



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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11 July 2012

**Ministry of Justice
Sweden**

*Division for Crime Policy
Desk Officer*

European Criminal Bar Association
25 Bedford Row
London
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Dear Prof. dr. Holger Matt,

Thank you for the letter of 25 October 2011, containing a statement in respect of the European Commission's proposal for a Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The Minister for Justice, Beatrice Ask, has asked me to answer the letter.

Firstly, I would like to apologize for the late reply. Secondly, I would like to thank you for sharing your concerns with the Swedish Ministry of Justice. We understand your concerns. However, in the final compromise text of the Directive with a view to a first reading agreement with the European parliament, there are explicit references to the rights of the defendant, e.g. in recital 8a. This piece of information ought to be good news to you.

From the Swedish point of view, the final compromise text is acceptable. Therefore, we supported the adoption of the text at the COREPER meeting on 20 June 2012. We will welcome a formal agreement on the text of the Directive and we are convinced that, once in force, it will improve the possibilities for victims of crime throughout Europe to have their rights fulfilled.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Olsson