#### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

# TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY VIDEO-LINK UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS

**STATE NAME:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): 17.5.2017.

PART I: STATE

<ol> <li>Contact details</li> <li>The contact details provided in this section <u>will be published</u> on the Hague Conference website</li> </ol>		
CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST)		
As with any other Letter of Request under Chapter I of the Evidence Convention, the requesting authority should contact the Central Authority(ies) of the requested State when seeking to obtain evidence by means of a Letter of Request, whether using video-link or not.		
a) Are the contact details of the Central Authority(ies) designated by Your State upto-date on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website?	<ul> <li>✓ Yes.</li> <li>No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.</li> </ul>	
b) Would Your State be in favour of specifying a person or department within the Central Authority(ies) who would assist in processing Letters of Request where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details:  No. Please explain why:  Comments:	
c) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the requesting authority can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?		

### CHAPTER II (TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS)

Permission by a designated authority may be required to apply certain provisions under Chapter II. To know if such a permission is required for a particular State, see the practical information chart (accessible from the <u>Authorities</u> page) AND / OR the declarations (accessible from the <u>Status Table</u> page) of the relevant State available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.

If permission is not required, applicants should contact the diplomatic and consular mission (Arts 15/16) or the commissioner (Art. 17) to explore whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

If permission is required, applicants should contact the authority that was designated to grant permission AND the relevant diplomatic and consular mission or commissioner, to explore, where necessary, whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

d) Would Your State be in favour of specifying an entity or authority, in addition to the relevant authority / diplomatic or consular agent / commissioner, that would assist in processing applications where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details:  No. Please explain why:  Comments:
e) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the Court of Origin can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	

#### PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

Legal basis	
a) Does Your State, in the application of Article 27 (i.e. internal law or practice), allow for a foreign Court to directly take evidence by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Please specify:  Comments:
b) Please indicate the legal basis or applicable protocols (i.e., relevant laws, regulations, practice, etc.) for the use of video-links in the taking of evidence in Your State, either under the Convention or independent of the Convention (see, e.g. Art. 27 (b) and (c)):  Please also attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French.	
c) Does Your State have any agreements with other Contracting States that derogate from the Convention when taking evidence by video-link (see Art. 28 and Art. 32)?	<ul> <li>Yes.         Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French:         No.     </li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
Court system	
d) Please indicate which courts permit, or have the facilities for, the taking of evidence by video-link. If possible, indicate where relevant information on videoconferencing facilities in courts can be found online:	<ul> <li>□ All courts.</li> <li>□ All courts of a specific type / level. Please specify:</li> <li>☑ Only specific courts. Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list: http://www.pravosudje.ba/vstv/faces/kategorijevijesti.jsp?ins=10001&amp;modul=7694&amp;kat=7711&amp;kolona=114395</li> <li>□ None.</li> </ul> Comments:

#### PART III: TECHNICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS (APPLICABLE TO BOTH CHAPTERS)

a) Does Your State use licensed software (which ensures support for technical and security matters) for the taking of evidence by videolink?	<ul><li>✓ Yes.</li><li>Please specify: Cisco telepresence system</li><li>☐ No.</li></ul>
	Comments:
	The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council only provides this answer on behalf of courts and prosecutor's offices in BH.
b) What are the specifications of the video-link technology in use in Your State, including, if any, the minimum standards or mechanisms used to secure the communications and any	Codec (i.e., manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): CISCO/TANDBERG,C20,SX20,Edge 95,SX80,do 6Mbps,od 512kbps-6Mbps
recordings made?  States are encouraged to provide as much	Video and audio standards ( <i>e.g.</i> Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): VIDEO:H.261 H.263 H.263+ H.264;
information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider	AUDIO:G.711 G722 G722.1 G728 G.729; AAC-LD
liaising with the relevant IT experts.	Type of network (e.g., ISDN, IP, etc.):
	Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: H.323 and SIP point-to-point; Standards-based: H.253v3 and Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)
	Split screen capability:
	Document cameras:
	Depending on the location
	Multipoint connections: YES
	Additional specifications or capabilities:
	Protocols or other practices: H323 and SIP
	Comments:
c) Can evidence be taken via commercial providers ( $e.g.$ , Skype <sup>TM</sup> )?	Yes. Please specify:
	⊠ No.
	Comments:
	Based on the practises so far known to the HJPC in the courts and prosecutor's offices in BH
d) Does Your State have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?	<ul> <li>✓ Yes.         Please specify: The interested parties needs to arrange equipment and link testing before the official witness hearing         No.     </li> </ul>
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	Comments:
	The HJPC only provides this answer in the name of courts and prosecutor's offices in BH
e) Does Your State have any requirements as to the hearing room, e.g., should be located in a court, should have a camera view of the whole room or a view of all the parties, etc.?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:

## PART IV: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER BOTH CHAPTERS – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions	
a) Must a court order directing the use of video- links first be obtained from the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II)?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.
	Comments:
b) Are there any restrictions on what type/s of evidence can be taken by video-link or how it is to be taken?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:
c) Are there any specific restrictions on how evidence gathered via video-link can be handled and distributed, or do the usual rules for evidence obtained in person apply?	<ul> <li>☐ Yes, there are specific restrictions.         Please specify:         ☐ No, the normal rules for evidence apply.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	<ul> <li>☐ Yes.         Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link:</li> <li>☐ No.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (e.g. in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:
g) Can a witness / expert be compelled to use video-links to give evidence?	☐ Yes.  If so, please specify what coercive measures may be used:  ☐ No.  Please explain:

#### PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Comments:
h) Please briefly outline the procedure/s, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for actually notifying or summoning the witness / expert to give evidence by video-link, including any references to relevant laws, regulations or practice.	Chapter I: Chapter II: Comments:
Please also include, where applicable, the differences between notifying or summoning a willing witness / expert and notifying or summoning a witness / expert that is to be compelled.	
i) The law of which State governs the use of privileges?  Please tick all that apply.  See Articles 11 and 21(e) of the Convention	Chapter I:  The law of the Requesting State.  The law of the Requested State.  The law of another State.  Please specify:
	Chapter II:  The law of the State of Origin.  The law of the State of Execution.  The law of another State.  Please specify:
	Comments:

## PART V: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER I</u> (LETTERS OF REQUEST) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal obstacles	
a) Does Your State consider that there are legal obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?  The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (see C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
b) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the direct taking of evidence by judicial personnel of the <i>requesting</i> State ( <i>i.e.</i> , the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	☐ Yes. ☐ No.  Comments:
c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	<ul> <li>□ Art. 9(1) – The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (e.g., a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State.</li> <li>□ Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied:</li> <li>See also questions on presence.</li> <li>Comments:</li> </ul>
Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
d) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in Your State when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter I (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	
Presence	
e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link?  See Article 7 of the Convention	<ul><li>☐ Yes.     If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:</li><li>☐ No.</li></ul> Comments:

#### PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

f) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your STATE allow for the cross-examination of a witness / expert by video-link by the representatives located in the <i>requesting</i> State ( <i>i.e.</i> , the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	☐ Yes. ☐ No.  Comments:
g) Does Your State allow for the presence of the judicial personnel of the requesting State via video-link?  See Article 8 of the Convention  Please note that a declaration may be made under this provision.	<ul><li>☐ Yes.     If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:</li><li>☐ No.</li><li>Comments:</li></ul>

## PART VI: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER II</u> (BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The questions in this Part are only for States that have not wholly excluded the application of Chapter II		
Please note that Chapter II may be subject to a reservation in whole or in part under Article 33. Check the reservations that Your State has made under this Chapter in the status table, available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.		
Legal obstacles and legal framework		
a) Does Your State consider there to be any legal obstacles to the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.	
The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	Comments:	
b) Under which provisions of Chapter II of the Convention is taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	☐ Art. 15 ☐ Art. 16 ☐ Art. 17  Comments:	
c) Is prior permission from Your State required when taking evidence under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State?	Yes. Please outline the procedure for seeking such permission, including any specific conditions that must be satisfied:  No.  Comments:	
d) Please indicate who administers the oath or affirmation and how perjury and contempt are dealt with when evidence is taken under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State.	Administration of the oath or affirmation:  Dealing with perjury and contempt:	
Direct and indirect taking of evidence		
e) Diplomatic and consular agents are usually located in the State where the witness / expert resides. It may be, however, that a witness / expert is located in a neighbouring country or in a place distant from the Embassy or Consulate. In these circumstances, does Your State consider it possible to use video-link to obtain evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	

#### PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
f) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in Your State when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	
Presence	
g) Under the law of Your State, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by diplomatic and consular agents?  Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
	Comments:
h) Under the law of Your State, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by commissioners?  Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
	Comments:
Applicable law	Comments:
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?	The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	☐ The law of the State of Origin ☐ The law of the State of Execution ☐ It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner.
i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:

#### PART VII PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON TO BOTH CHAPTERS		
Notice		
a) What does Your State consider to be the minimum amount of time required between the request and the actual hearing in order to make the arrangements to take evidence by video-link?	Chapter II:	
Interpretation services		
b) Who is responsible, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for the use of interpretation services and who arranges these services in YOUR STATE when video-link is used?	Chapter I: Chapter II:	
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in Your State, and where can relevant contact details be found?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	
d) Under the law of Your State, is interpretation to be <i>simultaneous</i> or <i>consecutive</i> when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?		
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?  Please check all that apply.	☐ In the room with the witness / expert. ☐ In the room with those conducting the examination. ☐ Elsewhere in the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II). ☐ Elsewhere in the requested State (Chapter I) / State of Execution (Chapter II). ☐ In a third State. ☐ Other. ☐ Please specify:  Comments:	
Reporting and recording		
f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared?	Yes. Please specify by whom: Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report:  No.  Comments:	

g) Are facilities and equipment made available in	Yes, with audio and video.
order to record the hearing or testimony?	Yes, only with video.
	Yes, only with audio.
	No, but the recording of
	hearings/testimonies is permitted.
	If a recording is produced, please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the recording: The Criminal Procedure Laws on all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribe that witness hearings may be recorded with audio or audio-visual devices in all phases of the procedure. The hearing has to be recorded in cases involving minors who are not sixteen years of age yet, and who are adversely affected by a crime, as well as when there are grounds for fear that it will not be possible to interview the witness at the
	main trial.  All actions taken during the criminal procedure are generally recorded with an audio or audio-visual device. The person to be interviewed is informed of this in advance by the prosecutor, or an authorised official, and is informed of the right to request a playback of the recording in order to check his/her statement.
	All prosecutor's offices have equipment which enables audio recording and playback of audio recordings when taking witness statements in the investigation phase in criminal cases. All courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina have equipment which enables audio recording and playback of audio recordings from hearings in criminal cases. Furthermore, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Cantonal Court in Sarajevo, Bihać, Tuzla, Zenica, Novi Travnik and Mostar, the District Courts in Banja Luka, Doboj, Bijelijna, Istočno Sarajevo and Trebinje, and the Basic Court in Brčko District BiH have equipment which provides the following features:
	<ul> <li>Image and sound transfer from a separate room for witnesses into the court room and vice versa,</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Image and sound distortion for witness identity protection;</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Transcription of court hearings,</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>image and sound distribution and presentation within the court room;</li> </ul>

#### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	<ul> <li>image and sound recording and archiving onto adequate electronic media;</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>graphic presentation of evidence within the court room and the separate room for witnesses.</li> </ul>
	Procedural actions in other types of cases are not recorded with audio or audiovisual devices.
	No, because the recording of hearings/testimonies is not permitted under internal law.
	Comments:
Documents and exhibits	
h) What arrangements are to be made for showing or referring to documents or exhibits when taking evidence by video-link?	

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I		
Practical obstacles		
i) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors		
j) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter I?		
Standard Forms		
k) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter I that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?  The use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I.  While the Model Form has no explicit reference to	<ul> <li>☐ Yes.         Please specify:</li> <li>☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.</li> <li>☐ No standardised form is used.</li> </ul> Comments:	
the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.		
I) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the requesting State in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness / expert examination by video-link under Chapter I? (e.g. contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc)	Yes. Please specify: IT support contact deails, and the public IP address of the other side sending the video call  No.  Comments:	
	The HJPC provides this answer only on behalf of	
	the courts and prosecutor's office of BH	
Costs		
m) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:  No.  Comments:	
n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs	The moving party (requesting the use of	
occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter I in Your State?  See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention	video-link).  The requesting authority (in the requesting State).  The requested authority (in the requested State).  Other. Please specify: The video system in courts	

#### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

	and prosecutor's offices in BH uses IP technology and has no costs for establishing video links  Comments:
o) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☐ Other. Please specify:  Comments:
p) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter I in Your State when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER II		
Only for States that have not excluded in whole the application of Chapter II		
Practical obstacles		
q) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	
Identification of all relevant actors		
r) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your STATE when video-link is used under Chapter II?		
Standard Forms		
s) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter II that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?  Although the use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I, it may also be used, with the necessary amendments when applying for permission to take evidence under Chapter II.  While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.	<ul> <li>☐ Yes.         Please specify:</li> <li>☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.</li> <li>☐ No standardised form is used.</li> </ul> Comments:	
Assistance and facilities		
t) Are the Embassies and Consulates of Your State (acting as the State of Execution) able to assist applicants in arranging a video-link?	Yes. Please specify how, e.g., via a booking system:  No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone:	
	Comments:	
u) Is it possible to hold a video-link session requested under the Convention at the premises of the Embassies or Consulates of Your State abroad?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	
v) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the State of Origin in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness or expert examination by video-link under Chapter II? (e.g. the use of interpreters, stenographers, or recording devices)	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.  Comments:	

#### PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Costs	
w) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	Yes.  Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:
	□ No.
	Comments:
x) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	<ul> <li>☐ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link).</li> <li>☐ The State of Origin</li> <li>☐ The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution.</li> <li>☐ The commissioner</li> <li>☐ Other. Please specify:</li> </ul> Comments:
y) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	Payment in cash Payment by (credit) card Electronic/wire transfer Other. Please specify:  Comments:
z) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter II in YOUR STATE when videolink is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	