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## **EUROMED JUSTICE II PROJECT**

### **STUDY VISIT to the Hague Conference on Private International Law**

#### **Draft Agenda**

**“Work developed by the Hague Conference and other international  
organisations related to family law”**

The Hague (NL), 3-5 November 2010

Lead firm: EIPA-ECR, C/ Girona 20, ES-08010 Barcelona  
Tel. +34 93 567 24 00, Fax: +34 93 567 23 99, [www.euromed-justice.eu](http://www.euromed-justice.eu)



**Background information:**

The study visit to the Hague Conference on Private International Law will familiarise the participants with the work of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and with the most important Hague Conventions. Special attention will be given to the practical implications of a country's joining a Hague Convention, including the implementation process as well as the Hague Conference's technical assistance programmes and post Convention services. At the same time information will be provided on how the Hague Conventions link in with other global instruments, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and with regional instruments, such as the Brussels II a Regulation and the Council of Europe Convention on Contact concerning Children, as well as how the Hague Conventions relate to bilateral arrangements in the relevant fields.

**Arrival on Tuesday 2 November 2010**

19.30 - 20.00 Welcome of the participants at the hotel.  
Debriefing on the agenda of the Study visit by the Project Coordinator

**Wednesday 3 November 2010**

- 10:00 - 10:15 Welcoming remarks – Permanent Bureau – EUROMED
- For the Permanent Bureau: Secretary General, Mr. Hans Van Loon or Deputy Secretary General, Mr. William Duncan.
- 10:15 - 10:45 *Tour de Table* – Exploring each delegation's needs and priorities, *i.e.* in which fields the countries represented would be interested in establishing or enlarging their cross-border co-operation with other countries. Including also a brief summary from each delegate as to any important recent developments within their own jurisdiction in relevant fields.
- 10:45 - 11:30 Introduction to the work of the Hague Conference and the Hague Conventions generally
- Mr. William Duncan, Deputy Secretary General
- 11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break
- 11:45 - 13:00 The Children's Conventions - Basic structures, concepts and practical applications
- Part I: the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention
- Mr. Nicolas Sauvage and Ms. Hannah Baker, Legal Officers
- 13:15 - 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 - 16:00 The Children's Conventions - Basic structures, concepts and practical applications

Part II: the 2000 Hague Protection of Adults Convention and the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention

Mr. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officer

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 18:00 Work with some typical case scenarios

Ms. Juliane Hirsch, Mr. Nicolas Sauvage, Ms. Hannah Baker and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officers

End of the day

#### **Thursday 4 November 2010**

10:00 - 10:45 The Legal Co-operation Conventions (1961 Hague Apostille Convention, 1965 Hague Service Convention, 1970 Hague Evidence Convention and 1980 Hague Access to Justice Convention) - Basic structures, concepts and practical applications

Ms. Mayela Celis, Legal Officer

10:45 - 11:30 The keys to successful implementation of a Hague Convention  
(*Examples:* the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention and the 1961 Hague Apostille Convention)

Ms. Mayela Celis, Mr. Nicolas Sauvage and Ms. Hannah Baker, Legal Officers

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00 Operational Issues – How to ensure that Hague Conventions work well

(*Examples:* the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention)

Mr. William Duncan, Deputy Secretary General and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officer

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00 Avoiding Litigation – Alternative dispute resolution in cross-border family disputes, the Malta Process and establishing structures for cross-border family mediation

Ms. Juliane Hirsch, Legal Officer

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 18:00 Work with some typical case scenarios

Ms. Mayela Celis, Ms. Juliane Hirsch, Mr. Nicolas Sauvage, Ms. Hannah Baker and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officers

End of the day

**Friday 5 November 2010**

10:00 - 11:30 Relationships between global, regional and bilateral instruments

Mr. William Duncan, Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00 Technical assistance, judicial training & post Convention services

Mr. Micah Thorner, Legal Officer, The International Centre for Judicial Studies and Technical Assistance

Ms. Mayela Celis, Mr. Nicolas Sauvage, Ms. Hannah Baker and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officers

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00 Judicial co-operation and networks

Mr. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary and Ms. Maja Groff, Legal Officer

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:30 Evaluation of the study visit

End of the day and of the study visit

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **The EuroMed Justice II Project:**

The European Commission launched the second regional project in the field of justice in the Euro-Mediterranean area, EuroMed Justice II (1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011). This project is funded by the European Commission (DG EuropeAid Co-operation Office) under the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the EU. The implementation of this project has been entrusted by the European Commission to a consortium led by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) and composed of the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) and of the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ).

The European Centre for the Regions (ECR), the Centre of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in Barcelona, is the Programme Management Unit for the EuroMed Justice II Project.

The beneficiaries of this project are: the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Israel, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Tunisia.

This project has a total duration of 39 months, between January 2008 and April 2011, with 12 Working groups meetings (already done in 2008-2009), 18 training seminars (being completed) and **10 study visits** to be developed during this period. The project is structured around three different components: Access to justice and legal aid; Resolution of cross-border family conflicts; and Criminal and prison law.

### **The Study visit:**

This study visit is taking place in the framework of a series of study visits - up to ten - that will be organised between October 2010 and February 2011 for participants from the Mediterranean partner countries to administrations of EU Member States or international or regional organisations operating in the fields covered by the EuroMed Justice II Project.

These visits are the best methodology to get acquainted with the best experiences and good practices available in the Mediterranean partners and EU countries in the field of justice.

The participants' profile will correspond to three different levels:

- Decision-makers
- Policy-makers and high-ranking officials in charge of applying the policies
- Magistrates, judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals.

The title of this study visit is:

***“Work developed by the Hague Conference and other international organisations related to family law.”***

**The host administration:**

The host administration, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, in The Hague, The Netherlands, has worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Justice II Project Coordinator to prepare this study visit and draft an agenda that takes account of the varied interests of all participating countries. We would like to thank the persons in charge of this visit at the Hague Conference for their availability and the very interesting visits they managed to put on the agenda of this study visit. For further information on the host administration, please consult the website:

[http://www.hcch.net/index\\_en.php?](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?)

**ORGANISATION AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS**

Each participant should carry his/her passport and his/her invitation letter during the whole duration of the visit.

Travel and hotel costs of the Mediterranean partners’ representatives will be borne by the Project. Moreover, participants will be given a daily allowance corresponding to the rules of the European Commission in this field in order to cover their meals and local transport during the study visit.

**Accommodation of the participants:**



The seminar will take place at the

**HOTEL CARLTON AMBASSADOR**

Sophialaan 2  
2514 JP Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: 31(0)70-3630363  
Fax : 31 (0)70-3600535

[info@ambassador.carlton.nl](mailto:info@ambassador.carlton.nl)