

## Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit: <sup>[1]</sup>	Switzerland
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For the purpose of the 13 to 15 February 2023 meeting of the EG, Members are invited to report on consideration given to and / or implementation of the following arrangements in their jurisdiction:

- a. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds:

General information: The current processing of international maintenance cases based on the conventions and agreements concluded by Switzerland is carried out in cooperation between the Central Authority at the federal level and the competent authorities in the cantons. In most cases, incoming and outgoing payments are made directly via the cantonal or local authorities and the parties concerned (and based on the respective terms and conditions of the individual banking relationships). Only within the framework of the transitional solutions with states which know cheque payments (Australia, USA, certain Canadian provinces) incoming payments to Switzerland are processed via the Central Authority. Therefore, the Central Authority does not have comprehensive knowledge of all the solutions used by the authorities in the cantons and in the individual cases.

Latest developments: The Central Authority has (and will continue to do so) provided the competent authorities in the cantons, which handle the international maintenance cases, with information regarding the Report and Conclusions & Recommendations of the Experts' Group on international transfer of maintenance funds of 2022. This concerns in particular the following questions: c., d., e., f. and I.

- b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see Report and C&R 2022 No 1)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

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<sup>[1]</sup> In this questionnaire, references to the term "State", where relevant, are to be considered as also applicable to a territorial unit.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

However, interim solutions are still in place because of cheque payments from the USA and certain Canadian provinces.

c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 10)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please see response to a. above.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 11)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please see response to a. above.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

e. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please see response to a. above.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- f. Requesting Central Authority providing confirmation to the requested Central Authority that the amounts received are the same as the amounts sent and, where applicable, information on the reasons for any difference (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please see response to a. above.](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

- g. Establishment of a centralised point (e.g., bank account, central bank) for international transfers dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 4 and 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[As stated in a., the current processing of international maintenance cases based on the conventions and agreements concluded by Switzerland is carried out in cooperation between the Central Authority at the federal level and the competent authorities in the cantons. In most cases, incoming and outgoing payments are made directly via the cantonal or local authorities and the parties concerned \(and based on the respective terms and conditions of the individual banking relationships\). Only within the framework of the transitional solutions with states which know cheque payments \(Australia, USA, certain Canadian provinces\) incoming payments to Switzerland are processed via the Central Authority. The decentralised payment processing that already exists today is still preferred. A \(certain\) centralisation of payment processing would only be an issue if a \(completely\) centralized organisation with a Federal Central Authority were to be created in the future \(e.g. when Switzerland joins the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance\). The future organisation of the processing of maintenance cases is currently the subject of clarifications based on a political proposal.](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

- h. Use of the possibilities afforded by the *Universal Postal Union Postal Payment Services Agreement* of 6 October 2016 (see Report and C&R 2022 No 4)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

The PPSA makes specifications on cross-border remittances, but leaves the contracting states a certain amount of flexibility in implementation. Signing the agreement does not entail any legally binding obligations at the operational level, and the regulatory provisions of national law must be observed. In Switzerland, the agreement is implemented in such a way that cross-border transfers are facilitated and made possible, but are not free of charge.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

i. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see Report and C&R 2022 No 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

This does not apply at the moment as Switzerland is not a member state of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

j. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see Report and C&R 2022 No 6)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

The Central Authority was not able to undertake further general developments in this area last year. However, the Central Authority recommends that the competent authorities in the cantons regularly (e.g. every six months) request arrears calculations from or send them to the foreign Central authority.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

k. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested States, attached to each transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 No 7)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:  
[The Central Authority is following the development of iSupport.](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
[Please insert text here](#)

l. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see Report and C&R 2022 No 8)

Not being considered. Please explain:  
[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:  
[Please see response to a. above.](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
[Please insert text here](#)

m. Provision of information about international banking to creditors and debtors (see Report and C&R 2022 No 12)

Not being considered. Please explain:  
[As indicated in a. above, information has so far been provided to the competent authorities in the cantons.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:  
[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
[Please insert text here](#)

n. Implementation of a legal framework enabling the Central Authority, acting both as requesting and requested Central Authority, to handle the transfer of funds – or at least major parts of the process – in as automated a manner as possible (see Report and C&R 2022 No 13)

Not being considered. Please explain:  
[Please see response to g. above.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

o. Implementation of an arrangement with banks that are transparent in relation to their fees and / or are part of the SWIFT Global Payment Initiative (GPI) (see Report and C&R 2022 No 14)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please see response to g. above.](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

p. Would your State consider contributing to iSupport ITMF in terms of expertise and experience?

Yes

[However, this has not been considered yet. Consideration could be given to providing this, subject to expertise and experts being available, and at a time when the implementation of iSupport in Switzerland is imminent.](#)

No

[Please insert text here.](#)

q. Any other developments in your State including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States:

[None at this point in time.](#)

Thank you!