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L.c. A No 8(17)

New Staff Rules of the Hague Conference on Private International Law

The Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law presents its compliments to the Diplomatic Missions of the Member States and, further to its circular letter L.c. ON 62(16) of 22 December 2016, has the honour to transmit to them a Note Verbale from the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia received on 27 January 2017.

The Permanent Bureau avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic Missions of the Member States assurances of its highest consideration.

THE HAGUE, 30 January 2017

To the Diplomatic Missions of the Member States
Copy for information to the National and Contact Organs of the Members
Copy to the European Union



L.c. A No 8(17)

Nouveau Règlement du personnel de la Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé

Le Bureau Permanent de la Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé présente ses compliments aux Missions diplomatiques des États membres et, par suite de sa lettre circulaire L.c. ON 62(16) du 22 décembre 2016, a l'honneur de leur transmettre une Note Verbale (en

anglais uniquement) émanant de l'ambassade de la République de Serbie, reçue le 27 janvier 2017.

Le Bureau Permanent saisit cette occasion pour renouveler aux Missions diplomatiques des États membres l'assurance de sa haute considération.

LA HAYE, le 30 janvier 2017

Aux Missions diplomatiques des États membres

Copie à titre d'information aux Organes nationaux et de liaison des Membres

Copie à l'Union européenne



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
THE HAGUE**

No. *38/2017*

The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and concerning the Draft Staff Rules Applicable to Officials and Personnel of the Organisation and procedure for its adoption, has the honour to inform of the following:

The Republic of Serbia appreciates the work of the Permanent Bureau in preparation of the Draft Staff Rules and acknowledges the valuable work of the Working Group in its further development.

However, as mentioned several times during the meeting of the Working Group held on 9 December 2016, the Republic of Serbia is not in favour of practicing “electronic” or “remote” vote which has no basis in the valid Rules of Procedure.

Furthermore, the Republic of Serbia notices with concern that the procedure proposed for the adoption of the Draft Staff Rules (“two-thirds of majority of Member States that cast a vote”) is substantively different from Article 8 of the Regulations on Financial Matters and Budgetary Practices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (“two-thirds majority of the Member States present at the meeting of the Council of Diplomatic Representatives”).

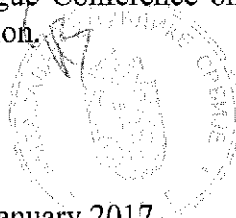
The Republic of Serbia reiterates its position that it is not in accordance with the international practice to start the procedure of voting on a document before the designated working group submits its report to the relevant governing body of the organization and without giving opportunity to member states of the organization to discuss it in that governing body, especially if the consensus has not been reached in the working group. The Republic of Serbia regrets that this clear position stated at the meeting of the Working Group on 9 December 2016 was not reflected in the Summary of the meeting.

**HCCH
Permanent Bureau
The Hague**

In this vein, the Republic of Serbia expects the Working Group on Staff Rules to submit its report to the relevant body of the Hague Conference on Private International Law so as to allow Member States to further discuss the text of the Draft Staff Rules distributed on 22 December 2016. With this in mind, the Republic of Serbia will, for the time being, refrain from delivering substantive comments on the Draft Staff Rules.

The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia would highly appreciate if the Permanent Bureau brings this Note Verbale to the attention of all Member States of the Hague Conference on the Private International Law.

The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Hague, 27 January 2017