

iSupport Governing Body 25 November 2024 online meeting

Summary of discussions

The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission, Brazil, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, the United States of America, the European Union Bailiffs Foundation (EUBF) and the National Child Support Engagement Association (NCSEA). The Permanent Bureau (PB) was represented by First Secretary Philippe Lortie (PL) and iSupport coordinator Jean-Marc Pellet (JMP). The meeting was chaired by Karin Honorato dos Santos (Sweden).

I. Implementation agreement and sharing of maintenance costs

1 JMP presented the two new version of the implementation agreement:

- An implementation agreement between the HCCH and a State. It is noted that this version includes the option to designate the law of a country to avoid the characterisation of agreement “in written form and governed by international law” that may be problematic for some participants.
- An implementation agreement between a State and Protech.

2 Participants are invited to sign an implementation agreement if they start implementing iSupport in the period until 31 August 2025.

3 The total maintenance fee payable to Protech is set at 35,000 euros for 2024-2025. It should be about 566 hours of support. JMP will monitor the consumption with Protech. The Governing Body will be consulted if the fee does not cover enough hours of support, as well as if the whole fee is not consumed by 31 August 2025.

II. iSupport developments and resource consumption

4 JMP explained that the new developments (functional developments in relation to payments and technical improvements) should be delivered during the week of 25 November 2024. These developments are part of the EU-funded ITMF project ending on 30 November 2024. The planned amount for subcontracting includes a final payment to Protech and a payment to Nowina. Nowina has produced a document summarising the technical feedback received on iSupport and e-CODEX. JMP will share this document and invite comments. Some recommendations made in the document could be implemented as part of iSupport R2G (EU-funded project that started on 1 September 2024).

III. Future developments

5 JMP presented possible future developments in iSupport R2G. They include changes to the archiving process, the creation of a new role in the iSupport application, technical improvements (see paragraph 4 above) and improvements to the existing Application Programming Interface (API). A delegate from Germany indicated support for developments on the API and explained that Germany had already made some comments. The European Commission confirmed that several EU Member States were waiting for developments on the API before deciding on implementation.

- 6 JMP will circulate Germany's comments as well as the existing documentation on the API and invite States to express their requirements. The aim is to have a list of requirements for the end of January 2025. Thus, participants are invited to send comments by COB 24 January 2025.

IV. Checklist planning for implementation

- 7 Sweden shared a draft implementation checklist that could be used between two participants to list all the actions to be performed before iSupport can be used between them. JMP will circulate the checklist for comments. The checklist can be used in the technical group, but it is noted that several actions also involve representatives of the business side. The European Commission indicated that the idea of a checklist was welcomed by several EU Member States.

V. Other items

- 8 The chair reminded participants of the existence of the iSupport test and iSupport production mailing lists and invited participants to set up functional email addresses for matters related to iSupport.