

# EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT

## A solution ahead of its time?

By Susie Alegre and Marisa Leaf



*'For all ... who need to gain an understanding of the new procedure and its consequences, this report will be invaluable in bringing us up to speed.'*

**Paul Garlick QC,**  
from his foreword

*European Arrest Warrant: A solution ahead of its time?* examines the Eurowarrant from a human rights perspective, providing a balanced assessment of the project. It argues that the fundamental philosophy behind the new system – placing the judiciary rather than politicians at the heart of the process – is to be welcomed. But it also emphasises the need for strong procedural safeguards and identifies gaps in the EAW itself that need to be plugged if it is to work in practice.



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## A solution ahead of its time?

The Eurowarrant must be implemented in all member states by January 2004. It marks a radical step in the creation of a European area of freedom, security and justice. But is the EU trying to run before it can walk? Conceived for the purpose of combating cross-border crime – whilst at the same time improving safeguards for suspects – the Eurowarrant’s rapid birth has produced a legal instrument both premature in terms of EU-wide law and under-developed in terms of technical detail.

*European Arrest Warrant: A solution ahead of its time?* features:

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### The Authors

**Susie Alegre** is Executive Officer for Human Rights in Europe at Amnesty International’s EU Office, and a barrister attached to Outer Temple Chambers, 222 the Strand, London.

**Marisa Leaf** is EU Legal Officer at JUSTICE.

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