



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

Committee on Legal Affairs  
The Chairman

To the Chair of the Committee concerned

Dear Colleague,

The development of a European area of justice, aiming at facilitating the daily life of EU citizens and their families in the ever-increasing number of cross-border situations, is a priority of EU action in the field of civil law. In the context of the new legal and institutional framework established by the Lisbon Treaty, ambitious initiatives in the interest of citizens and their families can be developed only through the participation of both the European Parliament and the National Parliaments in enhanced dialogue and collaboration.

For this reason, the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament are organising an interparliamentary workshop on family law with the participation of representatives from the National Parliaments, which will take place on Tuesday 30 November 2010, from 9h30 to 18h30, at the European Parliament premises in Brussels.

The aim of this interparliamentary workshop is to launch a reflection and debate on action that should be taken to respond to the needs and expectations of European citizens and families, with the view of facilitating their lives in cross-border situations. To this end, the contribution of the representatives of your Parliament will be most fruitful.

It is thus my pleasure to invite up to four Members of the relevant committees of your Parliament (two for each Chamber of National Parliaments composed by two Chambers) to participate in the workshop.

Please find enclosed a preliminary draft programme containing a list of topics, which will be discussed at the conference. The final programme and more detailed practical information for the event will soon be forwarded to your Parliament's Representatives/Services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

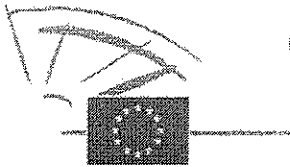
I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept my invitation and look forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus-Heiner Lehne

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## ***INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING***

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

*Committee on Legal Affairs*

*Policy Department C - Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs*

*with the support of the Directorate for relations with national Parliaments*

### ***WORKSHOP ON CIVIL JUSTICE***

### **"How to facilitate the life of European families and citizens?"**

**Tuesday, 30 November 2010  
09:30 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 18:30**

**Brussels  
Building PHS, Hemicycle**

#### ***Draft Programme***

**09:30 - 10:00  
OPENING**

**09:30 - 09:40**

**Welcome and opening remarks**

- Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs
- Diana Wallis, Vice-President of the European Parliament

**09:40 - 09:50**

**The results achieved by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union in the areas of family law, law of succession, parental responsibility and civil status (to be confirmed)**

- Melchior Wathelet, Secretary of State for the Budget, Immigration and Asylum, Family Policy and Belgian Federal Cultural Institutions

**09:50 - 10:00**

**Actions planned by the European Commission in the areas of family law, law of succession, parental responsibility and civil status**

- Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:00 - 11:40</b>  <b>SESSION I</b>  <b>FAMILY LAW: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND THE WAY FORWARD</b></p>
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**10:00 - 10:15**

**Opening remarks**

- Tadeusz Zwiefka, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs

**10:15 - 10:25**

**Proposal for enhanced cooperation in the area of cross-border divorce (Rome III): application of foreign law and the clause of public policy**

- Katharina Boele-Woelki, Professor of Private International Law, Comparative Law and Family Law, University of Utrecht

**10:25 - 10:35**

**Matrimonial property regimes and patrimonial aspects of other forms of union (Proposal for Rome IV Regulation)**

- Sjef van Erp, Chairman of the Private Law Department, University of Maastricht

**10:35 - 10:45**

**The optional Franco-German matrimonial property regime**

- Eva Becker, Lawyer, Junggeburth & Becker, Berlin

**10:45 - 11: 05**

**Mutual recognition of same-sex marriage, of civil partnerships of same-sex and opposite sex couples: current situation in the Member States. Need for EU action?**

- Béatrice Weiss-Gout, Chair of the Committee on Family and Succession Law, The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
- Charles Hyde QC, Barrister, Member QEB Chambers, London

**11:05 - 11:15**

**Family mediation: the current state of family mediation in Europe**

- Maria da Conceição Oliveira, Lawyer and Mediator, Council of Europe expert, Chair of the Portuguese Institute of Mediation and Arbitration, Portugal

**11:15 - 11:40**

**Debate with Members of National Parliaments and closing remarks by a Member of a National Parliament**

**11:40 - 13:00**  
**SESSION II**  
**CROSS-BORDER SUCCESSIONS**

- |                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11:40 - 11:50</b> | <b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kurt Lechner, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs</li></ul>                                    |
| <b>11:50 - 12:00</b> | <b>Proposal for a Regulation on Succession and Wills: the case of notary acts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paolo Pasqualis, notary, Italy</li></ul> |
| <b>12:00 - 12:10</b> | <b>The issue of the applicable law and the protection of family members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pascal Chassaing, notary, France</li></ul>     |
| <b>12:10 - 12:20</b> | <b>Content and effects of the European Certificate of Succession</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lenka Leszay, notary, Czech Republic</li></ul>        |
| <b>12:20 - 13:00</b> | <b>Debate with National Parliaments and closing remarks by a Member of a National Parliament</b>                                                                   |

**13:00 - 15:00**  
**LUNCH: (INVITATION ONLY)**

**15:00 - 17:00**  
**SESSION III**  
**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

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|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>15:00 - 15:10</b> | <b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alexandra Thein, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs (to be confirmed)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>15:10 - 15:20</b> | <b>The state of play of the application of Brussels II bis Regulation, in particular the cross-border enforcement of decisions concerning children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the Study on "The parental responsibility, child custody and visitation rights in cross-border separations", Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne</li></ul> |
| <b>15:20 - 15:30</b> | <b>Cross-border exercise of access rights</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

- Gabriela Thoma-Twaroch, President of the District Court, Vienna

**15:30 - 15:50**

**Illegal removal of children: the Hague Convention and Brussels II bis Regulation**

- William Duncan, Deputy Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law
- Christina Blacklaws, Lawyer, Law Society of England and Wales

**15:50 - 16:00**

**The protection of children rights in the proceedings: hearing of the child**

- Mia Reich Sjögren, Lawyer, Member of the Swedish Bar Association

**16:00 - 16:10**

**Recognition of parental responsibility: biological parenthood v. legal parenthood, i.e. mutual recognition of surrogacy agreements: What is the current situation in the Member States? Any need for EU action?**

- Velina Todorova, Associate Professor, University of Plovdiv, Sofia

**16:10 - 16:20**

**Mutual recognition of international adoption: What is the current situation in the Member States? Any need for EU action (Creation of a common adoption certificate)? Need for European adoption policy?**

- Presentation of the Study on "International Adoption in the European Union", Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence

**16:20 - 17:00**

**Debate with National Parliaments and closing remarks by a Member of a National Parliament**

**17:00 - 18:20  
SESSION IV  
CIVIL STATUS**

**17:00 - 17:10**

**Opening remarks**

- Luigi Berlinguer, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

**17:10 - 17:20**

**Recognition and registration of civil status documents in cross-border cases: current situation in the Member States and initiatives at EU level**

- Paul Lagarde, Professor of law, University of Paris I

**17:20 - 17:30**

**The abolition of the legalisation formalities of civil status documents, registration of names and the pilot project on electronic transmission of civil status documents: the works of the International Commission on Civil Status**

- Chantal Nast, Director, The International Commission on Civil Status

**17:30 - 17:40**

**European Commission's Green paper on Civil Status**

- Salla Saastamoinen, Unit Judicial co-operation in civil matters, Directorate A Civil Justice, Directorate-General Justice, European Commission

**17:40 - 18:20**

**Debate with National Parliaments and closing remarks by a Member of a National Parliament**

**18:20 - 18:30**

**CONCLUSIONS**