

## International Assistance in Criminal Matters Between Canada and Mexico

Assistance between Canada and Mexico related to criminal matters is mainly described in three bilateral treaties in the following areas: execution of penal sentences, extradition, and cooperation and assistance in on-going investigations and proceedings.

On March 29, 1979, the Treaty on Execution of Penal Sentences entered into force and its main goal is to allow nationals of both parties to serve criminal sentences in their own country. The main conditions to be fulfilled are established by its Article II such as, the offence is punishable in both countries, the offender is a national of the receiving party and no appeal or defense resource is pending.

On October 21, 1990 two additional treaties entered into force: Extradition and on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. The Extradition treaty provides guidelines for both parties to request and surrender any person who is facing prosecution or the imposition or enforcement of a sentence. This treaty has adopted the conduct approach, because rather to provide a detailed list of those conduct subject of extradition, in its Article II has established that an extradition "shall be granted for intentional conduct which, under the law of both parties, constitutes an offence punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than a year..."

Finally, the treaty on Mutual Assistance has as main goal to improve the effectiveness of both parties in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of criminal activities. The assistance includes taking of evidence and obtaining statements of person; provision of information, documents and other records; location of persons and objects; search and seizure, etc.