



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate B: Criminal justice  
Unit B.2 : Procedural criminal law

Brussels, 6 April 2021

**Subject: Procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (Explanatory Study)**

To whom it may concern,

Milieu Consulting, an independent consultant, is carrying out a study commissioned by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission.

The main purpose of this study is to provide the Commission with an analysis of the need for a common legal framework related to the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border criminal cases within the European Union. The study will allow the Commission to take a policy decision on appropriate next steps to reinforce the judicial cooperation in that area. The study will analyse existing national rules on the definition, identification and procedural rights of vulnerable (adult) persons in all EU Member States as provided for by the 2013 Commission Recommendation on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings. The study will also identify possible problems or gaps in national legal orders which could negatively impact judicial cooperation.

The representatives of Milieu Consulting and a team of National Experts coordinated by Milieu will gather information related to the topics illustrated above. To ensure the success of this exercise, I would be most grateful if you could kindly provide Milieu Consulting and their national experts with your assistance in order to facilitate the execution of this study.

Ms Ingrid Breit, Team Leader, Procedural Criminal Law, DG Justice and Consumers, is available to reply to any further questions you might have in this respect (e-mail: [Ingrid-Gertrude.Breit@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Ingrid-Gertrude.Breit@ec.europa.eu), tel.: +32 22961839).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,