

10.45 – 11.30 **Session VI – The right to a family in the international legal framework and in practice**

Chair and Moderator – Melita CAVALLO, President of the Juvenile Court in Rome, former President of the Italian Central Authority for International Adoption, Italy

- **The right to a family: analysis of the existing legal framework**
Isabelle LAMMERANT, Expert on adoption and children's rights, *Espace adoption*, Geneva, and Lecturer at Fribourg University, Switzerland
- **Long-term institutional placement and foster care and the best interests of the child**
Violeta STAN, Paediatrician, specialised in child and adolescent psychiatry and neurology, Senior Lecturer at the University of Medicine of Timisoara, Romania
- **Preventing abuses in adoption procedures: suggestions and best practices**
Marlène HOFSTETTER, *Terre des Hommes*, Head of International Adoption Section, Switzerland
- **The experience of Romania**
Edmond McLOUGHNEY, Country Representative, UNICEF Romania
- **The experience of Bulgaria**
Krassimira NATAN, Lawyer, Bulgaria

11.30 – 12.15 **Discussion**

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch hosted by the European Commission, Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe*

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?**
Claire GIBault, former Member of the European Parliament, France
- **The results of the study carried out by the European Parliament**
Raffaella PREGUASCO, Istituto degli Innocenti, Italy
- **The results of the study carried out by the European Commission**
Patrizia DE LUCA, Team leader, 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 persons in the European Union**
Brigitta TOTH, Mother of an adopted child, United Kingdom

14.45 – 15.30 **Discussion**

15.30 – 16.15 **Session VIII – Conclusions and Recommendations**

General Rapporteur – Rosemary HORGAN, Solicitor, Member of the Working Party which drafted the revised European Convention on the Adoption of Children, Ireland

Final remarks

- Salla SAASTAMOINEN, Head of Civil Justice Unit, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission
- Jan KLEIJSEN, Director of Standard-Setting, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Council of Europe

16.15 **End of the conference**

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ID 8724

Joint Council of Europe
and European Commission Conference

Challenges in adoption procedures in Europe: ensuring the best interests of the child

30 November - 1st December 2009

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe - Room 1



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8.00 – 9.00 Welcome and registration of participants

THE REVISED EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN: FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE

9.00 – 9.15 Opening speeches

- Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe
- Alain BRAUN, Acting Director, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

9.15 – 10.15 Session I – Children in the adoption process

Chair and Moderator – Rosemary HORGAN, Solicitor, Member of the 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 BERRIO-LEFEVRE, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe
- **The child's consultation and consent in adoption**
Mia DAMBACH and Cécile MAURIN, Children's Rights Experts, International Social Service, Switzerland
- **An example of national practice - Azerbaijan**
Elgun SAFAROV, Deputy Head of Division of the State Committee on Family, Woman and Children Programme, Azerbaijan

10.15 – 11.00 Discussion

11.00 – 11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15 – 12.00 Session II – Adults in the adoption process

Chair and Moderator – Patrice HILT, Professor of private and penal law, Expert in family law, Strasbourg University, 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 WINTÉMUTE, Professor of Human Rights Law, King's College London, United Kingdom
- **Adoptive parents: changing the legal approaches - Ukrainian tendencies**
Irina ZHYUNKOVA, Professor, Civil Law Department of National Law Academy, Ukraine

12.00 – 12.30 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

- **The example of french legislation**
Marianne SCHULZ, Lawyer, Directorate of Civil Affairs and Seal, Ministry of Justice and Liberties, 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 JAFFÉ, Professor of children's rights, Director of the University Institute Kurt Bösch, Switzerland
- **Experience of an adopted person**
Fritz FROELICH, Austria

15.30 – 16.15 Discussion

16.15 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 17.15 Session IV – Role and responsibility of public and private bodies

Chair and Moderator – Ulrike JANZEN, Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Family Law, Ministry of Justice, Germany

- **Adoption in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a particular case of adoption of Roma children in Hungary**
Maria HERCZOG, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Preliminary enquiries to the adoption**
Bettina BAUMERT, Family Judge, Germany
- **Making national adoption easier - the view from Russia**
Olga KHAZOVA, Professor, Institute of State and Law, Russian Federation

17.15 – 17.40 Discussion

17.45 Signatures of the European Convention on the Adoption of Children (Revised) (CETS No. 202) – Committee of Ministers' foyer

19.00 *Reception offered by the Mayor of Strasbourg at the Town Hall*

20.30 *Dinner hosted by the European Commission – Maison Kammerzell, Strasbourg*



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 – Jean-Paul MONCHAU, Ambassador in charge of international adoption, France

- **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 Discussion

10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee break*