



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE  
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**Joint Council of Europe and European Commission Conference**  
[www.coe.int/family](http://www.coe.int/family)

**CHALLENGES IN ADOPTION PROCEDURES IN EUROPE:  
ENSURING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD**

**30 November - 1 December 2009**

**Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe**  
Room 1

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

8.00 – 9.00 Registration of participants

**The revised European Convention on the Adoption of Children:  
From concept to practice**

9.00 – 9.15 Opening speech  
- Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe

Welcoming words

- Salla SAASTAMOINEN Head of Civil Justice Unit, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

- Regina JENSDÓTTIR, Head of Public and Private Law Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Council of Europe

9.15 – 10.15 **Session I – Children in the adoption process**

Chair and Moderator – Rosemary HORGAN, Solicitor, Member of Working Party which drafted the revised Convention on Adoption, Ireland

- **The child's legal status in adoption**  
Nigel LOWE, Professor of family law, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

- **The case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning adoption**  
Isabelle BERRO-LEFEVRE, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe

- **The child's consultation and consent in adoption**  
Speaker/s (TBC)

- **An example of national practice**  
Jeyran RAHMATULLAYEVA, Deputy Chair holder, State Committee on Family, Women and Children's issues, Azerbaijan (TBC)

10.15 – 11.00 General discussion

11.00 – 11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15 – 12.00 **Session II – Adults in the adoption process**

Chair and Moderator – Frédérique GRANET, Professor of Family Law, Robert Schumann University, Responsible for legal studies at the International Commission on Civil Status, France

- **The consent of the birth parents to the adoption**  
Brian SLOAN, Lecturer in Law, King's College Cambridge, United Kingdom

- **Who can adopt? Taking into account societal changes**  
Robert WINTEMUTE, Professor of Human Rights Law, King's College London, United Kingdom

- **An example of national practice**  
(TBC)
- 12.00 – 12.45** General discussion
- 12.45 – 14.15** *Lunch hosted by the European Commission, Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe*
  
- 14.15 – 15.30** **Session III – Access to one's origins: striking the right balance**
- Chair and Moderator – Irma ERTMAN, Thematic Coordinator on Children, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland to the Council of Europe
- **Example of French legislation**  
Marianne SCHULZ, Lawyer, Directorate of the Person's and Family's Rights, Ministry of Justice, France
- **Access to one's origins as a human right**  
Dragoljub POPOVIĆ, Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe
- **Access to one's origins from a psychological point of view**  
Philip JAFFE, Professor of children's rights, Director of the University Institute Kurt Bösch, Switzerland
- **Experience of an adopted person**  
Speaker (TBC)
- 15.30 – 16.15** General discussion
- 16.15 – 16.30** *Coffee break*
- 16.30 – 17.15** **Session IV – Role and responsibility of public and private authorities**
- Chair and Moderator – Ulrike JANZEN, Chair of the Council of Europe's committee of experts on family law, Ministry of Justice, Germany
- **Private and public bodies responsible for adoption - particular case of adoption of Roma children in Hungary**  
Maria HERCZOG, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Preliminary enquiries to the adoption**
- **Making national adoption easier: the view from Russia**  
Olga KHAZOVA, Professor, Institute of State and Law, Russian Federation
- 17.15 – 17.45** General discussion
- 17.45** End of work
- 19.00** Reception offered by the Mayor of Strasbourg at the Town Hall
- 20.30** *Dinner hosted by the European Commission – Restaurant TBC*

**Inter-country Adoption: lessons learned, problems and perspectives**

9.00 – 9.45

**Session V – The 1993 Hague Convention on Adoption: Protecting the best interests of children in inter-country adoption**

Chair and Moderator – TBC

- **Review of the operation of the 1993 Hague Convention: a global perspective**  
William DUNCAN, Deputy Secretary General, The Hague Conference on Private International Law
- **How the 1993 Hague Convention helps to Protect the best interests of children in inter country adoption**  
Jenny DEGELING, Secretary, The Hague Conference on Private International Law
- **The role and responsibilities of Receiving Countries: the importance of the inter-country adoption technical assistance programme**  
Laura MARTINEZ MORA, Coordinator Technical Assistance programme, The Hague Conference on Private International Law

9.45 – 10.30

General discussion

10.30 – 10.45

*Coffee break*

10.45 – 11.30

**Session VI – The right to a family in the legal international framework and in the practical experience**

Chair and Moderator – Jean-Marie CAVADA, Member of the European Parliament

- **The right to a family: analysis of the existing legal framework**  
Isabelle LAMMERANT, Expert on adoption and children's rights, Freiburg University, Switzerland
- **The long-term institutional and foster care and the best interests of the child**  
(Speaker TBC)
- **Preventing abuses in adoption procedures: suggestions and best practices**  
Marlène HOFSTETTER, *Terres des Hommes*, Head of International Adoption Sector, Switzerland
- **The experience of Romania**  
Edmond MCLOUGHNEY, President UNICEF Romania
- **The experience of Bulgaria**

Krassimira NATAN, Lawyer, Bulgaria

**11.30 – 12.30** General discussion

**12.15 – 14.00** *Buffet lunch*

**14.00 – 14.45** **Session VII – Towards a European Adoption Policy?**

Chair and Moderator - Salla SAASTAMOINEN, Head of Civil Justice Unit, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

- **Thinking ahead of the present situation: is a European adoption policy desirable?**  
Jean-Marie CAVADA, Member of the European Parliament
- **The results of the study carried out by the European Parliament**  
Raffaella PREGLIASCO, *Istituto degli Innocenti*, Italy
- **The results of the study carried out by the European Commission**  
Patrizia DE LUCA, Civil Justice Unit, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission
- **Experience of an adoptive parent: the lack of recognition of adoption decisions as an obstacle to the free movement of people in the European Union**  
Speaker (TBC)

**14.45 – 15.30** General discussion

**15.30 – 16.00** **Session VIII – Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Conclusions**

- Salla SAASTAMOINEN Head of Civil Justice Unit, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission
- Regina JENSDÓTTIR, Head of Public and Private Law Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Council of Europe

**Recommendations**

Chairs and Moderators

**Final remarks**

Alain BRUN acting Director, Directorate E "Justice", Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

**16.00 – 16.15** End of work – Closing of the conference