

Title	Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts' Group meeting of 8 to 11 February 2021 on international transfers of maintenance funds
Document	Prel. Doc. No 11 of October 2020
Author	PB
Agenda Item	TBD
Mandate(s)	C&D No 25 of CGAP 2020
Objective	To prepare for the Experts' Group meeting of February 2021 by collecting information on current arrangements regarding international transfers of maintenance funds. Replies to the Questionnaire should be sent to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > no later than 15 January 2021
Action to be Taken	For Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	Prel. Doc. 11 of November 2019 - Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds

Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts' Group meeting of 8 to 11 February 2021 on international transfers of maintenance funds

- 1 At its 3 to 6 March 2020 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the HCCH concluded and decided as follows regarding the work of the Experts' Group (EG) on international transfers of maintenance funds:

“25. CGAP mandated the Experts' Group on international transfer of maintenance funds to continue its work and invited the PB to make arrangements for a further meeting of the Experts' Group by videoconference. The findings of the Expert's Group will inform the work of the SC.”

- 2 In preparation of the 8 to 11 February 2021 videoconference meeting of the EG, to take place in the afternoon Central European Time, delegates / experts are invited to review the “Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds”¹ which includes the Conclusions and Recommendations of the first meeting of the EG in September 2019 (C&R EG) that reflect existing good practices found in a number of States. Delegates / experts are also invited to complete the following Questionnaire.
- 3 Membership of the EG is open to all Members of the HCCH regardless of whether they are Contracting Parties to the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention or not. To ensure the widest possible representation, any contributions or proposals from Members which have not yet participated in the work of the EG are welcome.

Instructions for completion of the Questionnaire

- 4 The Questionnaire is being sent to Central Authorities as well as National and Contact Organs. Central Authorities are asked to co-ordinate as appropriate between themselves and other competent authorities. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed Questionnaire to the Permanent Bureau (PB).
- 5 In order to allow the PB to extract parts of the Questionnaire for a compilation and analysis of the responses, you are kindly requested to use **this Word version** of the document, and **not return a PDF version** of the completed Questionnaire.
- 6 We kindly request that replies to the Questionnaire be sent to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > **no later than 15 January 2021** with the following subject matter captioned in the heading of the e-mail: “[name of State] Response to transfer of maintenance funds Questionnaire – 2021 Special Commission”. Any questions concerning the Questionnaire may be directed to < secretariat@hcch.net >.
- 7 The PB intends, except where expressly asked not to do so, to place all responses to the Questionnaire on the HCCH website (< www.hcch.net >). Please therefore clearly identify any responses which you do not want to be placed on the website.
- 8 The findings of the EG will inform the work of the Special Commission (SC) tentatively scheduled to take place during the week of 7 to 11 June 2021. The dates of the SC will be discussed and decided at the CGAP 2021 meeting, which is scheduled to take place during the week of 1 to 5 March 2021. Thank you for your kind co-operation as the PB prepares for the meeting of the SC in 2021.

¹ CGAP Prel. Doc. No 11 of November 2019 “Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds” is available at: < <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/4def3f24-fde9-487a-9396-531105e196d5.pdf> >.

Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit:^[1]	Republic of Slovenia
<i>For follow-up purposes</i>	
Name of contact person:	Vesna Lapanja
Name of Authority / Office:	Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia
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- 9 For the purpose of the 8 to 11 February 2021 meeting of the EG, delegates / experts 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
- In August, 2020 the Central Authority of Australia launched the electronic transfer of maintenance funds directly to the creditors. They had sent checks before that.
The first electronic payment will be made on June 14, 2021 from the U.S. in Texas.
- b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see C&R EG No 1)
- Not being considered. Please explain:
Please insert text here
- Is being considered. Please explain:
Please insert text here
- Has already been implemented. Please explain:
We do not accept checks, as we cannot redeem them because banks in Slovenia do not offer these services from September 2020 onwards.
- c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see C&R EG Nos 2 and 10)
- Not being considered. Please explain:
Please insert text here
- Is being considered. Please explain:

^[1] The term "State" in this Questionnaire includes a territorial unit, where relevant.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Only one commercial bank reduced the cost of cashing checks for creditors for a short time.

d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see C&R EG No 2)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Our Fund covers all bank fees for electronic payments to creditors living in countries outside the SEPA area.

e. Solutions where the institution(s) facilitating the transfer of funds could cover the costs of such transfers by withholding the amounts for a few days (see C&R EG No 2)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

We immediately transfer money to creditors and pay all bank fees for electronic payment to the creditors living in the countries outside the SEPA area. Due to low bank interest and small money received, we can't cover bank fees by withholding amounts for a few days.

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

We tried to reduce bank fees through our Bank of Slovenia, but we received the answer that neither we nor the Bank of Slovenia can influence the banking policy of other commercial banks, as many different banks can be involved.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- g. 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 C&R EG No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

There are always differences in payments from foreign currencies to euros, as the exchange rate is different in the country of payment and in the recipient country. In countries where the currency is not the euro and are not members of the SEPA area, creditors usually receive a lower amount of maintenance for bank fees and currency conversion costs. We suggest that the debtor settle this amount and amend the convention accordingly.

Is being considered. Please explain:

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

We use one bank account only for international transfers of maintenance.

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

All maintenance transfers received to our bank account are kept in an accounting program. We manage both the debtor's and the creditor's card and keep the debt balance. We have the option of printing the balance of the debtor's debt including the dates of the debtor's payments received and the dates of our transfers made to the creditor.

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Applications whose recovery takes place in Slovenia, we have established regular monitoring of debtors' transfers, sending warnings, attempts to agree on voluntary payment of the debt, starting the enforcement,...

We monitor the employment of debtors on a monthly basis and take immediate action.

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

If the requesting country does not provide the reference number, we enter the name and surname of the creditor e.g. "Alimony for XY" in the purpose of payment. We mostly transfer money directly to the creditor. In those cases, the reference number does not matter much.

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

Not being considered. Please explain:

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

m. Implementation of bundled payments to reduce costs of transfers (see C&R EG No 11)

Not being considered. Please explain: [

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[If the amount of maintenance received in our bank account is small and the bank fees are higher than the amount of maintenance received, this amount is waiting in our account and is usually paid by the next transfer.](#)

n. Any other developments:

[Please insert text here](#)

Thank you!