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Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	<a href="#">2011/0448(NLE)</a>	Procedure completed
Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Albania		
Subject		
4.10.02 Family policy, family law, parental leave		
4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights		
7.40.02 Judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters		
Geographical area		
Albania		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 <a href="#">Legal Affairs</a>	 <a href="#">HAUTALA Heidi</a>	03/09/2014
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 <a href="#">ZWIEFKA Tadeusz</a>	
		 <a href="#">HONEYBALL Mary</a>	
		 <a href="#">DZHAMBAZKI Angel</a>	
		 <a href="#">CAVADA Jean-Marie</a>	
	Former committee responsible		
	 <a href="#">Legal Affairs</a>		25/01/2012
		Verts/ALE <a href="#">LICHTENBERGER Eva</a>	
	Former committee for opinion		
	 <a href="#">Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a>		
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG <a href="#">Justice and Consumers</a>	Commissioner REDING Viviane	

Key events			
21/12/2011	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2011)0912</a>	Summary
24/11/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/01/2015	Vote in committee		
22/01/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A8-0002/2015</a>	Summary

10/02/2015	Debate in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T8-0024/2015</a>	Summary
10/12/2015	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
10/12/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0448(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consultation of Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 081-p3
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/8/00094

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2011)0912</a>	21/12/2011	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	<a href="#">PE541.451</a>	04/11/2014	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	<a href="#">PE544.325</a>	08/12/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A8-0002/2015</a>	22/01/2015	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T8-0024/2015</a>	11/02/2015	EP	Summary

### Additional information

National parliaments	<a href="#">IPEX</a>
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>

### Final act

[Decision 2015/2356](#)  
[OJ L 331 17.12.2015, p. 0017](#) Summary

## Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Albania

PURPOSE: to adopt, in the interest of the EU, a declaration of acceptance by the Member States, of the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

**BACKGROUND:** the aim of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, to date ratified by 86 countries, including all EU Member States, is to restore the status quo by means of the prompt return of wrongfully removed or retained children through a system of cooperation among central authorities appointed by its Contracting Parties.

As the prevention of child abduction is an essential part of the EU policy to promote the rights of the child, the European Union is active at international level to improve the application of the 1980 Convention and encourages third States to accede to it.

Albania deposited the accession instrument to the 1980 Convention on 4 May 2007. The Convention entered into force in Albania on 1 August 2007.

Article 38(4) of the 1980 Convention stipulates that the Convention applies between the acceding country and such Contracting States as will have declared their acceptance of the accession. Therefore, the European Union has to decide, whether to accept the accession of Albania, and when affirmative, Member States should make the declaration of acceptance concerning Albania's accession in the interest of the European Union.

This is the purpose of this draft decision.

The decision whether the Member States should accept Albania's accession to the 1980 Convention has to be taken by means of a Council Decision, adopted unanimously after consulting the European Parliament.

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT:** no impact assessment was carried out.

**LEGAL BASIS:** Article 218 and 81(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

**CONTENT:** the Commission proposes that Member States deposit simultaneously, and no later than two months from the date of adoption, a declaration of acceptance of the accession of Albania to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in the interest of the European Union.

**Exclusive external competence of the EU:** in accordance with the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice, the matter of international child abduction falls into the exclusive external competence of the EU, because of the adoption of internal Union legislation by means of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility (the Brussels IIa Regulation), which applies between Member States from 1 March 2005. The Regulation introduces even stricter rules than the 1980 Hague Convention on parental child abduction, particularly in Article 11 of the Regulation. It refers directly to the Hague Convention and upholds its principles in European Union law.

**Simultaneous adoption:** the 1980 Convention was adopted more than 20 years before the Brussels IIa Regulation and thus does not contain any provision allowing the accession of International Organisations like the European Union. Member States have to ratify or accede to the Convention in the interest of the European Union.

Therefore, the Member States should declare, in the interest of the European Union, the acceptance regarding Albania's accession to the 1980 Hague Convention. For the sake of coherence and uniformity of Union law, Member States, within a time frame established by the Council Decision, should make this declaration of acceptance simultaneously. The Commission proposes no later than 2 months after the adoption of the Council Decision.

**Central Authority:** it is crucial for the practical application of the 1980 Convention that a Contracting Party designates a Central Authority to discharge the duties which are imposed by the Convention upon such authorities. All Member States have designated Central Authorities under the 1980 Convention. Albania has also designated the Central Authority that is needed to assist the European citizens in cases of wrongful removal of children to Albania.

**Territorial provisions:** in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATION:** the proposal has no implication for the EU budget.

## Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Albania

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The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the report by Heidi HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FI) on the proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

The Convention introduces a system of cooperation between the contracting states aimed at settling cases of international child abduction.

In the case of divorce, it may often be that the courts in both of the states concerned declare themselves competent, with each of them awarding custody of the child to the parent who is a national of their state.

The purpose of the Convention is to resolve such situations at an international level, by establishing that the competent courts and applicable laws are those of the state of residence of the child. The Convention also introduces a system which ensures the immediate return of children who have been abducted.

The EU now has exclusive external competence in this field as confirmed by the Court of Justice in Opinion 1/13. The Member States therefore no longer act on their own account.

The problem is that the Convention does not provide for autonomous action by international organisations. This has rendered necessary a Council Decision calling on Member States to accept each in respect of their own territory the accession of Albania to the Convention, and hence the effective entry into force of the Convention in cases involving the EU and that country (many EU citizens are of Albanian origin). Children with links to the Albanian community will thus be safeguarded against abduction.

Therefore, the committee recommended that the European Parliament approve the proposed Council Decision and approve the acceptance of the accession of Albania.

## Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Albania

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The European Parliament adopted by 655 votes to 43, with 6 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Parliament approved the proposal for a Council decision and the acceptance of the accession.

## Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Albania

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**PURPOSE:** to authorise certain Member States to accept, in the interest of the EU, the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision (EU) 2015/2355 authorising certain Member States to accept, in the interest of the European Union, the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

**CONTENT :** by this Decision, the Member States that have not yet done so are authorised to accept the accession of Albania to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the 1980 Hague Convention) in the interest of the Union.

The European Union has set as one of its aims the promotion of the protection of the rights of the child, as stated in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union. Measures for the protection of children against wrongful removal or retention are an essential part of that policy.

[Regulation \(EC\) No 2201/2003](#) complements and reinforces the 1980 Hague Convention, which establishes, at international level, a system of obligations and cooperation among contracting states and between central authorities and aims to ensure the prompt return of wrongfully removed or retained children.

The 1980 Hague Convention does not allow regional economic integration organisations such as the Union to become party to it. Therefore, the Union cannot accede to that Convention, nor can it deposit a declaration of acceptance of an acceding state. All Member States of the Union are party to the 1980 Hague Convention.

The Union encourages third states to accede to the 1980 Hague Convention. Albania deposited its instrument of accession to the 1980 Hague Convention on 4 May 2007. The 1980 Hague Convention entered into force for Albania on 1 August 2007.

Several Member States have already accepted the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention. An assessment of the situation in this country has led to the conclusion that those Member States that have not yet accepted the accession of Albania, are in a position to accept, in the interest of the Union, the accession of this country under the terms of the 1980 Hague Convention.

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 18.12.2015.