

Victim Support Europe welcomes the initiative to improve judicial cooperation in matters of pre-trial detention, but regrets the lack of mention to victims of crime in a matter of such importance to them. We call on the Commission to consider pre-trial detention as affecting not only to the rights of detained people, but also the rights of victims as set out in the EU Victims' Rights Directive. The principle of proportionality between the interests of victims and alleged offenders must be applied when considering pre-trial detention as a measure to prevent further harm and ensure victim safety and their right to protection. For this purpose, standards for risk assessment, to be carried on by practitioners with specialised training in matters of victim's needs and soft skills, must be put into place. These serve the purpose of assessing whether the situation and characteristics of both the victim and the alleged offender require measures such as pre-trial detention, ensuring that the preventing of further harm is paramount. We furthermore call on the Commission to guarantee the victim's right to be heard in the context of a decision on pre-trial detention of the alleged offender, and that no decision is taken without their opportunity to voice their position. Regarding cross-border cases, we call for the increased cooperation between different EU Member States and their criminal authorities, so that decisions on pre-trial detention are recognised and enforced across all Member-States and victims' rights and needs are equally applied and respected. Finally, we call on the Commission to ensure that any alternatives to pre-trial detention take into account the immediate needs of victims and their safety and are similarly based on good standards of risk assessment.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13173-Pre-trial-detention-EU-recommendation-on-rights-and-conditions\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13173-Pre-trial-detention-EU-recommendation-on-rights-and-conditions_en)