In the field of criminal law, the European integration process is based on the pivotal choice that the member States would keep their criminal laws and systems separate and different, to the point that the Union’s competences in the approximation of national criminal laws and procedures are subject to specific limits and requirements in this connection.

Yet the Union's member States share a common set of values, principles and fundamental rights in this area. Such common heritage is the backbone of the judicial cooperation in criminal matters within the Union insofar as it justifies the mutual trust between the Member States, which in turn makes the mutual recognition of judicial decisions possible. Mutual trust is also at the basis of other advanced tools of judicial cooperation such as Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor Office.

The EU Court of Justice's opinion on the accession of the Union to the European Convention on Human Rights established that mutual trust marks the autonomy of the EU legal order, while a reconciliation between mutual trust and fundamental principles and rights is required. Yet fundamental principles and rights remain essential, hence mutual trust is nurtured by the development of EU minimum rules in specific areas, including rights of individuals in criminal procedure and rights of victims of crime.

Mutual trust is also facilitated by the work of international mechanisms effective in all Member States such as the international, European and national committees on the prevention of torture.

The conference organized in the framework of the Jean Monnet Module “European Criminal Justice” is aimed at reviewing those essential features after decades since their establishment to draw conclusions on their state of health and pave the way to reflections on future perspectives.

In both parts of the conference, after several speeches on broader topics we would like to leave room to a few short presentations on more specific issues in order to complete the overall picture and encourage further reflections. Provided that they meet these requirements, these short presentations may deal with issues of Union law, human rights law or Italian criminal procedure.

All those who are interested in putting forward a proposal on one of such presentations are kindly invited to send a title and a 800-word abstract along with a résumé of the Author (maximum 200 words). Please send the file within the deadline of 28 April to the following addresses:

epistoia@unite.it
rdelecoco@unite.it
amarchesi@unite.it
The file and the related presentation should be in Italian if relevant to Part I of the conference; they should be in English if relevant to Part II.

Speakers in the Italian part are required to attend face-to-face at the University of Teramo. Costs will be covered. Speakers in the English part shall attend online.

Proposals consistent with the conference programme, specifically with the part they are aimed at, will be confirmed within 2 May.

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