

**Recommendations and Conclusions
adopted by the Council**

Admission of the European Community

1. The Council, acting in accordance with the revised Statute, accepted by consensus the application of the European Community for membership of the Hague Conference. Following the deposit of the instrument of acceptance of the Statute by the President of the Council of the European Union, the Council welcomed the European Community as a Member of the Organisation.

Future work

2. The Council decided to retain the following matters on the Conference's Agenda:

a) questions of private international law raised by the information society, including electronic commerce,

b) the conflict of jurisdictions, applicable law and international judicial and administrative co-operation in respect of civil liability for environmental damage,

c) jurisdiction, and recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of succession upon death,

d) jurisdiction, applicable law, and recognition and enforcement of judgments in respect of unmarried couples,

e) assessment and analysis of transnational legal issues relating to indirectly held securities and security interests, taking into account in particular the work undertaken by other international organisations.

3. The Council decided to invite Members to provide comments, before the end of 2007, on the feasibility study on cross-border mediation in family matters (Prel. Doc. No 20) with a view to further discussion of the topic at the spring 2008 meeting of the Council.

4. The Council invited Members who have not already done so to respond to the Questionnaire concerning choice of law in international contracts and to provide comments on the existing feasibility study (Prel. Doc. No 22) by the autumn of 2007 with a view to further discussion of the topic at the spring 2008 meeting of the Council.

5. The Council invited the Permanent Bureau to develop a questionnaire as suggested in the feasibility study on the treatment of foreign law (Prel. Doc. No 21) with a view to identifying practical difficulties in accessing the content of foreign law and determining the areas of foreign law for which information is required. This questionnaire will also invite Members to comment on the models suggested in the feasibility study and their possible implementation. Responses should be returned before the end of 2007 with a view to further discussion of the topic at the spring 2008 meeting of the Council.

6. The Council reserved its position on the ultimate priority to be attached to each of the possible subjects for future work referred to above, in particular those mentioned in paragraphs 3-5, as well as on the possibility of adding other subjects and otherwise revisiting the list at a later meeting. In this respect, the Council invited the Permanent Bureau to continue its exploration of the application of certain private international law techniques to aspects of international migration.

Information technology systems in support of Conventions

7. The Council welcomed the continued efforts of the Permanent Bureau in relation to the use and the development of information technology systems in support of existing and draft Hague Conventions in the areas of legal co-operation and family law. Members were encouraged to continue exploring possible sources of funding including through the Supplementary Budget.

Post-Convention services and regional developments

8. The Council noted the broad range and importance of the post-Convention activities currently being carried out by the Permanent Bureau, including by way of the development of regional programmes.

9. The Council welcomed the range of activities currently being undertaken by the Permanent Bureau in the areas of promotion, education and training in relation to the Hague Conventions, and in particular the development of the International Centre for Judicial Studies and Technical Assistance, made possible by generous funding through the Supplementary Budget.

10. The Permanent Bureau was encouraged to continue its efforts in these regards with a view to securing more universal acceptance of the Conventions and their effective operation in different parts of the world.

Draft Convention on the international recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance

11. The Council noted the progress being made in the development of the new Convention on the international recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance. It reaffirmed its view that the negotiation process should be inclusive, and encouraged Members to consider responding to the request for supplementary funding to make possible the participation of certain experts. The Council also noted that the Government of the Netherlands had issued a convocation to the Members for the Twenty-first Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, scheduled to take place from 5-23 November 2007, at which the final text of the Convention would be drawn up.