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Bucharest, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Mr. Prof. dr. Matt HOLGER**  
**Chair of European Criminal Bar Association**

**Dear Mr. Holger, prof. dr., chair of ECBA,**

Please allow me to thank you for your letter from September, 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.

I would like to assure you that we took note of the *ECBA Statement on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest*. This statement shall be fully addressed by the experts within our ministry.

Romania welcomes this proposal which is to be regarded as another measure set out in the Roadmap for strengthening procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings, agreed in November 2009. The importance of the aforementioned rights as a fundamental value of the EU was reaffirmed in the Stockholm Programme, approved by the European Council of 10-11 December 2010.

Thus, the above mentioned proposal should be considered as part of a comprehensive package of legislation which will provide for minimum standards of procedural rights in criminal proceedings throughout the European Union.

As we already have sustained during the JHA Council in September 2011, Romania supports the adoption of this instrument, at the same time bearing in mind the necessity of a fair balance between the protection of procedural rights of defendants in criminal proceedings and ensuring the efficiency of the criminal investigation.

We are confident that this new instrument will bring an enhanced contribution for the improvement of the efficiency of the fundamental principles of criminal proceedings, in particular, the right to a fair trial, in line with the international and European legal instruments in this area and with the European Court for Human Rights case law.

I take this opportunity to express the interest of the Romanian Ministry of Justice in participating to the next 2012 conference in Geneva.

**Sincerely yours,**

**Minister of Justice**

  
**Cătălin Marian PREDOIU**

