



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

Directorate B: Criminal justice  
Unit B.1: Procedural criminal law

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Professor Dr. Holger Matt  
Chair of the ECBA  
25 Bedford Row  
London – WC1R 4 HD  
United Kingdom

Dear Professor Matt,

I would like to thank you for your response to the European Commission's proposal for the Directive on certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at trial.

We highly appreciate your support of the proposed Directive and share your considerations with regard to the importance of the principle of human dignity.

We also take your concerns with regard to certain aspects of the Commission's proposal (e.g. reversal of burden of proof, right to remain silent and in absentia trials) very seriously and I would like to reassure you that the Commission attaches high importance to the respect of procedural safeguards in criminal proceedings.

The Commission is confident that in the upcoming trilogue discussions between both co-legislators a high level of protection could be reached. In this respect your written response and other forms of contributions provide valuable input to ensure the highest possible standards of procedural safeguards in criminal proceedings in all EU Member States.

Yours sincerely,

Olivier TELL  
Head of Unit