



iSupport is funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union (2014-2020)



## **iSupport Governing Body 18 June 2020**

### **Summary**

1. Present were representatives from Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, the United States of America and the National Child Support Enforcement Association. The meeting was chaired by Floor de Jongh Bekkali representing Norway. Present for the PB were Philippe Lortie (PL), Jean-Marc Pellet (JMP) and Charlotte Darbas.

2. The following supporting documents, including an agenda, reflected in this summary, were distributed in advance of the meeting:

- Background note
- Description CMT
- e-Delivery Configuration Management Tool
- Trust Model Guidance
- iSupport Governing Body 2-way SSL

#### **I. Developments in e-CODEX**

3. JMP presented recent developments in e-CODEX.

#### **II. Budget overview and transition to next project**

4. JMP presented an update on budget consumption and remarked that € 28,000 are not currently assigned. This is due to the Covid-19 crisis, which prevented travel, and to other costs that were lower than anticipated. No objection was raised to re-redirecting this amount towards subcontracting in order to cover additional work on the upgraded encryption version.

5. Regarding the next project (iSupport ISD, starting in September 2020), PL remarked that it does not include maintenance costs, which will have to be covered by participants. In view of the foreseen limited number of actual users of iSupport during the first six months of the project, PL proposed to waive the maintenance fee for that period. This will leave € 37,500 for the period from March to August 2021 and € 75,000 for the period from September 2021 to August 2022. The contract would be drafted to provide for an additional flexibility of six months, if deemed necessary. PL reminded participants that this maintenance fee is fixed regardless of the number of participants and that participants contribute in accordance with their Universal Postal Unit allocation towards the Regular Budget of the HCCH. <sup>1</sup>No objection was raised to the proposal.

6. Finally, there was no objection to extending Protech's contract for a further two years on the basis of the arrangement described in paragraph 5.

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<sup>1</sup> UPU contribution units can be consulted at [www.upu.int](http://www.upu.int), in the section "Members"

### **III. Update on technical developments**

7. In response to a comment from Finland, JMP clarified that the new version and the 2019 version will not be compatible. This means that countries should aim to upgrade to the new version at the same time. Brazil remarked that participants should be able to keep track of the version being operated by other participants. JMP indicated that there is a spreadsheet to that effect on the iSupport Teams collaborative space (Manuals and reference documents / Files / iSupport connection status).

### **IV. Certificate management in iSupport**

8. Austria remarked that a document with recommendations in terms of certificates is being prepared in the context of the civil law procedures managed by the Me-CODEX II consortium. A draft of the document can be shared.

9. JMP will share the draft of the e-CODEX document with participants and convene a Working Group at the suggestion of the United States of America, which will meet with a view to providing the Governing Body with recommendations. The Group will report in the autumn of 2020. The United States of America and Norway volunteered to be part of the Group.

### **V. Presentation on 2-way SSL**

10. After a presentation by OCSE, Norway enquired about the use of *Let's encrypt*. OCSE will investigate it. Austria mentioned that e-CODEX criminal law applications are already using two-way SSL. Civil law applications are still using one-way SSL but a shift is planned.

11. Two-way SSL is being tested by Protech on the iSupport sandbox. JMP will report on progress and recommend shifting to two-way SSL at the convenience of participating countries.

### **VI. Configuration Management Tool (CMT) for e-CODEX**

12. JMP will clarify the administrative arrangement with the Me-CODEX II consortium as soon as possible. Norway remarked on the relative simplicity of the tool and acknowledged its benefits.

### **VII. State of play of participating countries**

13. Norway indicated having had the 2019 version installed as a test version for a while. It has also been testing e-CODEX for some time. Germany remarked that the 2019 version has been installed for testing. First tests with Norway started in February 2020. The current focus is on the e-CODEX connection. Portugal reported slow progress due to lack of resources. Finland indicated its plan to install the 2020 version in the autumn. In Brazil, the current version is being installed and preparations are made for the e-CODEX connection. The United States of America continues its work on iSupport implementation. In Austria, there is no concrete plan for now. The Czech Republic indicated having solved an issue with server capacity. France has installed the 2018 version and is in the process of installing the 2019 version.

### **VIII. Any other business**

14. PL indicates that the Secretary General of the HCCH will write to ministers of the 27 EU Members to invite them either to install iSupport or to thank them for their support and encourage further progress. The letters emphasise the solution that iSupport is bringing in terms of continuity of operations in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

15. JMP mentioned that some participants have remarked that the current implementation agreements are ending in August. He will propose a new version for the next project.
16. A representative from Norway mentioned interest for iSupport from the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI, active in the EU and EEA countries), and in particular, for its cost-effective approach. JMP indicated being available to present iSupport to EESSI participants.