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European Judicial Network PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, September 1st, 2008 – The EP plenary sitting discussed tonight the “*European Judicial Report*” report¹, submitted by Silvyka Kaufmann, MEP.

Romanian MEP Renate Weber, member of the LIBE Committee, acted as shadow rapporteur for the ALDE Group on this report. Mrs Weber’s position on the matter is below:

“I congratulate and thank my colleague, Mrs Silvyka Kaufmann, for her work and for the good cooperation we had while drafting this report and also thank we reached 57 compromise amendments

The report on the European Judicial Network reflects to the highest extent the need for a more comprehensive legal basis, a strengthening of the Network, an improvement of its operation and a tighter relationship with Eurojust.

The new legal instrument will facilitate the role of the EJNI and its assistance to competent judicial authorities of the Member States. It also takes into account the new development in the field of judicial cooperation within the European Union based on the principle of mutual recognition.

As the report shows, the European Judicial Network facilitates exchange of personal data between the competent authorities of the Member States in the framework of judicial cooperation. To this end I highly appreciate the introduction of a data protection provision in the text, since at the moment, there is no legal instrument at European Union level regarding the protection of personal data.

This report also aims to resolve the issue concerning the relationship between the EJNI and Eurojust. I share the rapporteur’s opinion regarding the obligation of reciprocal information. On a case by case basis the contact points of EJNI have to inform their national member of Eurojust of all cases with which Eurojust is deemed to be in a better position. This also applies to Eurojust when having a case that could be better dealt with by EJNI.

I also welcome the idea regarding the obligation of the EJNI to submit a report every second year to the European Parliament. The role of the European Parliament should increase in controlling activities of EJNI as it should increase in relation to Eurojust activities. There is nothing in the current community law that would prevent this House to play such supervisory role. It is entirely a matter of political will of our Member States.

In my opinion, the legal document on strengthening the European Judicial Network, as reflected by the report, will help to improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters, to increase mutual trust between the judicial authorities of the Member States and to promote the principle of mutual recognition. All these are essential elements for a genuine area of freedom, security and justice”.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2008-0292&language=RO&mode=XML>