

## Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit: <sup>[1]</sup>	The Czech Republic
---	--------------------

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:

In majority electronic transfer of funds (mainly wire transfers) are being processed through our Office (the Czech CA). We try to find solutions for exceptional cases, in case our office is not able to use a particular payments option due to the legal restrictions for government agencies, we try to find individual solutions with the clients and our CA counterparts.

Less leniency can be applied in cases where court enforcement and wage withholding is processed. In court ordered enforcement cases the employers pay through electronic wire transfers in CZK, so for payments to requesting states we can only use electronic bank transfer and a conversion would be applied by the banks. If payments are done directly by the debtor and not through court enforcement, the debtor has more options for example to send the payment in the currency of the child support order as our office holds accounts in various international currencies.

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:

The Czech Central Authority is able to process check payments only in cases where our country is the applying state. We can process/cash received checks, however we are unable to return payments in the form of check.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

In responding cases, where the Czech Central Authority is the enforcing authority and we receive payments from the debtor/employer we are unable to send out payments in the form of check. Our bank was unable to find a partner institution which would provide this service for EU/overseas relations.

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

---

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

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

- the Czech Central Authority holds accounts in several international currencies, in some cases this eliminates the need for conversions

- the Czech Central Authority is covering the processing fees of our bank

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 insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

The clients of The Czech Central Authority do not bear any costs related to the transfer of the maintenance funds, including fees to process check payment. The Czech Central Authority bears/pays the bank fees from our budget. For example with the check payments our authority has an individual agreement with the bank resulting in faster time for cashing the checks (for international checks a private clients could wait even several months for the payment to be processed).

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 insert text here](#)

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 insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[In each case we regularly share arrears updates with the partner central authorities in order to compare balances.](#)

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:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[The Czech Central Authority is able to process both incoming and outgoing payments. Our client payments processing accounts are not currently held at the central bank due to the cost efficiency. Our office is the owner of several accounts held in different international currencies to decrease the negative impact of conversion deductions of transfers.](#)

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:

[Please insert text here](#)

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:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

The services are currently available to creditors that decide to use these services. To provide such services to any debtors requires cooperation of the creditors (e.g. power of attorney, authorization of foreign central authority).

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:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

The Czech Central Authority monitors the payments which are transferred through our accounts. We also periodically require updates from creditors regarding direct payments from debtors.

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:

Our Office participates on iSupport system discussions.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

For internal purposes each case has unique payment identifier called variable symbol - used mainly for payments in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Variable symbol is an identifier with maximum length of 10 characters and consists only of digits.

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:

The Czech Republic is the requested state:

- in the enforcement is done in the CZ and the payment is received in CZK, we apply conversion rate as of the date the payment is received

- slight differences can occur if the payments are done through court enforcement as the date when employer deducts the payment is relevant, in these cases we are unable to enforce the difference against the debtor

The Czech Republic is the requesting state:

- we apply conversion rate as of the date of the receipt of the payment

In most cases individual case balance reconciliation is being needed and negotiated between central authorities and sometimes debtors.

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:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Clients are provided information about the payment options of our office and they are informed about the possible issues involved with the international transfer of payments. Not just specifically about international banking.

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 insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

The Czech Central Authority acts as both requesting/requested authority and processes payments for both options.

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:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

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

Please insert text here

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:

Please insert text here

Thank you!