### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

# TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY VIDEO-LINK UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS

**STATE NAME:** Norway

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): 20 June 2017

#### **PART I: STATE**

1. Contact details The contact details provided in this section will be	<u>published</u> on the Hague Conference website
CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST)	
As with any other Letter of Request under Chapte authority should contact the Central Authority(ies evidence by means of a Letter of Request, whether	) of the requested State when seeking to obtain
a) Are the contact details of the Central Authority(ies) designated by Your State upto-date on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website?	Yes.  No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.
b) Would Your State be in favour of specifying a person or department within the Central Authority(ies) who would assist in processing Letters of Request where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	<ul> <li>Yes.         If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details:     </li> <li>No.         Please explain why: The Letters of Request should be sent to the Central Authority under the Evidence Convention. A request for the use of video-link will be forwardet to the competent court in Norway, depending on where the witness is located.     </li> </ul>
c) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the requesting authority can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	Comments:  There are no formal arrangements, but normally the competent court in Norway will have persons trained to operate the systems.

## CHAPTER II (TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS)

Permission by a designated authority may be required to apply certain provisions under Chapter II. To know if such a permission is required for a particular State, see the practical information chart (accessible from the <u>Authorities</u> page) AND / OR the declarations (accessible from the <u>Status Table</u> page) of the relevant State available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.

If permission is not required, applicants should contact the diplomatic and consular mission (Arts 15/16) or the commissioner (Art. 17) to explore whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

If permission is required, applicants should contact the authority that was designated to grant permission AND the relevant diplomatic and consular mission or commissioner, to explore, where necessary, whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

d)	Would Your State be in favour of specifying an entity or authority, in addition to the relevant authority / diplomatic or consular agent / commissioner, that would assist in processing applications where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details:  No. Please explain why:
		 nents: ission from the Central Authority is required according to Norway's declaration to art. 15.
e)	What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the Court of Origin can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	s an arrangement between the Court of and the embassy concerned.

### PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

Legal basis	
a) Does Your State, in the application of Article 27 ( <i>i.e.</i> internal law or practice), allow for a foreign Court to directly take evidence by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Please specify:  Comments:
<ul> <li>b) Please indicate the legal basis or applicable protocols (<i>i.e.</i>, relevant laws, regulations, practice, etc.) for the use of video-links in the taking of evidence in Your State, either under the Convention or independent of the Convention (see, <i>e.g.</i> Art. 27 (b) and (c)):  Please also attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French. </li> <li>c) Does Your State have any agreements with other Contracting States that derogate from the Convention when taking evidence by video-link (see Art. 28 and Art. 32)?</li> </ul>	In the Norwegian legislation, there are no specific rules on the use of video-link in taking of evidence in the cross-border civil matters.  Act of 17 June 2005 no. 90 relating to mediation and procedure in civil disputes (The Dispute Act)  http://app.uio.no/ub/ujur/oversatte-lover/data/lov-20050617-090-eng.pdf  Act relating to the Courts of Justice of 13 August 1915 no.5 (Court of Justice Act) section 46.   Yes.  Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French:  No.  Comments:
Court system	
d) Please indicate which courts permit, or have the facilities for, the taking of evidence by video-link. If possible, indicate where relevant information on videoconferencing facilities in courts can be found online:	<ul> <li>✓ All courts.</li> <li>☐ All courts of a specific type / level.         Please specify:</li> <li>☐ Only specific courts.         Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list:</li> <li>☐ None.</li> <li>Comments:</li> <li>Most courts have videoconferencing facilities.</li> </ul>

### PART III: TECHNICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS (APPLICABLE TO BOTH CHAPTERS)

a) Does Your State use licensed software (which ensures support for technical and security matters) for the taking of evidence by videolink?	Yes. Please specify: We have a Cisco infrastructure that make the use of videolink possible.  No.  Comments:
b) What are the specifications of the video-link technology in use in Your State, including, if any, the minimum standards or mechanisms used to secure the communications and any recordings made?  States are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider liaising with the relevant IT experts.	Codec (i.e., manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): Equipment from Tandberg and Cisco Models: Cisco DX80, Cisco MX200, Cisco MX300, Cisco SX10, Cisco SX20, Cisco SX80, Tandberg 1000MXP, Tandberg 1500MXP, Tandberg 150MXP, Tandberg 1700MXP, Tandberg 6000MXP, Tandberg 990MXP, Tandberg 3000MXP, Tandberg C40, Tandberg Edge 85MXP, Tandberg Edge 95MXP and Tandberg EX90. Transmission speed/bandwith: IP: depending om the system, ISDN: 384 kbps  Video and audio standards (e.g. Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): Some equipment with SD and some with HD Type of network (e.g., ISDN, IP, etc.): All codecs can dial-out and receive calls via IP and ISDN Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: AES-128 Split screen capability: Depends on the equipment Document cameras: NO Multipoint connections: Yes, either from the equipment or via an MCU Additional specifications or capabilities: Protocols or other practices:
c) Can evidence be taken via commercial providers (e.g., Skype <sup>TM</sup> )?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:

d) Does Your State have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?	<ul><li>☐ Yes.     Please specify:</li><li>☒ No.</li></ul>
	Comments: There are no formal procedures for testing, but the courts normally test the connection before the hearing.
e) Does Your State have any requirements as to the hearing room, e.g., should be located in a court, should have a camera view of the whole room or a view of all the parties, etc.?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:

### PART IV: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER BOTH CHAPTERS – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions	
a) Must a court order directing the use of video- links first be obtained from the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II)?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:
b) Are there any restrictions on what type/s of evidence can be taken by video-link or how it is to be taken?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No.  Comments: As long as it is not prohibited by Norwegian Law
c) Are there any specific restrictions on how evidence gathered via video-link can be handled and distributed, or do the usual rules for evidence obtained in person apply?	<ul><li>☐ Yes, there are specific restrictions. Please specify:</li><li>☒ No, the normal rules for evidence apply.</li></ul> Comments:
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	<ul> <li>Yes.         <ul> <li>Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link:</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ No.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (e.g. in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No.  Comments: This will be decided by the Norwegian Court that receives the request.

g) Can a witness / expert be compelled to use video-links to give evidence?	Yes. If so, please specify what coercive measures may be used: The normal rules for evidence apply. Dispute Act Chapter 24 and 25.  No. Please explain:
	Comments:
h) Please briefly outline the procedure/s, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for actually notifying or summoning the witness / expert to give evidence by video-link, including any references to relevant laws, regulations or practice.  Please also include, where applicable, the differences between notifying or summoning a willing witness / expert and notifying or summoning a witness / expert that is to be compelled.	Chapter I: The national rules on summoning witnesses apply.  In accordance with the Act relating to the Courts of Justice of 13 August 1915 no.5 (Court of Justice Act) Section 46, the request shall be carried out in accordance with Norwegian law. Notification of the parties shall not be necessary, unless such notification has been expressly demanded. If a special form for procedure is expressly requested, the request shall be complied with insofar as possible, provided that it is not prohibited under Norwegian law.  The provisions in the Dispute Act, chapter 27 is also applicable. According to section 27-3, evidence shall be taken in accordance with the general provisions that apply to the relevant type of evidence as far as they are appropriate. Normally, the competent Court will summon the witness, and this summuns shall be formally served, cf. the Dispute Act, section 13-3 (1). The summons shall state the case and the purpose of the court hearing, and give the party such details as are necessary to comply with the duty to attend. The summons shall include brief details of any provisions on compensation for attendance and on the liability for nonattendance, cf. section 13-3 (3), cf. section 13-2 (4).  A summons to a witness who is entitled to refuse to testify about the issues that are being examined may include a notice that attendance is unnecessary if the witness is determined to refuse to testify. If the witness gives notice sufficiently far in advance of the court hearing that he will refuse to give evidence, the summons shall be withdrawn if the refusal is found to be justified, cf. section 24-3 (2).
	Chapter II: There are no specific rules or regulations regarding chapter II of the Convention. Norway has made the

### PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	folowing declaration to article 15 of the Convention: evidence can be taken by diplomatic officers or consular agents only if, upon application, prior permission to that effect has been granted. Such prior permission is given by the Norwegian Central Authority. Article 19 and 20 in the Convention will apply.  Comments:
i) The law of which State governs the use of privileges?  Please tick all that apply.  See Articles 11 and 21(e) of the Convention	Chapter I:  ☐ The law of the Requesting State. ☐ The law of the Requested State. ☐ The law of another State. Please specify:  Chapter II: ☐ The law of the State of Origin. ☐ The law of the State of Execution. ☐ The law of another State. Please specify:  Comments:

## PART V: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER $\underline{\text{CHAPTER I}}$ (LETTERS OF REQUEST) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal obstacles	
a) Does Your State consider that there are legal obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?  The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (see C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
b) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the direct taking of evidence by judicial personnel of the <i>requesting</i> State ( <i>i.e.</i> , the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	☐ Yes. ☐ No.  Comments: Letters of request to the Central Authority is required.
c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	<ul> <li>□ Art. 9(1) – The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (e.g., a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State.</li> <li>□ Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied:</li> <li>See also questions on presence.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
d) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter I (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	The same rules apply as when evidence is taken with the witness being physically present.
Presence	
e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link?  See Article 7 of the Convention	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:  No.  Comments:

### PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

f) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the cross-examination of a witness / expert by video-link by the representatives located in the requesting State (i.e., the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	☐ Yes. ☐ No.  Comments:
g) Does Your State allow for the presence of the judicial personnel of the requesting State via video-link?  See Article 8 of the Convention  Please note that a declaration may be made under this provision.	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:  No.  Comments:

## PART VI: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER II</u> (BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The questions in this Part are only for States that have not wholly excluded the application of Chapter II	
Please note that Chapter II may be subject to a reservation in whole or in part under Article 33. Check the reservations that Your State has made under this Chapter in the status table, available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.	
Legal obstacles and legal framework	
a) Does Your State consider there to be any legal obstacles to the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II of the Convention?  The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	<ul><li>☐ Yes.     Please specify:</li><li>☑ No.</li></ul> Comments:
b) Under which provisions of Chapter II of the Convention is taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	<ul> <li>☑ Art. 15</li> <li>☑ Art. 16</li> <li>☐ Art. 17</li> <li>Comments:</li> <li>Prior permission must be granted by the Central Authority.</li> </ul>
c) Is prior permission from Your State required when taking evidence under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State?	Yes. Please outline the procedure for seeking such permission, including any specific conditions that must be satisfied: A formal request is sent to the Norwegian Central Authority. Permission must be granted in advance.  No.  Comments:
d) Please indicate who administers the oath or affirmation and how perjury and contempt are dealt with when evidence is taken under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of YOUR STATE.	Administration of the oath or affirmation:  Dealing with perjury and contempt:
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
e) Diplomatic and consular agents are usually located in the State where the witness / expert resides. It may be, however, that a witness / expert is located in a neighbouring country or in a place distant from the Embassy or Consulate. In these circumstances, does Your State consider it	<ul> <li>Yes.         Please specify:         No.</li> <li>Comments:         The possibility for a diplomatic or consular agent         located in Norway to obtain evidence from</li> </ul>

### PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

possible to use video-link to obtain evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	a person residing in another country than Norway depends on the rules and regulations of that other country.
Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
f) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	
Presence	
g) Under the law of YOUR STATE, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by <b>diplomatic and consular agents</b> ?  Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else.
	Please specify:  Comments:
h) Under the law of Your State, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by <b>commissioners</b> ?  Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:  Comments:
Applicable law	
Applicable law	I <u> </u>
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?	☐ The law of the State of Origin ☐ The law of the State of Execution ☐ It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:  Comments:
	Commence
j) The law of which State governs perjury and contempt when evidence is taken by videolink under Chapter II?	☐ The law of the State of Origin ☐ The law of the State of Execution ☐ It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner.
	Please specify:  Comments:

### PART VII PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON TO BOTH CHAPTERS	
Notice	
a) What does Your State consider to be the minimum amount of time required between the request and the actual hearing in order to make the arrangements to take evidence by video-link?	Chapter I: At least three months from the time the request is received by the Central Autority.  Chapter II:
Interpretation services	
b) Who is responsible, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for the use of interpretation services and who arranges these services in YOUR STATE when video-link is used?	Chapter I: The competent court makes arrangements with an interpretor.  Chapter II:
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in YOUR STATE, and where can relevant contact details be found?	<ul> <li>Yes.         Please specify:</li> <li>No.</li> <li>Comments:</li> <li>The court uses an accreditated interpreter if</li> </ul>
	possible.
d) Under the law of YOUR STATE, is interpretation to be <i>simultaneous</i> or <i>consecutive</i> when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?	The interpretation might be simultaneous or consecutive.
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? Please check all that apply.	<ul> <li>☑ In the room with the witness / expert.</li> <li>☑ In the room with those conducting the examination.</li> <li>☐ Elsewhere in the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II).</li> <li>☑ Elsewhere in the requested State (Chapter I) / State of Execution (Chapter II).</li> <li>☐ In a third State.</li> <li>☐ Other. Please specify:</li> </ul> Comments:
Reporting and recording	
f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared?	Yes. Please specify by whom: The court will either take a record of the examination or give a written report from the examination.  Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report:  No.

### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Comments:
g) Are facilities and equipment made available in order to record the hearing or testimony?	<ul> <li>Yes, with audio and video.</li> <li>Yes, only with video.</li> <li>Yes, only with audio.</li> <li>No, but the recording of hearings/testimonies is permitted.</li> <li>If a recording is produced, please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the recording:</li> <li>No, because the recording of hearings/testimonies is not permitted under internal law.</li> </ul>
	Comments.
Documents and exhibits	
h) What arrangements are to be made for showing or referring to documents or exhibits when taking evidence by video-link?	There exists no regulations about this, the judge will decide how to do this in each case.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I		
Practical obstacles		
i) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors	I	
j) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter I?	Normally a witness/expert will be asked to show identification papers when they appear in court.	
Standard Forms		
k) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter I that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?  The use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I.  While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may	<ul> <li>☐ Yes.         Please specify:</li> <li>☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.</li> <li>☒ No standardised form is used.</li> </ul> Comments:	
be included in item 13 of the Form.		
I) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the requesting State in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness / expert examination by video-link under Chapter I? (e.g. contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc)	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:	
Costs		
m) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE?	<ul> <li>Yes.         <ul> <li>Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:</li> </ul> </li> <li>□ No.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>	
n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under	The moving party (requesting the use of video-link).	
Chapter I in Your State?  See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention	The requesting authority (in the requesting State).  The requested authority (in the requested State).  Other. Please specify:	

### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

o) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☐ Other. Please specify:  Comments:
p) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter I in YOUR STATE when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER II		
Only for States that have not excluded in whole the application of Chapter II		
Practical obstacles		
q) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors	Not in general	
r) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter II?		
Standard Forms		
s) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter II that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?  Although the use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I, it may also be used, with the necessary amendments when applying for permission to take evidence under Chapter II.  While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.	<ul> <li>☐ Yes.         Please specify:</li> <li>☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.</li> <li>☐ No standardised form is used.</li> </ul> Comments:	
Assistance and facilities		
t) Are the Embassies and Consulates of Your State (acting as the State of Execution) able to assist applicants in arranging a video-link?	Yes. Please specify how, e.g., via a booking system: By request to the embassy or consulate  No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone:	
	Comments:	
u) Is it possible to hold a video-link session requested under the Convention at the premises of the Embassies or Consulates of YOUR STATE abroad?	Yes. Please specify: All embassies and consulates have the facilities and equipment necessary.  No.  Comments:	
v) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the State of Origin in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness or expert examination by video-link under	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.  Comments:	

### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Chapter II? (e.g. the use of interpreters, stenographers, or recording devices)	
Costs	
w) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter II in YOUR STATE?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:
	□ No.
	Comments:
x) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	<ul> <li>□ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link).</li> <li>□ The State of Origin</li> <li>□ The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution.</li> <li>□ The commissioner</li> <li>□ Other.         Please specify:</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
y) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☐ Other. Please specify:  Comments:
z) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter II in YOUR STATE when videolink is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	