

**The Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention – October 2017**

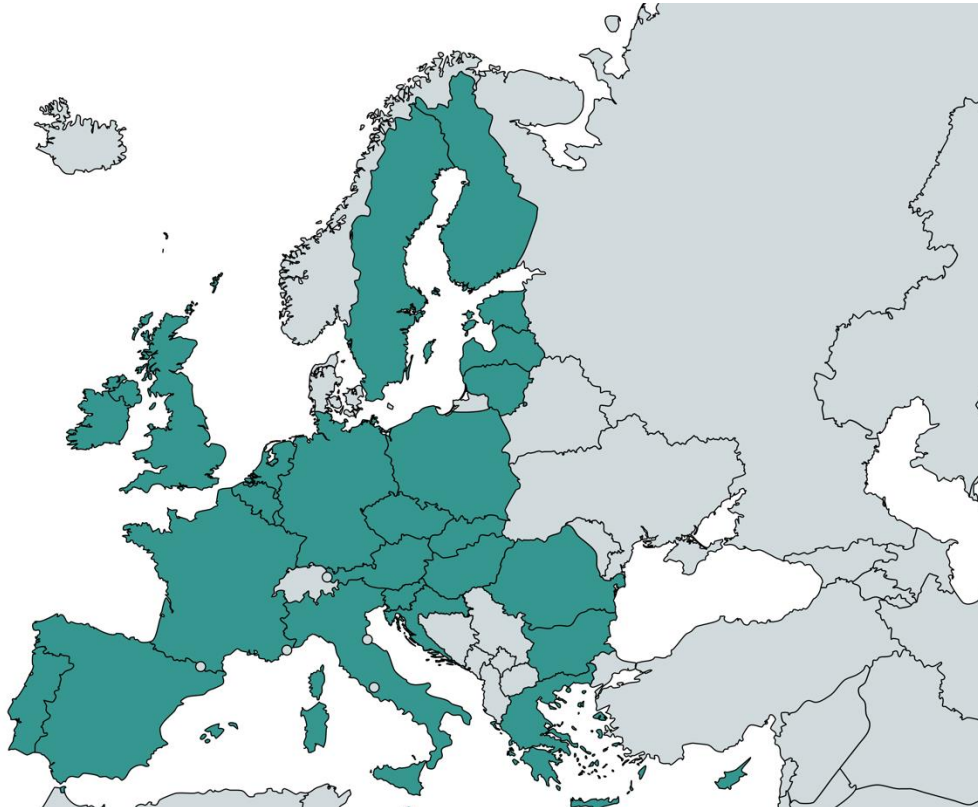
<b>Document</b>	Preliminary Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedural Document <input type="checkbox"/> Information Document <input type="checkbox"/>	No 11 B of October 2017
<b>Title</b>	Part II — A statistical analysis of applications made in 2015 under the <i>Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction</i> — Regional report – provisional edition, pending the completion of the French version	
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<b>Agenda item</b>	No 2	
<b>Mandate(s)</b>	Conclusions and Recommendations Nos 21-23 of Part I (1-10 June 2011) of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Convention and the 1996 Convention	
<b>Objective</b>	To inform discussions of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission	
<b>Action to be taken</b>	For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Annexes</b>	Attached	
<b>Related documents</b>	Preliminary Document No 11 A of October 2017: Global report	

## PART II: REGIONAL REPORT

### A. BRUSSELS II A REGULATION

#### 1. The number of applications to which the Regulation applied

1. The Brussels II a Regulation<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter, "the Regulation") is a regional instrument which is binding on all Member States of the European Union,<sup>2</sup> except Denmark (see map below; hereinafter, "Brussels II a States"). Subject to what is said below, it takes precedence, as between EU Member States, over the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention (hereinafter, "the 1980 Hague Convention").<sup>3</sup> The instrument has been in force since 1 March 2005.



2. So far as parental child abduction is concerned, the basic scheme of the Regulation is:

- a. to preserve the pre-eminence of the 1980 Hague Convention for dealing with applications for the return of abducted children but nevertheless to give some direction on how that Convention should be applied as between Member States subject to the crucial reservation that in all cases to which the Regulation applies courts must first determine whether a "wrongful removal or retention" has taken place in the sense of the Regulation which means applying Article 2(11) of the Regulation rather than Article 3 of the 1980 Hague Convention; and,
- b. to govern the position in cases where a court refuses to make a return order under the 1980 Hague Convention (which is governed by Art. 11(6)-(8)).

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000. The full text of the Regulation can be found at: < <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32003R2201:EN:HTML> >.

<sup>2</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (Central Authorities of England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland).

<sup>3</sup> The full title of this Convention is the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.

3. For the purpose of this report the crucial provisions are Article 11(1)-(5). Article 11(1) enjoins the authorities of Member States when dealing with applications for the return of a child “wrongfully removed in a Member State other than the Member State where the child was habitually resident immediately before the wrongful removal or retention” to apply paragraphs 2 to 8. Paragraphs 2 to 5 comprise directions on how return applications should be handled under the 1980 Hague Convention. They provide as follows:

“2. When applying Articles 12 and 13 of the 1980 Hague Convention, it shall be ensured that the child is given the opportunity to be heard during the proceedings unless this appears inappropriate having regard to his or her age or degree of maturity.

3. A court to which an application for return of a child is made [...] shall act expeditiously in proceedings on the application, using the most expeditious procedures available in national law.

Without prejudice to the first subparagraph, the court shall, except where exceptional circumstances make this impossible, issue its judgment no later than six weeks after the application is lodged.

4. A court cannot refuse to return a child on the basis of Article 13b of the 1980 Hague Convention if it is established that adequate arrangements have been made to secure the protection of the child after his or her return.

5. A court cannot refuse to return a child unless the person who requested the return of the child has been given an opportunity to be heard.”

4. The following analysis compares the outcomes and timing of applications to which the Regulation applied (that is, where the application was between two Brussels II a States) and to those where it did not (in this case, applications received by Brussels II a States that came from States not governed by the Regulation). It compares these findings with those of the 2008 Survey. One object of this analysis is to see whether there is any evidence that Hague applications were treated differently according to whether or not the Regulation applied.

*a. The proportion of return applications to which the Regulation applied*

5. In 2015, out of a global total of 2,191 return applications, 1,161 were received by Brussels II a States (53%).<sup>4</sup> 830 of these were made by fellow Brussels II a States and so the Regulation applied to 38% of all applications in 2015<sup>5</sup> and 71% of applications received by Brussels II a States. This can be compared with 36% and 72%, respectively, in 2008.

6. The proportion of applications received from fellow Brussels II a States varied considerably. Annex 1 shows the proportion of applications received by these States that came from other Brussels II a States. A notably high proportion of applications received by Romania came from fellow Brussels II a States (91%, or 71 out of 74 applications). Similarly, a number of States received over 85% of their applications from fellow Brussels II a States (89% in Lithuania; 88% in Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia; 87% in Latvia; and, 85% in Ireland).<sup>6</sup>

7. By contrast, a number of States received fewer applications from Brussels II a States when compared with the overall average. Spain received 54% of their applications from fellow Brussels II a States, Greece received 58% and Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom - England and Wales (hereinafter, “England and Wales”) each received 60%.

## **2. Outcomes**

*a. Overall outcomes*

8. As mentioned previously, 1,161 return applications were made to Brussels II a States, 830 of which came from fellow Brussels II a States. Information on the outcome was known in

<sup>4</sup> 50% of the estimated overall number of 2,335 return applications in 2015. See Global Report para. 26.

<sup>5</sup> 30% of the estimated overall number of 2,335 return applications in 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Information on the number of applications received by each of these States can be found in Annex 1.

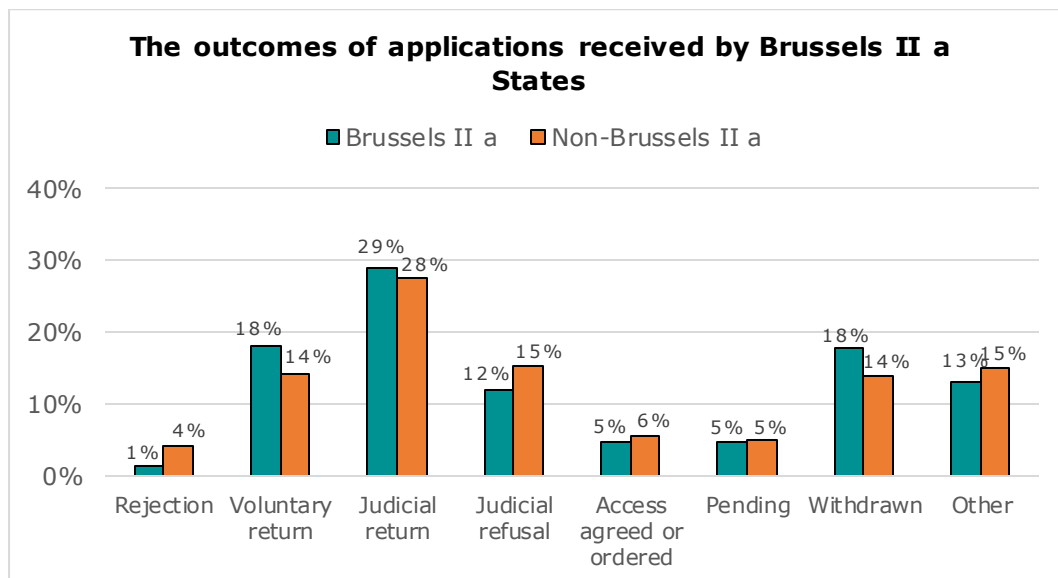
1,029 of these applications. The table below compares the differences in the outcome when the Regulation applied as against when it did not.

### The outcomes of return applications received by Brussels II a States in 2015

	Brussels II a		Non-Brussels II a	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Rejection	10	1%	12	4%
Voluntary return	133	18%	41	14%
Judicial return	213	29%	80	28%
Judicial refusal	87	12%	44	15%
Access agreed or ordered	35	5%	16	6%
Pending	34	5%	14	5%
Withdrawn	131	18%	40	14%
Other	96	13%	43	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>≈100%</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>≈100%</b>

9. As can be seen in the table above and the graph below, when a Brussels II a State received an application from another Brussels II a State there was a higher return rate (47% compared with 42% in applications from non-Brussels II a States) but also a higher withdrawal rate (18% compared with 14%).

10. On the other hand, a lower proportion of applications between Brussels II a States were rejected by the Central Authority or judicially refused.



11. These findings support those in the 2008 Survey which also found that, when the Regulation applied, there was a higher return rate. However, the difference in 2015 is not so pronounced: in 2008 the overall return rate between Brussels II a States was 52%, compared with 39% where the requesting State was a non-Brussels II a State.

12. The 2008 Survey also found that fewer applications between Brussels II a States were rejected by the Central Authority or judicially refused. But again, the difference was greater in 2008 when 22% of applications from non-Brussels II a States were judicially refused, compared with 15% on applications from Brussels II a States, and 5% were rejected by the Central Authority, compared with 3% from Brussels II a States.

*b. The applications decided in court*

13. 40% of applications between two Brussels II a States were decided in court.<sup>7</sup> 67% of these ended in a return, 27% in a refusal and 6% in other outcomes.<sup>8</sup> This can be compared with 47% of applications between Brussels II a States in 2008, 60% of which ended in a return, 31% in a refusal and 9% in other outcomes.

14. A slightly higher proportion of applications from non-Brussels II a States were decided in court (44%) in 2015.<sup>9</sup> This was also the case in 2008 (49% as against 47% of applications between Brussels II a States). In 2015, 62% of the applications decided in court ended in a return, 34% in a refusal and 4% in other outcomes.<sup>10</sup> This can be compared with 48% ending in a return in 2008, 42% in a refusal and 9% in other outcomes.

*c. Judicial refusals and reasons for refusal*

15. In 2015, proportionally fewer return applications between Brussels II a States were refused by the courts compared with applications from non-Brussels II a States – 12% compared with 15%. This was also the case in 2008 when 15% of applications from Brussels II a States were refused compared with 22% from non-Brussels II a States.

16. Looking only at applications between Brussels II a States, the proportion of applications which were refused has decreased from 15% in 2008 and is now in line with the 12% recorded in 2003 (between what would then have been Brussels II a States). The proportion of refusals in applications from non-Brussels II a States has also decreased from 22% in 2008 to 15% in 2015.

17. The Regulation also addresses the reasons for refusal in 1980 Hague Convention return applications. Article 11(4) of the Regulation states that a court cannot refuse the return of a child on the basis of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Hague Convention if it is established that adequate arrangements have been made to secure the protection of the child after his or her return.

18. The table below shows the reasons for refusals in applications received by Brussels II a States.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 318 of the 793 applications between two Brussels II a States in which information on outcomes were available.

<sup>8</sup> Based on 213 applications ending in an order for return, 87 in a judicial refusal and 18 in other outcomes.

<sup>9</sup> 129 of the 290 applications between two Brussels II a States in which information on outcomes were available.

<sup>10</sup> Based on 80 applications ending in an order for return, 44 in a judicial refusal and 5 in other outcomes.

<sup>11</sup> Information was available in 63 of the 87 refusals in applications between Brussels II a States and 28 of 44 in applications between non-Brussels II a States.

### The reasons for refusal and the Regulation

	Brussels II a		Non-Brussels II a	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Child not habitually resident in Requesting State	11	17%	7	23%
Applicant had no rights of custody	5	8%	1	3%
Art. 12	9	14%	3	10%
Art. 13(1)(a) not exercising rights of custody	0	0%	0	0%
Art. 13(1)(a) consent	10	16%	4	13%
Art. 13(1)(a) acquiescence	2	3%	4	13%
Art. 13(1)(b)	9	14%	6	19%
Child's objections	6	9%	1	3%
Art. 20	1	2%	0	0%
More than one reason	11	17%	5	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>

19. Looking only at the sole reasons for refusal, where the Regulation applied proportionally more applications were refused based on the applicant having no rights of custody, Article 12, Article 13(1) a consent, the child's objections and Article 20. By contrast, proportionally fewer applications were refused based on the child not being habitually resident in the requesting State, Article 13(1)(a) acquiescence and Article 13(1)(b).

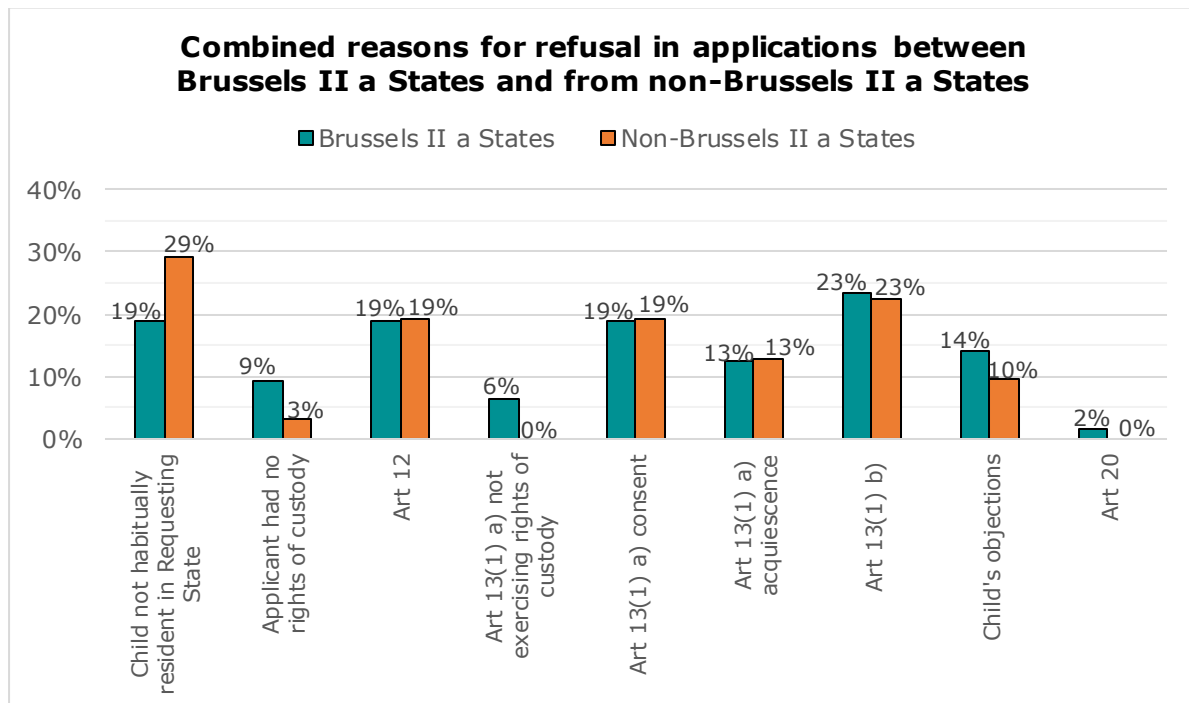
20. As might be expected, given Article 11(4) of the Regulation, fewer applications between Brussels II a States were refused based solely on Article 13(b) (14% compared with 19%), however, this was not the case in 2008 (34% and 20%, respectively). Furthermore, this preponderance was not evident when multiple reasons for refusal are taken into account (see below).

21. A significant proportion of applications were refused for multiple reasons (17%). These cases were decided based on a total of 24 reasons which have been added to the other reasons in the table below.

**The combined reasons for refusal (sole and multiple reasons)  
and the Regulation**

	Brussels II a		Non-Brussels II a	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Child not habitually resident in Requesting State	12	19%	9	29%
Applicant had no rights of custody	6	9%	1	3%
Art. 12	12	19%	6	19%
Art. 13(1) a) not exercising rights of custody	4	6%	0	0%
Art. 13(1) a) consent	12	19%	6	19%
Art. 13(1) a) acquiescence	8	13%	4	13%
Art. 13(1) b)	15	23%	7	23%
Child's objections	9	14%	3	10%
Art. 20	1	2%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Number of reasons</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>123%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>116%</b>
<b>Number of applications</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>31</b>	

22. Once the reasons for refusal in applications refused based on multiple reasons are considered there is no longer a difference in the proportion of refusals based on Article 13(1)(b) in applications from Brussels II a States and non-Brussels II a States (both 23%).



23. Overall, these findings relating to refusals do not provide evidence that the courts are treating Regulation cases any differently than non-Regulation cases.

### 3. Appeals

24. 485 applications received by Brussels II a States went to court and, of these, 151 applications (31%) were appealed.

25. In applications from Brussels II a States (and so to which the Regulation applied) 31% were appealed (107 of the 348 which went to court); this can be compared with 32% of applications from non-Brussels II a States (44 of the 137 which went to court). These findings suggest that the Regulation does not make a significant difference in how Brussels II a States treat applications with regard to appeals.

26. The majority of these applications were appealed only once but 19 involved further appeals with 17 being appealed twice and two applications reaching three levels of appeal.

27. The 17 applications that were appealed twice, were received by Croatia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Spain and Sweden. Six came from fellow Brussels II a States and 11 from non-Brussels II a States.

28. Of the 6 applications between Brussels II a States, each ended in a return at first instance. In 3 the court confirmed this decision on appeal, 1 ended in an 'other' outcome, 1 was pending and in 1 the outcome was unknown.

29. In the 11 applications from non-Brussels II a States, seven ended in a return order at first instance and four ended in a refusal to return. Of the seven first instance returns, six were confirmed on appeal and the remaining case ended in a voluntary return. Of the judicial refusals to return, one was confirmed on appeal and three ended in an order for return.

30. The two applications that were appealed three times were both received by Estonia and both came from fellow Brussels II a States. Both were refused at first instance, in one this was confirmed on appeal and the second application ended in an 'other' outcome.

31. The timing of these applications is analysed in more detail below.<sup>12</sup>

### 4. Timing

#### *a. Overall timing from the date the application was received by the Central Authority to the date of the final outcome*

32. Article 11 of the 1980 Hague Convention implies an overall target of six weeks in which to dispose of applications.

33. The table below shows the average time taken to resolve applications received by Brussels II a States when the requesting State was also a Brussels II a State, compared with applications which came from non-Brussels II a States.<sup>13</sup> The times are recorded from the date the Central Authority received the application until the date the application was concluded, including those which were decided on appeal.

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<sup>12</sup> See section 4.e., below.

<sup>13</sup> Based on 464 applications between Brussels II a States in which information on timing was available and 186 applications from non-Brussels II a States.



**The average number of days taken to conclude applications received by Brussels II a States<sup>14</sup>**

	<b>Brussels II a</b>	<b>Non-Brussels II a</b>
Mean	150	141
Minimum	0	0
Maximum	649	808

34. On average, applications to which the Regulation applied were resolved more slowly, at 150 days, compared with applications from non-Brussels II a States which took an average of 141 days to conclude.

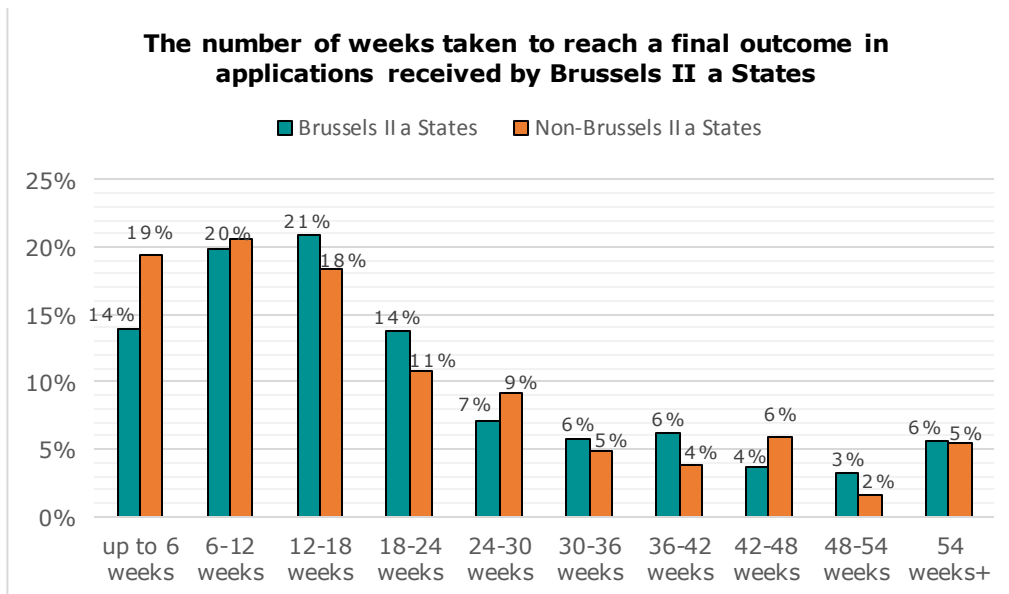
35. This is in contrast with the results from the 2008 Survey where applications from Brussels II a States took an average of 165 days compared with 169 days in applications from non-Brussels II a States.

*b. The six-week time limit*

36. The large majority of applications were not resolved within the overall six-week timescale envisaged by the 1980 Hague Convention between the date the application was received by the Central Authority and the final outcome.

37. In applications to which the Regulation applied, 14% of applications were resolved in six weeks and 55% in 18 weeks.<sup>15</sup> This can be compared with the 2008 figures of 15% and 51%, respectively.

38. In applications from non-Brussels II a States, 19% were resolved in six weeks and 59% in 18 weeks, compared with 16% and 58% in 2008.<sup>16</sup> The table below shows these timings in more detail.



39. There was considerable variation between States in the time taken to conclude applications. Notably, of the applications received by England and Wales, 24%, 55 out of 228 applications, were resolved in six weeks, from the time they were received by the Central

<sup>14</sup> The table shows two applications which were concluded on the day the application was received by the Central Authority. One of these ended in the child being traced to another 1980 Hague Convention State and the other was withdrawn.

<sup>15</sup> Based on 465 applications, 65 of which were resolved in six weeks and 254 in 18 weeks.

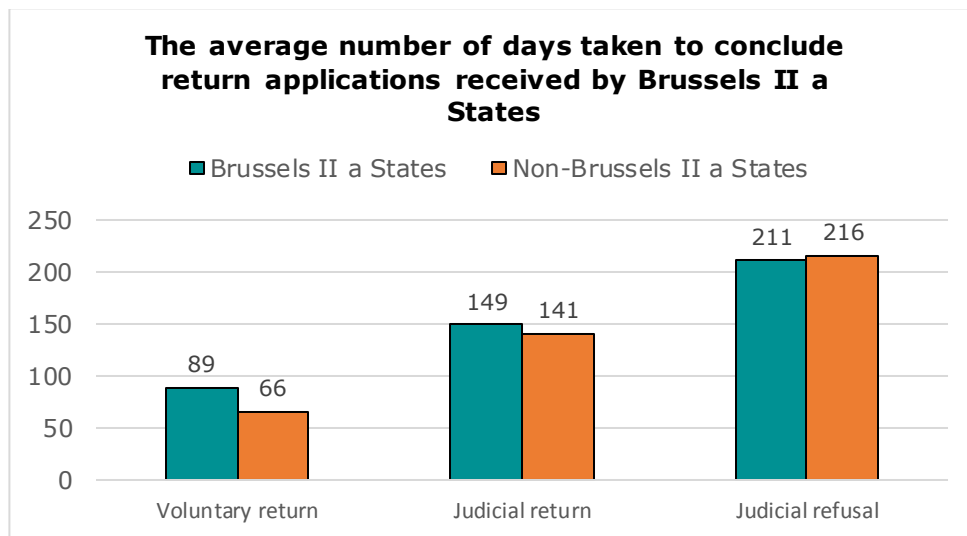
<sup>16</sup> Based on 186 applications, 36 of which were resolved in six weeks and 109 in 18 weeks.

Authority. This reflects the situation in 2008 when 28% were resolved in this time. A further 51% (117 applications) were resolved in 18 weeks. A significant proportion of applications were also resolved in six weeks in Luxembourg (67%, 2 out of 3 applications), Italy (33%, 3 out of 8 applications), the Netherlands (33%, 2 out of 6 applications) and Sweden (29%, 2 out of 7 applications).

40. By contrast, a number of States did not resolve any applications within six weeks: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. However, in some of these States information on the timing of applications was available in only a small number of cases.<sup>17</sup>

*c. Timing and outcomes*

41. The graph below looks at the average time taken to reach different outcomes, from the date the application was received by the Central Authority.<sup>18</sup> The Regulation did not make a significant difference to the overall time taken, however, as shown below, it does make a difference to court disposal times.<sup>19</sup>



42. In 2008, applications ending in voluntary returns and judicial refusals were concluded more quickly between Brussels II a States but it took slightly longer to conclude judicial returns when compared with applications from non-Brussels II a States.

*d. The time taken to send applications to court and the time taken for the court to conclude them*

43. Article 11(3) of the Regulation states that, in applying Articles 12 and 13 of the 1980 Hague Convention, the courts must use the most expeditious procedures available in national law and that, barring exceptional circumstances, issue judgment within six weeks. Although it is arguable that this provision also applies to decisions reached on appeal, Article 11(3) is generally taken to apply to first instance court proceedings.

44. The timing of the applications can be broken down into two periods: the time taken for the Central Authority to send the application to court and, subsequently, the time taken for the court to dispose of it. Annex 2 shows the average time taken for each of these periods in applications received by Brussels II a States.

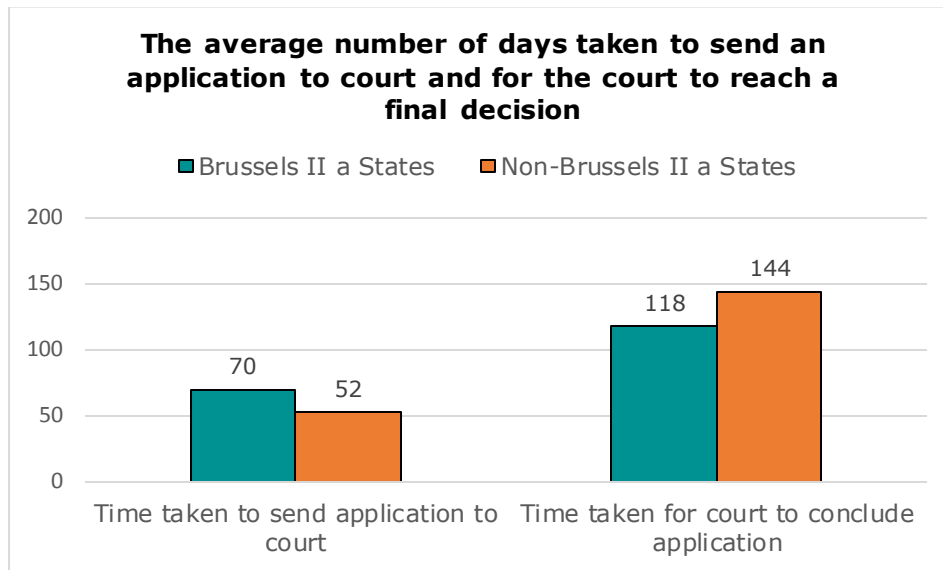
45. As can be seen in the graph below, in applications between two Brussels II a States, it took an average of 70 days to send the application to court, compared with 52 days in applications from non-Brussels II a States. But it then took only a further 118 days for the court

<sup>17</sup> Austria (2 applications), Bulgaria (7), Croatia (2), Cyprus (1), Estonia (5), Finland (1), Greece (3), Lithuania (13), Malta (1), Slovakia (5) and Slovenia (1).

<sup>18</sup> 67 out of 290 applications.

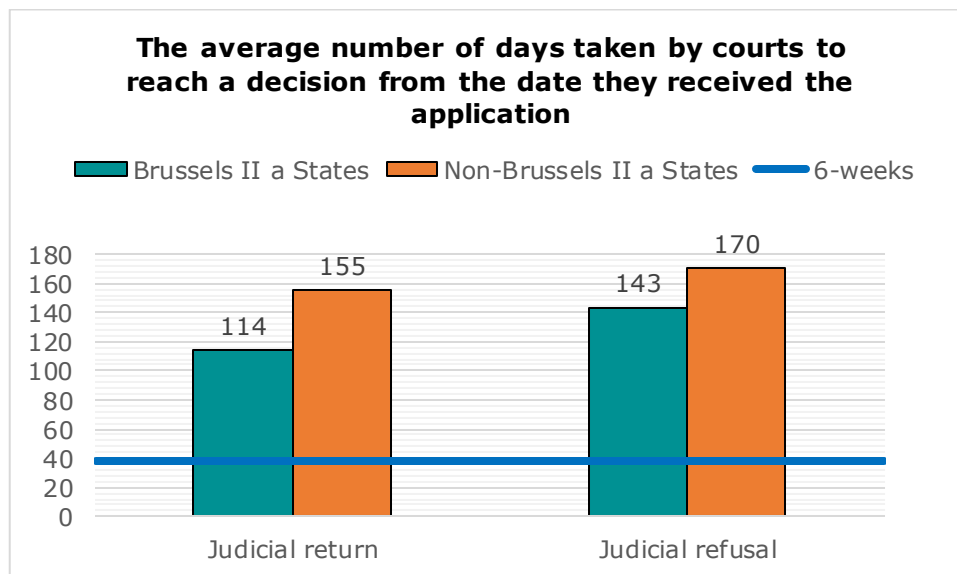
<sup>19</sup> Section 4.d.

to reach a final decision, as against the 144 days for applications from non-Brussels II a States.<sup>20</sup>



46. In 2008 applications between Brussels II a States were both sent to court more quickly and took less time to reach a final outcome. It took an average of 62 days to send an application from a Brussels II a State to court and 142 days for the court to conclude it, compared with 76 days and 184 days, respectively, for applications from non-Brussels II a States.

47. Looking more closely at the time taken by the court to reach a decision, cases to which the Regulation applied were resolved more quickly than those which were not subject to the Regulation. This can be seen in the graph below which looks at the overall timing for applications, including any appeals. Judicial returns took an average of 114 days to conclude, compared with 155 days for applications from non-Brussels II a States and judicial refusals took 143 days compared with 170 days.<sup>21</sup>



<sup>20</sup> Not all Central Authorities recorded the date at which the application was sent to court but information was available for 288 applications between Brussels II a States and the court time for 225 applications. The figures for applications from non-Brussels II a States was based on 94 applications in which the date the application was sent to court was recorded and 65 applications where the court time was known.

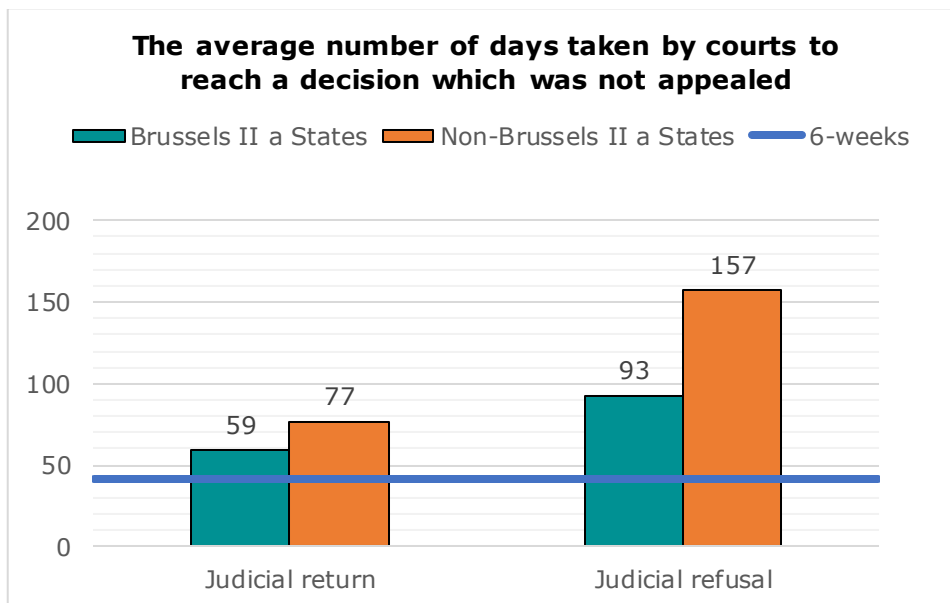
<sup>21</sup> Based on 154 applications between Brussels II a States (106 ending in a judicial return and 48 ending in a judicial refusal) and 49 applications received from non-Brussels II a States (27 ending in a judicial return and 22 ending in a judicial refusal).

48. Although applications to which the Regulation applied were resolved more quickly than applications from non-Brussels II a States, it is of note that only 23% of court decisions took less than six weeks to reach a final decision.<sup>22</sup> This figure was 15% in applications from non-Brussels II a States.<sup>23</sup>

*e. Timing and appeals*

49. Appeals also had an impact on the time taken to reach a final decision. Looking at all applications received by Brussels II a States, the court took an average of 82 days to resolve those that did not involve an appeal compared with 194 days for appealed decisions.<sup>24</sup>

50. The graph below shows the average time taken by the court to conclude applications ending in judicial orders for return or refusal to return which were not appealed.<sup>25</sup> As would be expected, it shows that applications took less time to conclude compared with the overall average time to reach a final decision, including appeals. Applications to which the Regulation applied were also resolved more quickly. The average number of days taken to reach a first-instance judicial order for return was much closer to the six-week target (42 days).



51. The graph below looks at applications that were decided on appeal. Judicial returns were concluded significantly more quickly in applications to which the Regulation applied whereas judicial refusals took marginally longer, when compared with applications from non-Brussels II a States.<sup>26</sup>

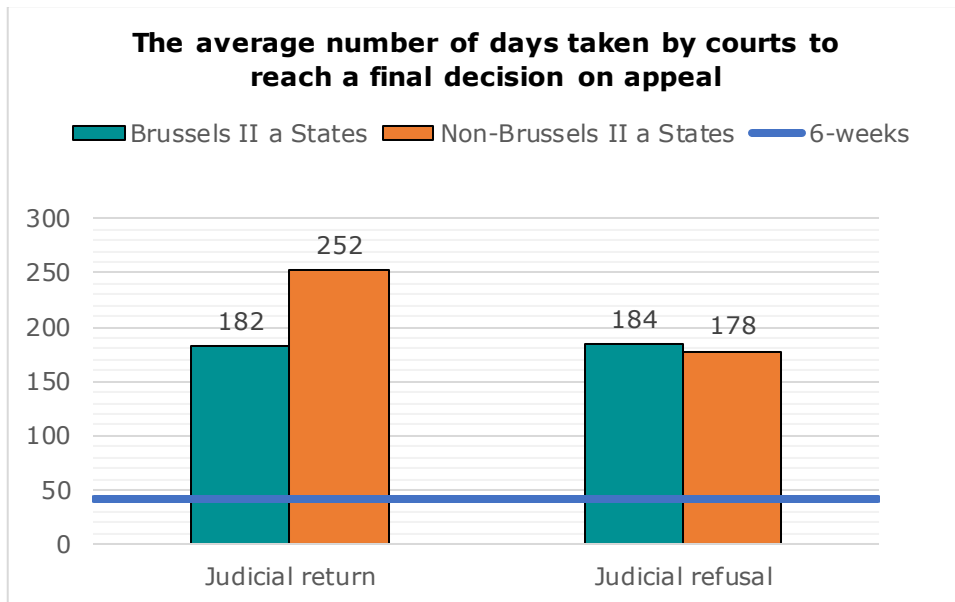
<sup>22</sup> 36 out of 160 court decisions in which information on the date sent to court and the final decision were available.

<sup>23</sup> 8 out of 52 court decisions in which information on the date sent to court and the final decision were available.

<sup>24</sup> Based on 183 applications that were not appealed and 108 applications decided on appeal.

<sup>25</sup> Based on 83 applications between Brussels II a States (60 ending in a judicial return and 23 in a judicial refusal) and 26 applications received from non-Brussels II a States (16 ending in a judicial return and 10 in a judicial refusal).

<sup>26</sup> Based on 73 applications between Brussels II a States (47 ending in a judicial return and 26 in a judicial refusal) and 25 applications received from non-Brussels II a States (12 ending in a judicial return and 13 in a judicial refusal).



52. The time taken to reach a final decision also depended on the number of times the application was appealed. Applications that were appealed only once took an average of 182 days to conclude from the date they were received by the court, applications that were appealed twice took an average of 340 days and the application that reached three levels of appeal took an average of 524 days.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Based on 100 applications that were appealed once, six that were appealed twice and one application appealed three times.

**Applications received by Brussels II a States from  
fellow Brussels II a States**

State	BIIA		Non-BIIA		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Austria	13	65%	7	35%	20
Belgium	22	81%	5	19%	27
Bulgaria	11	73%	4	27%	15
Croatia	0	0%	2	100%	2
Cyprus	2	67%	1	33%	3
Czech Republic	29	88%	4	12%	33
Estonia	5	83%	1	17%	6
Finland	2	100%	0	0%	2
France	67	64%	38	36%	105
Germany	122	71%	50	29%	172
Greece	7	58%	5	42%	12
Hungary	11	79%	3	21%	14
Ireland	34	85%	6	15%	40
Italy	33	60%	22	40%	55
Latvia	13	87%	2	13%	15
Lithuania	16	89%	2	11%	18
Luxembourg	3	75%	1	25%	4
Malta	1	100%	0	0%	1
Netherlands	21	68%	10	32%	31
Poland	43	88%	6	12%	49
Portugal	15	71%	6	29%	21
Romania	71	96%	3	4%	74
Slovakia	28	88%	4	13%	32
Slovenia	1	100%	0	0%	1
Spain	50	54%	42	46%	92
Sweden	15	60%	10	40%	25
UK - England and Wales	175	67%	86	33%	261
UK - Northern Ireland	5	83%	1	17%	6
UK - Scotland	15	60%	10	40%	25
Total	830	71%	331	29%	1161

## Proportion of applications resolved within 6 weeks of receipt by the Central Authority

Central Authority	Under 6 weeks		6 - 18 weeks		Over 18 weeks		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Austria			2	100%			2
Belgium	1	14%	2	29%	4	57%	7
Bulgaria			1	14%	6	86%	7
Croatia					2	100%	2
Cyprus					1	100%	1
Czech Republic	3	11%	13	46%	12	43%	28
Estonia					5	100%	5
Finland			1	100%			1
France	8	15%	17	31%	30	55%	55
Germany	4	7%	16	29%	35	64%	55
Greece					3	100%	3
Hungary	2	18%	4	36%	5	45%	11
Ireland	3	12%	7	28%	15	60%	25
Italy	3	38%	3	38%	2	25%	8
Latvia	1	7%	11	79%	2	14%	14
Lithuania			4	31%	9	69%	13
Luxembourg	2	67%			1	33%	3
Malta					1	100%	1
Netherlands	2	33%	1	17%	3	50%	6
Poland	5	11%	18	41%	21	48%	44
Portugal	3	19%	8	50%	5	31%	16
Romania	2	6%	2	6%	30	88%	34
Slovakia					5	100%	5
Slovenia					1	100%	1
Spain	2	5%	17	40%	23	55%	42
Sweden	2	29%	2	29%	3	43%	7
UK - England and Wales	55	24%	117	51%	56	25%	228
UK - Northern Ireland	1	17%	2	33%	3	50%	6
UK - Scotland	3	14%	13	62%	5	24%	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>651</b>

**Time taken for the Central Authority to send applications to court and the time the court then took to finalise the application**

State	Average time taken to send to court	Number of applications	Average time taken from receipt by the court to final decision	Number of applications
Belgium	126	6	177	3
Bulgaria	103	12	214	6
Croatia	84	2	194	2
Cyprus	290	1	13	1
Czech Republic	62	23	133	22
Estonia	36	6	258	5
Finland	19	1	72	1
France	61	62	125	45
Germany	93	55	82	49
Greece	175	7	183	3
Hungary	113	5	90	5
Ireland	49	34	140	24
Italy			95	7
Latvia	32	15	70	14
Lithuania	118	8	114	7
Luxembourg	65	1	131	1
Malta	50	1	360	1
Netherlands	72	5	85	2
Portugal	44	16	134	12
Romania	119	36	201	30
Slovakia			320	1
Slovenia	14	1	422	1
Sweden	140	1		
UK - England and Wales	13	31	76	28
UK - Northern Ireland	12	5	184	5
UK - Scotland	65	16	59	15
<b>Overall average</b>	<b>71 days</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>123 days</b>	<b>290</b>