([8](#)).

4. This Framework Decision shall not have the effect of modifying the obligation to respect fundamental rights and fundamental legal principles as enshrined in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union.

CHAPTER II

RECOGNITION OF JUDGMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES

Article 4

Criteria for forwarding a judgment and a certificate to another Member State

1. Provided that the sentenced person is in the issuing State or in the executing State, and provided that this person has given his or her consent where required under Article 6, a judgment, together with the certificate for which the standard form is given in Annex I, may be forwarded to one of the following Member States:

- (a) the Member State of nationality of the sentenced person in which he or she lives; or
- (b) the Member State of nationality, to which, while not being the Member State where he or she lives, the sentenced person will be deported, once he or she is released from the enforcement of the sentence on the basis of an expulsion or deportation order included in the judgment or in a judicial or administrative decision or any other measure taken consequential to the judgment; or
- (c) any Member State other than a Member State referred to in (a) or (b), the competent authority of which consents to the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate to that Member State.

2. The forwarding of the judgment and the certificate may take place where the competent authority of the issuing State, where appropriate after consultations between the competent authorities of the issuing and the executing States, is satisfied that the enforcement of the sentence by the executing State would serve the purpose of facilitating the social rehabilitation of the sentenced person.

3. Before forwarding the judgment and the certificate, the competent authority of the issuing State may consult, by any appropriate means, the competent authority of the executing State. Consultation shall be obligatory in the cases referred to in paragraph 1(c). In such cases the competent authority of the executing State shall promptly inform the issuing State of its

decision whether or not to consent to the forwarding of the judgment.

4. During such consultation, the competent authority of the executing State may present the competent authority of the issuing State with a reasoned opinion, that enforcement of the sentence in the executing State would not serve the purpose of facilitating the social rehabilitation and successful reintegration of the sentenced person into society.

Where there has been no consultation, such an opinion may be presented without delay after the transmission of the judgment and the certificate. The competent authority of the issuing State shall consider such opinion and decide whether to withdraw the certificate or not.

5. The executing State may, on its own initiative, request the issuing State to forward the judgment together with the certificate. The sentenced person may also request the competent authorities of the issuing State or of the executing State to initiate a procedure for forwarding the judgment and the certificate under this Framework Decision. Requests made

under this paragraph shall not create an obligation of the issuing State to forward the judgment together with the certificate.

6. In implementing this Framework Decision, Member States shall adopt measures, in particular taking into account the purpose of facilitating social rehabilitation of the sentenced person, constituting the basis on which their competent authorities have to take their decisions whether or not to consent to the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate in cases pursuant to paragraph 1(c).

7. Each Member State may, either on adoption of this Framework Decision or later, notify the General Secretariat of the Council that, in its relations with other Member States that have given the same notification, its prior consent under paragraph 1(c) is not required for the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate:

- (a) if the sentenced person lives in and has been legally residing continuously for at least five years in the executing State and will retain a permanent right of residence in that State, and/or
- (b) if the sentenced person is a national of the executing State in cases other than those provided for in paragraph 1(a) and (b).

In cases referred to in point (a), permanent right of residence shall mean that the person concerned:

- has a right of permanent residence in the respective Member State in accordance with the national law implementing Community legislation adopted on the basis of Article 18, 40, 44 and 52 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, or
- possesses a valid residence permit, as a permanent or long-term resident, for the respective Member State, in accordance with the national law implementing Community legislation adopted on the basis of Article 63 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, as regards Member States to which such Community legislation is applicable, or in accordance with national law, as regards Member States to which it is not.

Article 5

Forwarding of the judgment and the certificate

1. The judgment or a certified copy of it, together with the certificate, shall be forwarded, by the competent authority of the issuing State directly to the competent authority of the executing State by any means which leaves a written record under conditions allowing the executing State to establish its authenticity. The original of the judgment, or a certified copy of it, and the original of the certificate, shall be sent to the

executing State if it so requires. All official communications shall also be made directly between the said competent authorities.

2. The certificate, shall be signed, and its content certified as accurate, by the competent authority of the issuing State.

3. The issuing State shall forward the judgment together with the certificate to only one executing State at any one time.

4. If the competent authority of the executing State is not known to the competent authority of the issuing State, the latter shall make all necessary inquiries, including via the Contact points of the European Judicial Network set up by Council Joint Action 98/428/JHA ([9](#)), in order to obtain the information from the executing State.

5. When an authority of the executing State which receives a judgment together with a certificate has no competence to recognise it and take the necessary measures for its enforcement, it shall, *ex officio*, forward the judgment together with the certificate to the competent authority of the executing

State and inform the competent authority of the issuing State accordingly.

Article 6

Opinion and notification of the sentenced person

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, a judgment together with a certificate may be forwarded to the executing State for the purpose of its recognition and enforcement of the sentence only with the consent of the sentenced person in accordance with the law of the issuing State.
2. The consent of the sentenced person shall not be required where the judgment together with the certificate is forwarded:
 - (a) to the Member State of nationality in which the sentenced person lives;
 - (b) to the Member State to which the sentenced person will be deported once he or she is released from the enforcement of the sentence on the basis of an expulsion or deportation order included in the judgment or in a judicial or administrative decision or any other measure consequential to the judgment;
 - (c) to the Member State to which the sentenced person has fled or otherwise returned in view of the criminal proceedings pending against him or her in the issuing State or following the conviction in that issuing State.
3. In all cases where the sentenced person is still in the issuing State, he or she shall be given an opportunity to state his or her

opinion orally or in writing. Where the issuing State considers it necessary in view of the sentenced person's age or his or her physical or mental condition, that opportunity shall be given to his or her legal representative.

The opinion of the sentenced person shall be taken into account when deciding the issue of forwarding the judgement together with the certificate. Where the person has availed him or her self of the opportunity provided in this paragraph, the opinion of the sentenced person shall be forwarded to the executing State, in particular with a view to Article 4(4). If the sentenced person stated his or her opinion orally, the issuing State shall ensure that the written record of such statement is available to executing State.

4. The competent authority of the issuing State shall inform the sentenced person, in a language which he or she understands, that it has decided to forward the judgment together with the certificate by using the standard form of the notification set out in Annex II. When the sentenced person is in the executing State at the time of that decision, that form shall be transmitted

to the executing State which shall inform the sentenced person accordingly.

5. Paragraph 2(a) shall not apply to Poland as an issuing State and as an executing State in cases where the judgement was issued before the lapse of five years from 5 December 2011. Poland may at any time notify the General Secretariat of the Council that it will no longer avail itself of this derogation.

Article 7

Double criminality

1. The following offences, if they are punishable in the issuing State by a custodial sentence or a measure involving deprivation of liberty for a maximum period of at least three years, and as they are defined by the law of the issuing State, shall, under the terms of this Framework Decision and without verification of the double criminality of the act, give rise to recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence imposed:

- participation in a criminal organisation,
- terrorism,

- trafficking in human beings,
- sexual exploitation of children and child pornography,
- illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,
- illicit trafficking in weapons, munitions and explosives,
- corruption,
- fraud, including that affecting the financial interests of the European Communities within the meaning of the Convention of 26 July 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests ([10](#)),
- laundering of the proceeds of crime,
- counterfeiting currency, including of the euro,
- computer-related crime,
- environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in endangered animal species and in endangered plant species and varieties,
- facilitation of unauthorised entry and residence,
- murder, grievous bodily injury,
- illicit trade in human organs and tissue,
- kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking,
- racism and xenophobia,
- organised or armed robbery,
- illicit trafficking in cultural goods, including antiques and works of art,
- swindling,
- racketeering and extortion,
- counterfeiting and piracy of products,
- forgery of administrative documents and trafficking therein,
- forgery of means of payment,
- illicit trafficking in hormonal substances and other growth promoters,
- illicit trafficking in nuclear or radioactive materials,
- trafficking in stolen vehicles,

- rape,
- arson,
- crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court,
- unlawful seizure of aircraft/ships,
- sabotage.

2. The Council may decide to add other categories of offences to the list provided for in paragraph 1 at any time, acting unanimously after consultation of the European Parliament under the conditions laid down in Article 39(1) of the Treaty on European Union. The Council shall examine, in the light of the report submitted to it pursuant to Article 29(5) of this Framework Decision, whether the list should be extended or amended.

3. For offences other than those covered by paragraph 1, the executing State may make the recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence subject to the condition that it relates to acts which also constitute an offence under the law of the executing State, whatever its constituent elements or however it is described.

4. Each Member State may, on adoption of this Framework Decision or later, by a declaration notified to the General

Secretariat of the Council declare that it will not apply paragraph 1. Any such declaration may be withdrawn at any time. Such declarations or withdrawals of declarations shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 8

Recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence

1. The competent authority of the executing State shall recognise a judgment which has been forwarded in accordance with Article 4 and following the procedure under Article 5, and shall forthwith take all the necessary measures for the enforcement of the sentence, unless it decides to invoke one of the grounds for non-recognition and non-enforcement provided for in Article 9.

2. Where the sentence is incompatible with the law of the executing State in terms of its duration, the competent authority of the executing State may decide to adapt the sentence only where that sentence exceeds the maximum penalty provided for similar offences under its national law. The adapted

sentence shall not be less than the maximum penalty provided for similar offences under the law of the executing State.

3. Where the sentence is incompatible with the law of the executing State in terms of its nature, the competent authority of the executing State may adapt it to the punishment or measure provided for under its own law for similar offences. Such a punishment or measure shall correspond as closely as possible to the sentence imposed in the issuing State and therefore the sentence shall not be converted into a pecuniary punishment.

4. The adapted sentence shall not aggravate the sentence passed in the issuing State in terms of its nature or duration.

Article 9

Grounds for non-recognition and non-enforcement

1. The competent authority of the executing State may refuse to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence, if:

- (a) the certificate referred to in Article 4 is incomplete or manifestly does not correspond to the judgment and has not been completed or corrected within a reasonable deadline set by the competent authority of the executing State;

- (b) the criteria set forth in Article 4(1) are not met;
- (c) enforcement of the sentence would be contrary to the principle of *ne bis in idem*;
- (d) in a case referred to in Article 7(3) and, where the executing State has made a declaration under Article 7(4), in a case referred to in Article 7(1), the judgment relates to acts which would not constitute an offence under the law of the executing State. However, in relation to taxes or duties, customs and exchange, execution of a judgment may not be refused on the ground that the law of the executing State does not impose the same kind of tax or duty or does not contain the same type of rules as regards taxes, duties and customs and exchange regulations as the law of the issuing State;
- (e) the enforcement of the sentence is statute-barred according to the law of the executing State;
- (f) there is immunity under the law of the executing State, which makes it impossible to enforce the sentence;
- (g) the sentence has been imposed on a person who, under the law of the executing State, owing to his or her age, could not have been held criminally liable for the acts in respect of which the judgment was issued;
- (h) at the time the judgment was received by the competent authority of the executing State, less than six months of the sentence remain to be served;

▼M1

- (i) according to the certificate provided for in Article 4, the person did not appear in person at the trial resulting in the decision, unless the certificate states that the person, in accordance with further procedural requirements defined in the national law of the issuing State:
- (i) in due time:
 - either was summoned in person and thereby informed of the scheduled date and place of the trial which resulted in the decision, or by other means actually received official information of the scheduled date and place of that trial in such a manner that it was unequivocally established that he or she was aware of the scheduled trial,
 - and

— was informed that a decision may be handed down if he or she does not appear for the trial;

or

(ii) being aware of the scheduled trial had given a mandate to a legal counsellor, who was either appointed by the person concerned or by the State, to defend him or her at the trial, and was indeed defended by that counsellor at the trial;

or

(iii) after being served with the decision and being expressly informed of the right to a retrial, or an appeal, in which the person has the right to participate and which allows the merits of the case, including fresh evidence, to be re-examined, and which may lead to the original decision being reversed:

— expressly stated that he or she does not contest the decision,

— or

— did not request a retrial or appeal within the applicable time frame;

▼B

(j) the executing State, before a decision is taken in accordance with Article 12(1), makes a request, in accordance with Article 18(3), and the issuing State does not consent, in accordance with Article 18(2)(g), to the person concerned being prosecuted, sentenced or otherwise deprived of his or her liberty in the executing State for an offence committed prior to the transfer other than that for which the person was transferred;

(k) the sentence imposed includes a measure of psychiatric or health care or another measure involving deprivation of liberty, which, notwithstanding Article 8(3), cannot be executed by the executing State in accordance with its legal or health care system;

(l) the judgment relates to criminal offences which under the law of the executing State are regarded as having been committed wholly or for a major or essential part within its territory, or in a place equivalent to its territory.

2. Any decision under paragraph 1(l) in relation to offences committed partly within the territory of the executing State, or in a place equivalent to its territory, shall be taken by the competent authority of the executing State in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the specific circumstances of the case, and in particular to whether a major or essential part of the conduct in question has taken place in the issuing State.

3. In the cases referred to in paragraph 1(a), (b), (c), (i), (k) and (l), before deciding not to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence, the competent authority of the executing State shall consult the competent authority of the issuing State, by any appropriate means, and shall, where appropriate, ask it to supply any necessary additional information without delay.

Article 10

Partial recognition and enforcement

1. If the competent authority of the executing State could consider recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the

sentence in part, it may, before deciding to refuse recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence in whole, consult the competent authority of the issuing State with a view to finding an agreement, as provided for in paragraph 2.

2. The competent authorities of the issuing and the executing States may agree, on a case-by-case basis, to the partial recognition and enforcement of a sentence in accordance with the conditions set out by them, provided such recognition and enforcement does not result in the aggravation of the duration of the sentence. In the absence of such agreement, the certificate shall be withdrawn.

Article 11

Postponement of recognition of the judgment

The recognition of the judgment may be postponed in the executing State where the certificate referred to in Article 4 is incomplete or manifestly does not correspond to the judgment, until such reasonable deadline set by the executing State for the certificate to be completed or corrected.

Article 12

Decision on the enforcement of the sentence and time limits

1. The competent authority in the executing State shall decide as quickly as possible whether to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence and shall inform the issuing State thereof, including of any decision to adapt the sentence in accordance with Article 8(2) and (3).
2. Unless a ground for postponement exists under Article 11 or Article 23(3), the final decision on the recognition of the judgment and the enforcement of the sentence shall be taken within a period of 90 days of receipt of the judgment and the certificate.
3. When in exceptional cases it is not practicable for the competent authority of the executing State to comply with the period provided for in paragraph 2, it shall without delay inform the competent authority of the issuing State by any means, giving the reasons for the delay and the estimated time needed for the final decision to be taken.

Article 13

Withdrawal of the certificate

As long as the enforcement of the sentence in the executing State has not begun, the issuing State may withdraw the certificate from that State, giving reasons for doing so. Upon withdrawal of the certificate, the executing State shall no longer enforce the sentence.

Article 14

Provisional arrest

Where the sentenced person is in the executing State, the executing State may, at the request of the issuing State, before the arrival of the judgment and the certificate, or before the decision to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence, arrest the sentenced person, or take any other measure to ensure that the sentenced person remains in its territory, pending a decision to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence. The duration of the sentence shall not be aggravated

as a result of any period spent in custody by reason of this provision.

Article 15

Transfer of sentenced persons

1. If the sentenced person is in the issuing State, he or she shall be transferred to the executing State at a time agreed between the competent authorities of the issuing and the executing States, and no later than 30 days after the final decision of the executing State on the recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence has been taken.

2. If the transfer of the sentenced person within the period laid down in paragraph 1 is prevented by unforeseen circumstances, the competent authorities of the issuing and executing States shall immediately contact each other. Transfer shall take place as soon as these circumstances cease to exist. The competent authority of the issuing State shall immediately inform the competent authority of the executing State and agree on a new

transfer date. In that event, transfer shall take place within 10 days of the new date thus agreed.

Article 16

Transit

1. Each Member State shall, in accordance with its law, permit the transit through its territory of a sentenced person who is being transferred to the executing State, provided that a copy of the certificate referred to in Article 4 has been forwarded to it by the issuing State together with the transit request. The transit request and the certificate may be transmitted by any means capable of producing a written record. Upon request of the Member State to permit transit, the issuing State shall provide a translation of the certificate into one of the languages, to be indicated in the request, which the Member State requested to permit transit accepts.

2. When receiving a request to permit transit, the Member State requested to permit transit shall inform the issuing State if it cannot guarantee that the sentenced person will not be

prosecuted, or, except as provided in paragraph 1, detained or otherwise subjected to any restriction of his or her liberty in its territory for any offence committed or sentence imposed before his or her departure from the territory of the issuing State. In such a case, the issuing State may withdraw its request.

3. The Member State requested to permit transit shall notify its decision, which shall be taken on a priority basis and not later than one week after having received the request, by the same procedure. Such a decision may be postponed until the translation has been transmitted to the Member State requested to permit transit, where such translation is required under paragraph 1.

4. The Member State requested to permit transit may hold the sentenced person in custody only for such time as transit through its territory requires.

5. A transit request shall not be required in the case of transport by air without a scheduled stopover. However, if an unscheduled landing occurs, the issuing State shall provide the information provided for in paragraph 1 within 72 hours.

Article 17

Law governing enforcement

1. The enforcement of a sentence shall be governed by the law of the executing State. The authorities of the executing State alone shall, subject to paragraphs 2 and 3, be competent to decide on the procedures for enforcement and to determine all the measures relating thereto, including the grounds for early or conditional release.

2. The competent authority of the executing State shall deduct the full period of deprivation of liberty already served in connection with the sentence in respect of which the judgment was issued from the total duration of the deprivation of liberty to be served.

3. The competent authority of the executing State shall, upon request, inform the competent authority of the issuing State of the applicable provisions on possible early or conditional release. The issuing State may agree to the application of such provisions or it may withdraw the certificate.

4. Member States may provide that any decision on early or conditional release may take account of those provisions of national law, indicated by the issuing State, under which the person is entitled to early or conditional release at a specified point in time.

Article 18

Specialty

1. A person transferred to the executing State pursuant to this Framework Decision shall not, subject to paragraph 2, be prosecuted, sentenced or otherwise deprived of his or her liberty for an offence committed before his or her transfer other than that for which he or she was transferred.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply in the following cases:

- (a) when the person having had an opportunity to leave the territory of the executing State has not done so within 45 days of his or her final discharge, or has returned to that territory after leaving it;
- (b) when the offence is not punishable by a custodial sentence or detention order;
- (c) when the criminal proceedings do not give rise to the application of a measure restricting personal liberty;
- (d) when the sentenced person could be liable to a penalty or a measure not involving deprivation of liberty, in particular a financial penalty or a

measure *in lieu* thereof, even if the penalty or measure *in lieu* may give rise to a restriction of his or her personal liberty;

- (e) when the sentenced person consented to the transfer;
- (f) when the sentenced person, after his or her transfer, has expressly renounced entitlement to the specialty rule with regard to specific offences preceding his or her transfer. Renunciation shall be given before the competent judicial authorities of the executing State and shall be recorded in accordance with that State's national law. The renunciation shall be drawn up in such a way as to make clear that the person has given it voluntarily and in full awareness of the consequences. To that end, the person shall have the right to legal counsel;
- (g) for cases other than those mentioned under points (a) to (f), where the issuing State gives its consent in accordance with paragraph 3.

3. A request for consent shall be submitted to the competent authority of the issuing State, accompanied by the information mentioned in Article 8(1) of Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA and a translation as referred to in Article 8(2) thereof. Consent shall be given where there is an obligation to surrender the person under that Framework Decision. The decision shall be taken no later than 30 days after receipt of the request. For the situations mentioned in Article 5 of that Framework Decision, the executing State shall give the guarantees provided for therein.

Article 19

Amnesty, pardon, review of judgment

1. An amnesty or pardon may be granted by the issuing State and also by the executing State.
2. Only the issuing State may decide on applications for review of the judgment imposing the sentence to be enforced under this Framework Decision.

Article 20

Information from the issuing State

1. The competent authority of the issuing State shall forthwith inform the competent authority of the executing State of any decision or measure as a result of which the sentence ceases to be enforceable immediately or within a certain period of time.
2. The competent authority of the executing State shall terminate enforcement of the sentence as soon as it is informed by the competent authority of the issuing State of the decision or measure referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 21

Information to be given by the executing State

The competent authority of the executing State shall without delay inform the competent authority of the issuing State by any means which leaves a written record:

- (a) of the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate to the competent authority responsible for its execution in accordance with Article 5(5);
- (b) of the fact that it is in practice impossible to enforce the sentence because after transmission of the judgment and the certificate to the executing State, the sentenced person cannot be found in the territory of the executing State, in which case there shall be no obligation on the executing State to enforce the sentence;
- (c) of the final decision to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence together with the date of the decision;
- (d) of any decision not to recognise the judgment and enforce the sentence in accordance with Article 9, together with the reasons for the decision;
- (e) of any decision to adapt the sentence in accordance with Article 8(2) or (3), together with the reasons for the decision;
- (f) of any decision not to enforce the sentence for the reasons referred to in Article 19(1) together with the reasons for the decision;
- (g) of the beginning and the end of the period of conditional release, where so indicated in the certificate by the issuing State;
- (h) of the sentenced person's escape from custody;
- (i) of the enforcement of the sentence as soon as it has been completed.

Article 22

Consequences of the transfer of the sentenced person

1. Subject to paragraph 2, the issuing State shall not proceed with the enforcement of the sentence once its enforcement in the executing State has begun.
2. The right to enforce the sentence shall revert to the issuing State upon its being informed by the executing State of the partial non-enforcement of the sentence pursuant to Article 21(h).

Article 23

Languages

1. The certificate shall be translated into the official language or one of the official languages of the executing State. Any Member State may, on adoption of this Framework Decision or later, state in a declaration deposited with the General Secretariat of the Council that it will accept a translation in one or more other official languages of the Institutions of the European Union.
2. Subject to paragraph 3, no translation of the judgment shall be required.

3. Any Member State may, on adoption of this Framework Decision or later, in a declaration deposited with the General Secretariat of the Council state that it, as an executing State, may without delay after receiving the judgment and the certificate, request, in cases where it finds the content of the certificate insufficient to decide on the enforcement of the sentence, that the judgment or essential parts of it be accompanied by a translation into the official language or one of the official languages of the executing State or into one or more other official languages of the Institutions of the European Union. Such a request shall be made, after consultation, where necessary, to indicate the essential parts of the judgments to be translated, between the competent authorities of the issuing and the executing States.

The decision on recognition of the judgment and enforcement of the sentence may be postponed until the translation has been transmitted by the issuing State to the executing State or, where the executing State decides to translate the judgment at its own expenses, until the translation has been obtained.

Article 24

Costs

Costs resulting from the application of this Framework Decision shall be borne by the executing State, except for the costs of the transfer of the sentenced person to the executing State and those arising exclusively in the sovereign territory of the issuing State.

Article 25

Enforcement of sentences following a European arrest warrant

Without prejudice to Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA, provisions of this Framework Decision shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the extent they are compatible with provisions under that Framework Decision, to enforcement of sentences in cases where a Member State undertakes to enforce the sentence in cases pursuant to Article 4(6) of that Framework Decision, or where, acting under Article 5(3) of that Framework Decision, it has imposed the condition that the person has to be returned to

serve the sentence in the Member State concerned, so as to avoid impunity of the person concerned.

CHAPTER III

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26

Relationship with other agreements and arrangements

1. Without prejudice to their application between Member States and third States and their transitional application according to Article 28, this Framework Decision shall, from 5 December 2011, replace the corresponding provisions of the following conventions applicable in relations between the

Member States:

- The European Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons of 21 March 1983 and the Additional Protocol thereto of 18 December 1997;
- The European Convention on the International Validity of Criminal Judgements of 28 May 1970;
- Title III, Chapter 5, of the Convention of 19 June 1990 implementing the Schengen Convention of 14 June 1985 on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders;

— The Convention between the Member States of the European Communities on the Enforcement of Foreign Criminal Sentences of 13 November 1991.

2. Member States may continue to apply bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in force after 27 November 2008, in so far as they allow the objectives of this Framework Decision to be extended or enlarged and help to simplify or facilitate further the procedures for the enforcement of sentences.

3. Member States may conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements after 5 December 2008 in so far as such agreements or arrangements allow the provisions of this Framework Decision to be extended or enlarged and help to simplify or facilitate further the procedures for the enforcement of sentences.

4. Member States shall by 5 March 2009, notify the Council and the Commission of the existing agreements and arrangements referred to in paragraph 2 which they wish to continue applying. Member States shall also notify the Council and the Commission of any new agreement or arrangement as referred to in paragraph 3, within three months of signing it.

Article 27

Territorial application

This Framework Decision shall apply to Gibraltar.

Article 28

Transitional provision

1. Requests received before 5 December 2011 shall continue to be governed in accordance with the existing legal instruments on the transfer of sentenced persons. Requests received after that date shall be governed by the rules adopted by Member States pursuant to this Framework Decision.
2. However, any Member State may, on the adoption of this Framework Decision, make a declaration indicating that, in cases where the final judgment has been issued before the date it specifies, it will as an issuing and an executing State, continue to apply the existing legal instruments on the transfer of sentenced persons applicable before 5 December 2011. If such a declaration is made, those instruments shall apply in such cases in relation to all other Member States irrespective of

whether or not they have made the same declaration. The date in question may not be later than 5 December 2011. The said declaration shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. It may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 29

Implementation

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to comply with the provisions of this Framework Decision by 5 December 2011.

2. Member States shall transmit to the General Secretariat of the Council and to the Commission the text of the provisions transposing into their national law the obligations imposed on them under this Framework Decision. On the basis of a report established using this information by the Commission, the Council shall, no later than 5 December 2012, assess the extent to which Member States have complied with the provisions of this Framework Decision.

3. The General Secretariat of the Council shall notify the Member States and the Commission of the notifications or declarations made pursuant to Article 4(7) and Article 23(1) or (3).

4. Without prejudice to Article 35(7) of the Treaty on European Union, a Member State which has experienced repeated difficulties in the application of Article 25 of this Framework Decision, which have not been solved through bilateral consultations, shall inform the Council and the Commission of its difficulties. The Commission shall, on the basis of this information and any other information available to it, establish a report, accompanied by any initiatives it may deem appropriate, with a view to resolving these difficulties.

5. By 5 December 2013, the Commission shall establish a report on the basis of the information received, accompanied by any initiatives it may deem appropriate. The Council shall on the basis of any report from the Commission and any initiative, review, in particular Article 25, with a view to considering whether it is to be replaced by more specific provisions.

Article 30

Entry into force

This Framework Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

ANNEX I

CERTIFICATE

referred to in Article 4 of Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union ⁽¹⁾

| |
|----------------------------|
| (a) * Issuing State: |
| * Executing State: |

| |
|--|
| (b) The court which delivered the judgment imposing the sentence that became final: Official name: The judgment was delivered on (give date: dd-mm-yyyy): The judgment became final on (give date: dd-mm-yyyy): Reference number of the judgment (if available): |
|--|

| |
|---|
| (c) Information related to the authority that may be contacted for any question related to the certificate: 1. Type of authority: Please tick the relevant box: <input type="checkbox"/> Central authority <input type="checkbox"/> Court <input type="checkbox"/> Other authority 2. Contact details of the authority indicated under point (c) 1: Official name: Address: Tel.: (country code) (area/city code) Fax: (country code) (area/city code) E-mail address (if available): 3. Languages in which it is possible to communicate with the authority: 4. Contact details of person(s) to be contacted to obtain additional information for the purposes of enforcement of the judgment or agreement on the transfer procedures (name, title/grade, telephone No, fax, e-mail address), if different from 2: |
|---|

⁽¹⁾ This certificate must be written in, or translated into, one of the official languages of the executing Member State or any other language accepted by that State.

(d) Information regarding the person on whom the sentence has been imposed:

Name:

Forename(s):

Maiden name, where applicable:

Aliases, where applicable:

Sex:

Nationality:

Identity number or social security number (if available):

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Last known addresses/residences:

Language(s) which the person understands (if known):

.....

The sentenced person is:

in the issuing State and is to be transferred to the executing State.

in the executing State and enforcement is to take place in that State.

Additional information to be provided, if available and if appropriate:

1. Photo and fingerprints of the person, and/or contact details of the person to be contacted in order to obtain such information:

.....

2. Type and reference number of the sentenced person's identity card or passport:

.....

3. Type and reference number of the sentenced person's residence permit:

.....

4. Other relevant information about the sentenced person's family, social or professional ties to the executing State:

.....

.....

(e) Request for provisional arrest by the issuing State (where the sentenced person is in the executing State):

The issuing State requests the executing State to arrest the sentenced person, or to take any other measure to ensure that the sentenced person remains in its territory, pending a decision to recognise and enforce the sentence.

The issuing State has already requested the executing State to arrest the sentenced person, or to take any other measure to ensure that the sentenced person remains in its territory, pending a decision to recognise and enforce the sentence. Please provide the name of the authority in the executing State that has taken the decision on the request to arrest the person (If applicable and available):

.....

(f) Relation to any earlier European Arrest Warrant (EAW):

- An EAW has been issued for the purpose of the execution of a custodial sentence or detention order and the executing Member State undertakes to execute the sentence or detention order (Article 4(6) of the EAW Framework Decision).

Date of issue of the EAW and, if available, reference number:

.....

Name of the authority that issued the EAW:

Date of decision to undertake execution and, if available, reference number:

.....

Name of the authority that issued the decision to undertake execution of the sentence:

.....

- An EAW has been issued for the purpose of prosecution of a person who is a national or resident of the executing State and the executing State has surrendered the person under the condition that the person is to be returned to the executing State in order to serve there the custodial sentence or detention order passed against him or her in the issuing Member State (Article 5(3) of the EAW Framework Decision).

Date of the decision to surrender the person:

Name of the authority that issued the decision to surrender:

Reference number of the decision, if available:

Date of the surrender of the person, if available:

(g) Reasons for forwarding the judgment and the certificate (if you have filled in Box (f), there is no need to fill in this box):

The judgment and the certificate are forwarded to the executing State because the issuing authority is satisfied that the enforcement of the sentence by the executing State would serve the purpose of facilitating the social rehabilitation of the sentenced person and:

- (a) The executing State is the State of nationality of the sentenced person in which he or she lives.
- (b) The executing State is the State of nationality of the sentenced person, to which the sentenced person will be deported, once he or she is released from the enforcement of the sentence on the basis of an expulsion or deportation order included in the judgment or in a judicial or administrative decision or any other measure taken consequential to the judgment. If the expulsion or deportation order is not included in the judgment, please provide the name of the authority that issued the order, the date of issue, and, if available, the reference number:
- (c) The executing State is a State, other than a State referred to in (a) or (b), the competent authority of which consents to the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate to that State.
- (d) The executing State has given a notification under Article 4(7) of the Framework Decision, and:
- it is confirmed that, to the knowledge of the competent authority of the issuing State, the sentenced person lives and has been legally residing continuously for at least five years in the executing State and will retain a permanent right of residence in that state, or
 - it is confirmed that the sentenced person is a national of the executing State.

(h) Judgment imposing the sentence:

1. The judgment covers offences in total.

Summary of facts and a description of the circumstances in which the offence(s) was (were) committed, including time and place; and the nature of the involvement of the sentenced person:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nature and legal classification of the offence(s) and the applicable statutory provisions on the basis of which the judgment was made:

.....
.....
.....

2. To the extent that the offence(s) identified under point (h) 1 constitute(s) one or more of the following offences, as defined in the law of the issuing State, which are punishable in the issuing State by a custodial sentence or detention order of a maximum of at least three years, please confirm by ticking the relevant box(es):

- participation in a criminal organisation;
- terrorism;
- trafficking in human beings;
- sexual exploitation of children and child pornography;
- illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- illicit trafficking in weapons, munitions and explosives;
- corruption;
- fraud, including that affecting the financial interests of the European Communities within the meaning of the Convention of 26 July 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;
- laundering of the proceeds of crime;
- counterfeiting currency, including of the euro;
- computer-related crime;
- environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in endangered animal species and in endangered plant species and varieties;
- facilitation of unauthorised entry and residence;
- murder, grievous bodily injury;
- illicit trade in human organs and tissue;
- kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking;
- racism and xenophobia;
- organised or armed robbery;
- illicit trafficking in cultural goods, including antiques and works of art;
- swindling;
- racketeering and extortion;
- counterfeiting and piracy of products;
- forgery of administrative documents and trafficking therein;
- forgery of means of payment;
- illicit trafficking in hormonal substances and other growth promoters;
- illicit trafficking in nuclear or radioactive materials;
- trafficking in stolen vehicles;
- rape;
- arson;
- crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court;
- unlawful seizure of aircraft/ships;
- sabotage.

3. To the extent that the offence(s) identified under point 1 is (are) not covered by point 2 or if the judgment and the

(i) Status of the judgment imposing the sentence:

►⁽¹⁾ 1. Indicate if the person appeared in person at the trial res

1. Yes, the person appeared in person at the trial res

2. No, the person did not appear in person at the trial

3. If you have ticked the box under point 2, please co

3.1a. the person was summoned in person on ... (scheduled date and place of the trial which re a decision may be handed down if he or she

OR

3.1b. the person was not summoned in person b information of the scheduled date and place such a manner that it was unequivocally es scheduled trial, and was informed that a deci not appear for the trial;

OR

3.2. being aware of the scheduled trial the person who was either appointed by the person conc the trial, and was indeed defended by that c

OR

3.3. the person was served with the decision on . med about the right to a retrial or appeal, in w which allows the merits of the case, includi which may lead to the original decision being

the person expressly stated that he or sh

OR

the person did not request a retrial or app

4. If you have ticked the box under points 3.1b, 3.2 or how the relevant condition has been met:

.....
.....

2. Details of the length of the sentence:

2.1. Total length of the sentence (in days):

▶ (1) M1

(k) Opinion of the sentenced person:

1. The sentenced person could not be heard because he/she is already in the executing State.

2. The sentenced person is in the issuing State and:

a. has requested the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate

consented to the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate

did not consent to the forwarding of the judgment and the certificate (state reasons given by the sentenced person):

.....
.....

b. Opinion of the sentenced person is attached.

Opinion of the sentenced person was forwarded to the executing State on (give date: dd-mm-yyyy)

.....

(l) Other circumstances relevant to the case (optional information):

.....
.....

(m) Final information:

The text of the judgment(s) is (are) attached to the certificate (1).

Signature of the authority issuing the certificate and/or its representative certifying the content of the certificate as accurate

.....

Name:

Post held (title/grade):

Date:

Official stamp (if available)

ANNEX II

NOTIFICATION OF THE SENTENCED PERSON

You are hereby notified of the decision of ... (competent authority of the issuing State) to forward the judgment of ... (competent court of the issuing State) dated ... (date of judgment) ... (reference number; if available) to ... (executing State) for the purpose of its recognition and enforcement of the sentence imposed therein in accordance with the national law implementing Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition of judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union.

The enforcement of the sentence will be governed by the law of ... (executing State). The authorities of that State will be competent to decide on the procedures for enforcement and to determine all the measures relating thereto, including the grounds for early or conditional release.

The competent authority of ... (executing State) has to deduct the full period of deprivation of liberty already served in connection with the sentence from the total duration of deprivation of liberty to be served. An adaptation of the sentence by the competent authority of ... (executing State) may take place only if it is incompatible with the law of that State in terms of its duration or nature. The adapted sentence must not aggravate the sentence passed in ... (issuing State) by its nature or duration.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 12, 15.1.2001, p. 10.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 53, 3.3.2005, p. 1.

- ([3](#)) OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1.
- ([4](#)) OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12.
- ([5](#)) OJ L 16, 23.1.2004, p. 44.
- ([6](#)) OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77.
- ([7](#)) OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16.
- ([8](#)) OJ L 328, 24.11.2006, p. 59.
- ([9](#)) OJ L 191, 7.7.1998, p. 4.
- ([10](#)) OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 49.