











Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2011/0443(NLE)	Procedure completed
Hague Convention (1980) on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: accession of Andorra		
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		
Andorra		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Legal Affairs	 HAUTALA Heidi	03/09/2014
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 ZWIEFKA Tadeusz	
		 HONEYBALL Mary	
		 DZHAMBAZKI Angel	
		 CAVADA Jean-Marie	
	Former committee responsible		
	 Legal Affairs		
	Former committee for opinion		
	 Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	3396	15/06/2015
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers	REDING Viviane	

Key events			
21/12/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0908	Summary
	Committee referral announced in		

24/11/2014	Parliament		
20/01/2015	Vote in committee		
22/01/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0004/2015	Summary
10/02/2015	Debate in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0021/2015	Summary
15/06/2015	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
15/06/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0443(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/8/00096

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2011)0908	21/12/2011	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE541.446	04/11/2014	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE544.326	08/12/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0004/2015	22/01/2015	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0021/2015	11/02/2015	EP	Summary

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Decision 2015/1023](#)
[OJ L 163 30.06.2015, p. 0029](#) Summary

Andorra

PURPOSE: to adopt, in the interest of the EU, a declaration of acceptance by the Member States of the accession of Andorra 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. Andorra deposited the accession instrument to the 1980 Convention on 6 April 2011. The Convention entered into force in Andorra on 1 July 2011.

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 EU has to decide whether to accept the accession of Andorra, and if so, Member States must make the declaration of acceptance concerning Gabon's accession in the interest of the European Union.

This is the purpose of the proposal.

The decision whether the Member States should accept Andorra'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 has been undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 218 and 81(3) 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 Andorra 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 Andorra's accession to the 1980 Hague Convention. For the sake of coherence and uniformity of Union law, Member States should make this declaration of acceptance simultaneously within a time frame established by the Council Decision. 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. Andorra has also designated the Central Authority that is needed to assist the European citizens in cases of wrongful removal of children to Andorra.

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 IMPLICATIONS: the proposal has no implication for the European Union budget.

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

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 Andorra 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 Andorra 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 Andorran origin). Children with links to the Andorran 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 Andorra.

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

The European Parliament adopted by 660 votes to 46, with 2 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 Andorra 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 Andorra

PURPOSE: to accept, in the interests of the EU, the accession of Andorra to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on civil aspects of international child abduction.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision (EU) 2015/1023 authorising certain Member States to accept, in the interest of the European Union, the accession of Andorra to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Member States that have not yet done so are authorised to accept the accession of Andorra to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 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.

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 and supports its correct implementation.

Andorra deposited its instrument of accession to the 1980 Hague Convention on 6 April 2011. That Convention entered into force for Andorra on 1 July 2011. Several Member States have already accepted the accession of Andorra to the 1980 Hague Convention. An assessment of the situation in Andorra has led to the conclusion that those Member States that have not yet accepted the accession of Andorra, are in a position to accept, in the interest of the Union, the accession of Andorra under the terms of the 1980 Hague Convention. Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Finland which have already accepted the accession of Andorra to the 1980 Hague Convention should not deposit new declarations of acceptance as the existing declarations remain valid under public international law.

To recall, the EU adopted [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2201/2003](#) (Brussels IIa Regulation), which complements and reinforces the 1980 Hague Convention. The latter 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 United Kingdom and Ireland are bound by Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 and are taking part in the adoption and application of the Decision.

However, Denmark is not taking part in it and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 1.7.2015.