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: CYPRUS

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): 28th July 2014

PART I: STATE

1. Contact details The contact details provided in this section <u>will be published</u> on the Hague Conference website		
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 up- to-date on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website?	 Yes. No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website. 	
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: Yioulika Hadjiprodromou Legal Officer Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus Tel.: +357 22805943 Fax.: +357 22805969 e-mail: yhadjiprodromou@mjpo.gov.cy 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 (<i>e.g.</i> is there a booking system)?	A staff member of the Court and/or technician is present on the day of the hearing.	

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 (<i>e.g.</i> , 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: Not available in diplomatic and consular missions. <i>Comments</i>:
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 (<i>e.g.</i> is there a booking system)?	Not available

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

 Yes. Please specify: No. Please specify: <i>Comments</i>:
Cap. 12, Foreign Tribunal Evidence Law Yes. Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French:
www.mfa.gov.cy No. Comments:
 All courts. All courts of a specific type / level. Please specify: Only specific courts. Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list: None.

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 video- link?	Yes.Please specify: Aethra software licenseNo.
	Comments:
 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 recordings made? States are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider liaising with the relevant IT experts. 	Codec (<i>i.e.</i> , manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): Aethra. Vega star silver, 128 kbps Video and audio standards (<i>e.g.</i> Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): Type of network (<i>e.g.</i> , ISDN, IP, etc.): ISDN Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: H.320 Split screen capability: Yes Document cameras: Can connect computer directly (can show document through PC) Multipoint connections: No Additional specifications or capabilities: Protocols or other practices: Technical Specifications Supported Standards ITU-T H.320 ISDN ITU-T H.323 IP Networks Video H.261, H.263++ Audio G.711, G.722, G.728 Data T.120 Features Bit rate 64:2 Mbps over IP S6:384 Mbps over ISDN 3 BRI Simultaneous video motion coding and PC presentations from the XGA input (option)
c) Can evidence be taken via commercial	Yes.
providers (<i>e.g.</i> , Skype™)?	Please specify: No.

	Comments:
d) Does YOUR STATE have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?	 Yes. Please specify: A few days before the actual hearing a test is carried out to ensure that the technical systems of the two countries are compatible No.
	Comments:
e) Does Your STATE have any requirements as to the hearing room, <i>e.g.</i> , 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: It should be located in the court and the camera view is set according to the requirements of the requesting state 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: According to the rules of avidence 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?	 Yes, there are specific restrictions. Please specify: No, the normal rules for evidence apply. <i>Comments</i>:
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	 ☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. <i>Comments</i>:
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	 Yes. Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link: No. <i>Comments</i>: If the parties do not agree, the court will decide whether to allow the use of videolink
 f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (<i>e.g.</i> in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)? 	 Yes. Please specify: In a courtroom No. <i>Comments</i>:

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: If he has been officially summoned by the court, then the court might compell him to appear through an arrest warrant No. Please explain:
 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. 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. 	Chapter I: The Central Authority forwards the request to the appropriate court, which officially summons the witness in writing by informing him of the nature of the case and date and time that he should attend court Chapter II: Comments:
 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:

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. <i>Comments</i>:
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. <i>Comments</i>: A judge of the requesting state might take evidence directly
c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	 Art. 9(1) - The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (<i>e.g.</i>, a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State. Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied: See also questions on presence. Comments:
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 (<i>e.g.</i> protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)? 	The person to be examined presents to the court his identity card or passport and then he swears according to his faith that he will tell to the court the truth. If the requesting court asks, the court will provide an interpreter. There is no need for a legal counsel to represent the witness. If protective measures are requested, these will be provided accordingly.
Presence	
e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to

PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link?	actively participate:
See Article 7 of the Convention	□ No.
	Comments:
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.<i>Comments</i>:
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.	 Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate: They are allowed to set questions No. <i>Comments</i>:

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	Administration of the oath or affirmation:	
of Your State.	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. <i>Comments</i>: 	

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 (<i>e.g.</i> 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:
 Applicable law 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 I: One month 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: The requested court will provide the interpreter for the witness unless the requesting court wishes to appoint an interpreter
	Chapter II:
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in YOUR STATE, and where can relevant contact details be found?	 ☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. <i>Comments</i>:
 d) Under the law of YOUR STATE, is interpretation to be simultaneous or consecutive when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? 	There is no legal requirement. Interpretaion can be either simultaneous or consecutive
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? <i>Please check all that apply.</i>	 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:
Reporting and recording	
 f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared? 	 Yes. Please specify by whom: This is usually prepared by the assistant of the judge in the requesting state Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report: No.

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Comments:
g) Are facilities and equipment made available in order to record the hearing or testimony?	 Yes, with audio and video. 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:
	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?	In some instances these might be forwarded and printed in advance

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I			
Practical obstacles	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. <i>Comments</i>: 		
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?	The person to be examined will be asked to bring some form of identification with him		
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 <u>Model Form</u> of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I. 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. 	 Yes. Please specify: The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. No standardised form is used. 		
 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? (<i>e.g.</i> contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc) 	 Yes. Please specify: Contact details for technicians, technical specifications, whether they will require the use of translation services No. 		
Casha			
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: The court will decide on a case to case basis No. 		
n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE? See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention	 The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). The requesting authority (in the requesting State). The requested authority (in the requested State). 		

	Other. Please specify: <i>Comments</i> :
 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?	The moving party will pay, e.g. the translator on a private agreement. The use of technical services, if its minimai, it is not charged

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. 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: The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. No standardised form is used. <i>Comments</i>: Yes. Please specify how, <i>e.g.</i>, via a booking system: 	
	 No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone: <i>Comments</i>: 	
 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? (<i>e.g.</i> 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? 	 The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). The State of Origin The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution. The commissioner Other. Please specify: 	
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 video- link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?		