CONFÉRENCE DE LA HAYE
DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL PRIVÉ

HAGUE CONFERENCE
ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

vingtième session
TWENTIETH SESSION

acte final
FINAL ACT

la haye, le 30 juin 2005

THE HAGUE, 30TH JUNE 2005
Final Act of the Twentieth Session

The undersigned, Delegates of the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, United States of America and Venezuela, convened at The Hague from 14 -30 June 2005, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, in the Twentieth Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Following the deliberations laid down in the records of the meetings, they have decided to submit to their Governments –

**A The following Convention –**

**CONVENTION ON CHOICE OF COURT AGREEMENTS**

The States Parties to the present Convention, Desiring to promote international trade and investment through enhanced judicial co-operation, Believing that such co-operation can be enhanced by uniform rules on jurisdiction and on recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in civil or commercial matters, Believing that such enhanced co-operation requires in particular an international legal regime that provides certainty and ensures the effectiveness of exclusive choice of court agreements between parties to commercial transactions and that governs the recognition and enforcement of judgments resulting from proceedings based on such agreements, Have resolved to conclude this Convention and have agreed upon the following provisions –

**CHAPTER I – SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS**

**Article 1 Scope**

1. This Convention shall apply in international cases to exclusive choice of court agreements concluded in civil or commercial matters.
2. For the purposes of Chapter II, a case is international unless the parties are resident in the same Contracting State and the relationship of the parties and all other elements relevant to the dispute, regardless of the location of the chosen court, are connected only with that State.
3. For the purposes of Chapter III, a case is international where recognition or enforcement of a foreign judgment is sought.

**Article 2 Exclusions from scope**

1. This Convention shall not apply to exclusive choice of court agreements –
   a) to which a natural person acting primarily for personal, family or household purposes (a consumer) is a party;
   b) relating to contracts of employment, including collective agreements.
2. This Convention shall not apply to the following matters –
   a) the status and legal capacity of natural persons;
   b) maintenance obligations;
   c) other family law matters, including matrimonial property regimes and other rights or obligations arising out of marriage or similar relationships;
   d) wills and succession;
   e) insolvency, composition and analogous matters;
   f) the carriage of passengers and goods;
   g) marine pollution, limitation of liability for maritime claims, general average, and emergency towage and salvage;
   h) anti-trust (competition) matters;
   i) liability for nuclear damage;
   j) claims for personal injury brought by or on behalf of natural persons;
   k) tort or delict claims for damage to tangible property that do not arise from a contractual relationship;
1) rights in rem in immovable property, and tenancies of immovable property;

m) the validity, nullity, or dissolution of legal persons, and the validity of decisions of their organs;

n) the validity of intellectual property rights other than copyright and related rights;

o) infringement of intellectual property rights other than copyright and related rights, except where infringement proceedings are brought for breach of a contract between the parties relating to such rights, or could have been brought for breach of that contract;

p) the validity of entries in public registers.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, proceedings are not excluded from the scope of this Convention where a matter excluded under that paragraph arises merely as a preliminary question and not as an object of the proceedings. In particular, the mere fact that a matter excluded under paragraph 2 arises by way of defence does not exclude proceedings from the Convention, if that matter is not an object of the proceedings.

4. This Convention shall not apply to arbitration and related proceedings.

5. Proceedings are not excluded from the scope of this Convention by the mere fact that a State, including a government, a governmental agency or any person acting for a State, is a party thereto.

6. Nothing in this Convention shall affect privileges and immunities of States or of international organisations, in respect of themselves and of their property.

Article 3 Exclusive choice of court agreements

For the purposes of this Convention –

a) “exclusive choice of court agreement” means an agreement concluded by two or more parties that meets the requirements of paragraph c) and designates, for the purpose of deciding disputes which have arisen or may arise in connection with a particular legal relationship, the courts of one Contracting State or one or more specific courts of one Contracting State to the exclusion of the jurisdiction of any other courts;

b) a choice of court agreement which designates the courts of one Contracting State or one or more specific courts of one Contracting State shall be deemed to be exclusive unless the parties have expressly provided otherwise;

c) an exclusive choice of court agreement must be concluded or documented –

i) in writing; or

ii) by any other means of communication which renders information accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference;

d) an exclusive choice of court agreement that forms part of a contract shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the contract. The validity of the exclusive choice of court agreement cannot be contested solely on the ground that the contract is not valid.

Article 4 Other definitions

1. In this Convention, “judgment” means any decision on the merits given by a court, whatever it may be called, including a decree or order, and a determination of costs or expenses by the court (including an officer of the court), provided that the determination relates to a decision on the merits which may be recognised or enforced under this Convention. An interim measure of protection is not a judgment.

2. For the purposes of this Convention, an entity or person other than a natural person shall be considered to be resident in the State –

a) where it has its statutory seat;

b) under whose law it was incorporated or formed;

c) where it has its central administration; or

d) where it has its principal place of business.

CHAPTER II – JURISDICTION

Article 5 Jurisdiction of the chosen court

1. The court or courts of a Contracting State designated in an exclusive choice of court agreement shall have jurisdiction to decide a dispute to which the agreement applies, unless the agreement is null and void under the law of that State.

2. A court that has jurisdiction under paragraph 1 shall not decline to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that the dispute should be decided in a court of another State.

3. The preceding paragraphs shall not affect rules –

a) on jurisdiction related to subject matter or to the value of the claim;

b) on the internal allocation of jurisdiction among the courts of a Contracting State. However, where the chosen court has discretion as to whether to transfer a case, due consideration should be given to the choice of the parties.
Article 6  Obligations of a court not chosen

A court of a Contracting State other than that of the chosen court shall suspend or dismiss proceedings to which an exclusive choice of court agreement applies unless –

a) the agreement is null and void under the law of the State of the chosen court;

b) a party lacked the capacity to conclude the agreement under the law of the State of the court seised;

c) giving effect to the agreement would lead to a manifest injustice or would be manifestly contrary to the public policy of the State of the court seised;

d) for exceptional reasons beyond the control of the parties, the agreement cannot reasonably be performed; or

e) the chosen court has decided not to hear the case.

Article 7  Interim measures of protection

Interim measures of protection are not governed by this Convention. This Convention neither requires nor precludes the grant, refusal or termination of interim measures of protection by a court of a Contracting State and does not affect whether or not a party may request or a court should grant, refuse or terminate such measures.

CHAPTER III – RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT

Article 8  Recognition and enforcement

1. A judgment given by a court of a Contracting State designated in an exclusive choice of court agreement shall be recognised and enforced in other Contracting States in accordance with this Chapter. Recognition or enforcement may be refused only on the grounds specified in this Convention.

2. Without prejudice to such review as is necessary for the application of the provisions of this Chapter, there shall be no review of the merits of the judgment given by the court of origin. The court addressed shall be bound by the findings of fact on which the court of origin based its jurisdiction, unless the judgment was given by default.

3. A judgment shall be recognised only if it has effect in the State of origin, and shall be enforced only if it is enforceable in the State of origin.

4. Recognition or enforcement may be postponed or refused if the judgment is the subject of review in the State of origin or if the time limit for seeking ordinary review has not expired. A refusal does not prevent a subsequent application for recognition or enforcement of the judgment.

5. This Article shall also apply to a judgment given by a court of a Contracting State pursuant to a transfer of the case from the chosen court in that Contracting State as permitted by Article 5, paragraph 3. However, where the chosen court had discretion as to whether to transfer the case to another court, recognition or enforcement of the judgment may be refused against a party who objected to the transfer in a timely manner in the State of origin.

Article 9  Refusal of recognition or enforcement

Recognition or enforcement may be refused if –

a) the agreement was null and void under the law of the State of the chosen court, unless the chosen court has determined that the agreement is valid;

b) a party lacked the capacity to conclude the agreement under the law of the requested State;

c) the document which instituted the proceedings or an equivalent document, including the essential elements of the claim,

i) was not notified to the defendant in sufficient time and in such a way as to enable him to arrange for his defence, unless the defendant entered an appearance and presented his case without contesting notification in the court of origin, provided that the law of the State of origin permitted notification to be contested; or

ii) was notified to the defendant in the requested State in a manner that is incompatible with fundamental principles of the requested State concerning service of documents;

d) the judgment was obtained by fraud in connection with a matter of procedure;

e) recognition or enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with the public policy of the requested State, including situations where the specific proceedings leading to the judgment were incompatible with fundamental principles of procedural fairness of that State;

f) the judgment is inconsistent with a judgment given in the requested State in a dispute between the same parties; or

g) the judgment is inconsistent with an earlier judgment given in another State between the same parties on the same cause of action, provided that the earlier judgment fulfils the conditions necessary for its recognition in the requested State.

Article 10  Preliminary questions

1. Where a matter excluded under Article 2, paragraph 2, or under Article 21, arose as a preliminary question, the ruling
on that question shall not be recognised or enforced under this Convention.

2. Recognition or enforcement of a judgment may be refused if, and to the extent that, the judgment was based on a ruling on a matter excluded under Article 2, paragraph 2.

3. However, in the case of a ruling on the validity of an intellectual property right other than copyright or a related right, recognition or enforcement of a judgment may be refused or postponed under the preceding paragraph only where –

(a) that ruling is inconsistent with a judgment or a decision of a competent authority on that matter given in the State under the law of which the intellectual property right arose; or

(b) proceedings concerning the validity of the intellectual property right are pending in that State.

4. Recognition or enforcement of a judgment may be refused if, and to the extent that, the judgment was based on a ruling on a matter excluded pursuant to a declaration made by the requested State under Article 21.

Article 11 Damages

1. Recognition or enforcement of a judgment may be refused if, and to the extent that, the judgment awards damages, including exemplary or punitive damages, that do not compensate a party for actual loss or harm suffered.

2. The court addressed shall take into account whether and to what extent the damages awarded by the court of origin serve to cover costs and expenses relating to the proceedings.

Article 12 Judicial settlements (transactions judiciaires)

Judicial settlements (transactions judiciaires) which a court of a Contracting State designated in an exclusive choice of court agreement has approved, or which have been concluded before that court in the course of proceedings, and which are enforceable in the same manner as a judgment in the State of origin, shall be enforced under this Convention in the same manner as a judgment.

Article 13 Documents to be produced

1. The party seeking recognition or applying for enforcement shall produce –

(a) a complete and certified copy of the judgment;

(b) the exclusive choice of court agreement, a certified copy thereof, or other evidence of its existence;

c) if the judgment was given by default, the original or a certified copy of a document establishing that the document which instituted the proceedings or an equivalent document was notified to the defaulting party;

d) any documents necessary to establish that the judgment has effect or, where applicable, is enforceable in the State of origin;

e) in the case referred to in Article 12, a certificate of a court of the State of origin that the judicial settlement or a part of it is enforceable in the same manner as a judgment in the State of origin.

2. If the terms of the judgment do not permit the court addressed to verify whether the conditions of this Chapter have been complied with, that court may require any necessary documents.

3. An application for recognition or enforcement may be accompanied by a document, issued by a court (including an officer of the court) of the State of origin, in the form recommended and published by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

4. If the documents referred to in this Article are not in an official language of the requested State, they shall be accompanied by a certified translation into an official language, unless the law of the requested State provides otherwise.

Article 14 Procedure

The procedure for recognition, declaration of enforceability or registration for enforcement, and the enforcement of the judgment, are governed by the law of the requested State unless this Convention provides otherwise. The court addressed shall act expeditiously.

Article 15 Severability

Recognition or enforcement of a severable part of a judgment shall be granted where recognition or enforcement of that part is applied for, or only part of the judgment is capable of being recognised or enforced under this Convention.

CHAPTER IV – GENERAL CLAUSES

Article 16 Transitional provisions

1. This Convention shall apply to exclusive choice of court agreements concluded after its entry into force for the State of the chosen court.

2. This Convention shall not apply to proceedings instituted before its entry into force for the State of the court seised.
Article 17 Contracts of insurance and reinsurance

1. Proceedings under a contract of insurance or reinsurance are not excluded from the scope of this Convention on the ground that the contract of insurance or reinsurance relates to a matter to which this Convention does not apply.

2. Recognition and enforcement of a judgment in respect of liability under the terms of a contract of insurance or reinsurance may not be limited or refused on the ground that the liability under that contract includes liability to indemnify the insured or reinsured in respect of –
   a) a matter to which this Convention does not apply; or
   b) an award of damages to which Article 11 might apply.

Article 18 No legalisation

All documents forwarded or delivered under this Convention shall be exempt from legalisation or any analogous formality, including an Apostille.

Article 19 Declarations limiting jurisdiction

A State may declare that its courts may refuse to determine disputes to which an exclusive choice of court agreement applies if, except for the location of the chosen court, there is no connection between that State and the parties or the dispute.

Article 20 Declarations limiting recognition and enforcement

A State may declare that its courts may refuse to recognise or enforce a judgment given by a court of another Contracting State if the parties were resident in the requested State, and the relationship of the parties and all other elements relevant to the dispute, other than the location of the chosen court, were connected only with the requested State.

Article 21 Declarations with respect to specific matters

1. Where a State has a strong interest in not applying this Convention to a specific matter, that State may declare that it will not apply the Convention to that matter. The State making such a declaration shall ensure that the declaration is no broader than necessary and that the specific matter excluded is clearly and precisely defined.

2. With regard to that matter, the Convention shall not apply –
   a) in the Contracting State that made the declaration;
   b) in other Contracting States, where an exclusive choice of court agreement designates the courts, or one or more specific courts, of the State that made the declaration.

Article 22 Reciprocal declarations on non-exclusive choice of court agreements

1. A Contracting State may declare that its courts will recognise and enforce judgments given by courts of other Contracting States designated in a choice of court agreement concluded by two or more parties that meets the requirements of Article 3, paragraph c), and designates, for the purpose of deciding disputes which have arisen or may arise in connection with a particular legal relationship, a court or courts of one or more Contracting States (a non-exclusive choice of court agreement).

2. Where recognition or enforcement of a judgment given in a Contracting State that has made such a declaration is sought in another Contracting State that has made such a declaration, the judgment shall be recognised and enforced under this Convention, if –
   a) the court of origin was designated in a non-exclusive choice of court agreement;
   b) there exists neither a judgment given by any other court before which proceedings could be brought in accordance with the non-exclusive choice of court agreement, nor a proceeding pending between the same parties in any other such court on the same cause of action; and
   c) the court of origin was the court first seised.

Article 23 Uniform interpretation

In the interpretation of this Convention, regard shall be had to its international character and to the need to promote uniformity in its application.

Article 24 Review of operation of the Convention

The Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law shall at regular intervals make arrangements for –
   a) review of the operation of this Convention, including any declarations; and
   b) consideration of whether any amendments to this Convention are desirable.
Article 25  Non-unified legal systems

1. In relation to a Contracting State in which two or more systems of law apply in different territorial units with regard to any matter dealt with in this Convention –
   a) any reference to the law or procedure of a State shall be construed as referring, where appropriate, to the law or procedure in force in the relevant territorial unit;
   b) any reference to residence in a State shall be construed as referring, where appropriate, to residence in the relevant territorial unit;
   c) any reference to the court or courts of a State shall be construed as referring, where appropriate, to the court or courts in the relevant territorial unit;
   d) any reference to a connection with a State shall be construed as referring, where appropriate, to a connection with the relevant territorial unit.

2. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, a Contracting State with two or more territorial units in which different systems of law apply shall not be bound to apply this Convention to situations which involve solely such different territorial units.

3. A court in a territorial unit of a Contracting State with two or more territorial units in which different systems of law apply shall not be bound to recognise or enforce a judgment from another Contracting State solely because the judgment has been recognised or enforced in another territorial unit of the same Contracting State under this Convention.

4. This Article shall not apply to a Regional Economic Integration Organisation.

Article 26  Relationship with other international instruments

1. This Convention shall be interpreted so far as possible to be compatible with other treaties in force for Contracting States, whether concluded before or after this Convention.

2. This Convention shall not affect the application by a Contracting State of a treaty, whether concluded before or after this Convention, in cases where none of the parties is resident in a Contracting State that is not a Party to the treaty.

3. This Convention shall not affect the application by a Contracting State of a treaty that was concluded before this Convention entered into force for that Contracting State, if applying this Convention would be inconsistent with the obligations of that Contracting State to any non-Contracting State. This paragraph shall also apply to treaties that revise or replace a treaty concluded before this Convention entered into force for that Contracting State, except to the extent that the revision or replacement creates new inconsistencies with this Convention.

4. This Convention shall not affect the application by a Contracting State of a treaty, whether concluded before or after this Convention, for the purposes of obtaining recognition or enforcement of a judgment given by a court of a Contracting State that is also a Party to that treaty. However, the judgment shall not be recognised or enforced to a lesser extent than under this Convention.

5. This Convention shall not affect the application by a Contracting State of a treaty which, in relation to a specific matter, governs jurisdiction or the recognition or enforcement of judgments, even if concluded after this Convention and even if all States concerned are Parties to this Convention. This paragraph shall apply only if the Contracting State has made a declaration in respect of the treaty under this paragraph. In the case of such a declaration, other Contracting States shall not be obliged to apply this Convention to that specific matter to the extent of any inconsistency, where an exclusive choice of court agreement designates the courts, or one or more specific courts, of the Contracting State that made the declaration.

6. This Convention shall not affect the application of the rules of a Regional Economic Integration Organisation that is a Party to this Convention, whether adopted before or after this Convention –
   a) where none of the parties is resident in a Contracting State that is not a Member State of the Regional Economic Integration Organisation;
   b) as concerns the recognition or enforcement of judgments as between Member States of the Regional Economic Integration Organisation.

CHAPTER V – FINAL CLAUSES

Article 27  Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

1. This Convention is open for signature by all States.

2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory States.

3. This Convention is open for accession by all States.

4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, depository of the Convention.
Article 28  Declarations with respect to non-unified legal systems

1. If a State has two or more territorial units in which different systems of law apply in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession declare that the Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

2. A declaration shall be notified to the depositary and shall state expressly the territorial units to which the Convention applies.

3. If a State makes no declaration under this Article, the Convention shall extend to all territorial units of that State.

4. This Article shall not apply to a Regional Economic Integration Organisation.

Article 29  Regional Economic Integration Organisations

1. A Regional Economic Integration Organisation which is constituted solely by sovereign States and has competence over some or all of the matters governed by this Convention may similarly sign, accept, approve or accede to this Convention. The Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall in that case have the rights and obligations of a Contracting State, to the extent that the Organisation has competence over matters governed by this Convention.

2. The Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall, at the time of signature, acceptance, approval or accession, notify the depositary in writing of the matters governed by this Convention in respect of which competence has been transferred to that Organisation by its Member States. The Organisation shall promptly notify the depositary in writing of any changes to its competence as specified in the most recent notice given under this paragraph.

3. For the purposes of the entry into force of this Convention, any instrument deposited by a Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall not be counted unless the Regional Economic Integration Organisation declares in accordance with Article 30 that its Member States will not be Parties to this Convention.

4. Any reference to a “Contracting State” or “State” in this Convention shall apply equally, where appropriate, to a Regional Economic Integration Organisation that is a Party to it.

Article 30  Accession by a Regional Economic Integration Organisation without its Member States

1. At the time of signature, acceptance, approval or accession, a Regional Economic Integration Organisation may declare that it exercises competence over all the matters governed by this Convention and that its Member States will not be Parties to this Convention but shall be bound by virtue of the signature, acceptance, approval or accession of the Organisation.

2. In the event that a declaration is made by a Regional Economic Integration Organisation in accordance with paragraph 1, any reference to a “Contracting State” or “State” in this Convention shall apply equally, where appropriate, to the Member States of the Organisation.

Article 31  Entry into force

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the deposit of the second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession referred to in Article 27.

2. Thereafter this Convention shall enter into force –

   a) for each State or Regional Economic Integration Organisation subsequently ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it, on the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

   b) for a territorial unit to which this Convention has been extended in accordance with Article 28, paragraph 1, on the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the notification of the declaration referred to in that Article.

Article 32  Declarations

1. Declarations referred to in Articles 19, 20, 21, 22 and 26 may be made upon signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession or at any time thereafter, and may be modified or withdrawn at any time.

2. Declarations, modifications and withdrawals shall be notified to the depositary.

3. A declaration made at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall take effect simultaneously with the entry into force of this Convention for the State concerned.

4. A declaration made at a subsequent time, and any modification or withdrawal of a declaration, shall take effect at the time of notification to the depositary.
on the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the date on which the notification is received by the depositary.

5. A declaration under Articles 19, 20, 21 and 26 shall not apply to exclusive choice of court agreements concluded before it takes effect.

Article 33  Denunciation

1. This Convention may be denounced by notification in writing to the depositary. The denunciation may be limited to certain territorial units of a non-unified legal system to which this Convention applies.

2. The denunciation shall take effect on the first day of the month following the expiration of twelve months after the date on which the notification is received by the depositary. Where a longer period for the denunciation to take effect is specified in the notification, the denunciation shall take effect upon the expiration of such longer period after the date on which the notification is received by the depositary.

Article 34  Notifications by the depositary

The depositary shall notify the Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and other States and Regional Economic Integration Organisations which have signed, ratified, accepted, approved or acceded in accordance with Articles 27, 29 and 30 of the following –

a) the signatures, ratifications, acceptances, approvals and accessions referred to in Articles 27, 29 and 30;

b) the date on which this Convention enters into force in accordance with Article 31;

c) the notifications, declarations, modifications and withdrawals of declarations referred to in Articles 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29 and 30;

d) the denunciations referred to in Article 33.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at The Hague, on 30 June 2005, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and of which a certified copy shall be sent, through diplomatic channels, to each of the Member States of the Hague Conference on Private International Law as of the date of its Twentieth Session and to each State which participated in that Session.
**B. The following Recommendation relating to the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements –**

The Twentieth Session

Recommends to the States Parties to the *Convention on Choice of Court Agreements* to use the following form confirming the issuance and content of a judgment given by the court of origin for the purposes of recognition and enforcement under the Convention –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDED FORM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDER THE CONVENTION ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOICE OF COURT AGREEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(“THE CONVENTION”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sample form confirming the issuance and content of a judgment given by the court of origin for the purposes of recognition and enforcement under the Convention)

1. (THE COURT OF ORIGIN) ........................................................................................................

ADDRESS ...........................................................................................................................................

TEL. ......................................................................................................................................................

FAX .......................................................................................................................................................

E-MAIL ..................................................................................................................................................

2. CASE / DOCKET NUMBER ......................................................................................................

3. ..................................................................................................................................................
   (PLAINTIFF)

   v.

..................................................................................................................................................
   (DEFENDANT)

4. (THE COURT OF ORIGIN) gave a judgment in the above-captioned matter on (DATE) in (CITY, STATE).

5. This court was designated in an exclusive choice of court agreement within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention:

   YES ☐

   NO ☐

   UNABLE TO CONFIRM ☐
6. If yes, the exclusive choice of court agreement was concluded or documented in the following manner:

7. This court awarded the following payment of money *(please indicate, where applicable, any relevant categories of damages included):*

8. This court awarded interest as follows *(please specify the rate(s) of interest, the portion(s) of the award to which interest applies, the date from which interest is computed, and any further information regarding interest that would assist the court addressed):*

9. This court included within the judgment the following costs and expenses relating to the proceedings *(please specify the amounts of any such awards, including, where applicable, any amount(s) within a monetary award intended to cover costs and expenses relating to the proceedings):*

10. This court awarded the following non-monetary relief *(please describe the nature of such relief):*

11. This judgment is enforceable in the State of origin:

   YES ☐      NO ☐

   UNABLE TO CONFIRM ☐

12. This judgment (or a part thereof) is currently the subject of review in the State of origin:

   YES ☐      NO ☐

   UNABLE TO CONFIRM ☐

If “yes” please specify the nature and status of such review:
13. Any other relevant information:

14. Attached to this form are the documents marked in the following list (if available):

- a complete and certified copy of the judgment;
- the exclusive choice of court agreement, a certified copy thereof, or other evidence of its existence;
- if the judgment was given by default, the original or a certified copy of a document establishing that the document which instituted the proceedings or an equivalent document was notified to the defaulting party;
- any documents necessary to establish that the judgment has effect or, where applicable, is enforceable in the State of origin;

(list if applicable):

- in the case referred to in Article 12 of the Convention, a certificate of a court of the State of origin that the judicial settlement or a part of it is enforceable in the same manner as a judgment in the State of origin;
- other documents: ............................................................................................................................

15. Dated this …………………day of …………………., 20… at ……….

16. Signature and / or stamp by the court or officer of the court:

CONTACT PERSON:

TEL.:

FAX:

E-MAIL:
C The following Decisions –

The Twentieth Session,

Having examined the wish of the European Community to become a Member of the Conference;

Considering it desirable that the Statute of the Conference be amended, in accordance with its Article 12, so as to make membership of the Conference possible for the European Community as well as for any other Regional Economic Integration Organisations to which its Member States have transferred competence over matters of private international law;

Considering it furthermore desirable to take the opportunity to make certain adaptations to the text of the Statute so that it conforms with practices which have developed since the Statute came into force on 15 July 1955, and to establish an English version of the Statute equally authentic to the French;

Considering that Article 12 of the Statute provides for amendment of the Statute by a decision of two-thirds of the Members, and that such decision may be made either at a Session or by written consultation;

Considering that membership of the Conference of a Regional Economic Integration Organisation entails the need to amend the “Rules of Procedure for Plenary Meetings”, and that it is also desirable to give these Rules wider applicability;

Adopts the following amendments to the Statute with a view to their submission to Member States for their approval in accordance with Article 12. 

Article 2, paragraph 2:

2. Any other State, the participation of which is from a juridical point of view of importance for the work of the Conference, may become a Member. The admission of new Member States shall be decided upon by the Governments of the participating States, upon the proposal of one or more of them, by a majority of the votes cast, within a period of six months from the date on which that proposal is submitted to the Governments.

Following Article 2 insert Article 2A as follows –

1. The Member States of the Conference may, at a meeting concerning general affairs and policy where the majority of Member States is present, by a majority of the votes cast, decide to admit also as a Member any Regional Economic Integration Organisation which has submitted an application for membership to the Secretary General. References to Members under this Statute shall include such Member Organisations, except as otherwise expressly provided. The admission shall become effective upon the acceptance of the Statute by the Regional Economic Integration Organisation concerned.

2. To be eligible to apply for membership of the Conference, a Regional Economic Integration Organisation must be one constituted solely by sovereign States, and to which its Member States have transferred competence over a range of matters within the purview of the Conference, including the authority to make decisions binding on its Member States in respect of those matters.

3. Each Regional Economic Integration Organisation applying for membership shall, at the time of such application, submit a declaration of competence specifying the matters in respect of which competence has been transferred to it by its Member States.

4. Each Member Organisation and its Member States shall ensure that any change regarding the competence of the Member Organisation or in its membership shall be notified to the Secretary General, who shall circulate such information to the other Members of the Conference.

5. Member States of the Member Organisation shall be presumed to retain competence over all matters in respect of which transfers of competence have not been specifically declared or notified.

6. Any Member of the Conference may request the Member Organisation and its Member States to provide information as to whether the Member Organisation has competence in respect of any specific question which is before the Conference. The Member Organisation and its Member States shall ensure that this information is provided on such request.

7. The Member Organisation shall exercise membership rights on an alternative basis with its Member States that are Members of the Conference, in the areas of their respective competences.

8. The Member Organisation may exercise on matters within its competence, in any meetings of the Conference in which it is entitled to participate, a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which have transferred competence to the Member Organisation in respect of the matter in question, and which are entitled to vote in and have registered for such meetings. Whenever the Member Organisation exercises its right to vote, its Member States shall not exercise theirs, and conversely.

9. “Regional Economic Integration Organisation” means an international organisation that is constituted solely by sovereign States, and to which its Member States have transferred competence over a range of matters, including the authority to make decisions binding on its Member States in respect of those matters.

1 Amendments appear in bold.
Article 3:

1. The Council on General Affairs and Policy (hereafter “the Council”), composed of all Members, has charge of the operation of the Conference. Meetings of the Council shall, in principle, be held annually.
2. The Council ensures such operation through a Permanent Bureau, the activities of which it directs.
3. The Council shall examine all proposals intended to be placed on the Agenda of the Conference. It shall be free to determine the action to be taken on such proposals.
4. The Netherlands Standing Government Committee, instituted by Royal Decree of 20 February 1897 with a view to promoting the codification of private international law, shall, after consultation with the Members of the Conference, determine the date of the Diplomatic Sessions.
5. The Standing Government Committee shall address itself to the Government of the Netherlands for the convocation of the Members. The Chair of the Standing Government Committee presides over the Sessions of the Conference.
6. The Ordinary Sessions of the Conference shall, in principle, be held every four years.
7. If necessary, the Council may, after consultation with the Standing Government Committee, request the Government of the Netherlands to convene the Conference in Extraordinary Session.
8. The Council may consult the Standing Government Committee on any other matter relevant to the Conference.

Article 4:

1. The Permanent Bureau shall have its seat at The Hague. It shall be composed of a Secretary General and four Secretaries who shall be appointed by the Government of the Netherlands upon presentation by the Standing Government Committee.
2. The Secretary General and the Secretaries must possess appropriate legal knowledge and practical experience. In their appointment account shall also be taken of diversity of geographic representation and of legal expertise.
3. The number of Secretaries may be increased after consultation with the Council and in accordance with Article 9.

Article 5:

Under the direction of the Council, the Permanent Bureau shall be charged with –

a) the preparation and organisation of the Sessions of the Hague Conference and the meetings of the Council and of any Special Commissions;
b) the work of the Secretariat of the Sessions and meetings envisaged above;
c) all the tasks which are included in the activity of a secretariat.

Article 6:

1. With a view to facilitating communication between the Members of the Conference and the Permanent Bureau, the Government of each of the Member States shall designate a national organ and each Member Organisation a contact organ.
2. The Permanent Bureau may correspond with all the organs so designated and with the competent international organisations.

Article 7:

1. The Sessions and, in the interval between Sessions, the Council, may set up Special Commissions to prepare draft Conventions or to study all questions of private international law which come within the purpose of the Conference.
2. The Sessions, Council and Special Commissions shall, to the utmost extent possible, operate on the basis of consensus.

Article 8:

1. The budgeted costs of the Conference shall be apportioned among the Member States of the Conference.
2. A Member Organisation shall not be required to contribute in addition to its Member States to the annual budget of the Conference, but shall pay a sum to be determined by the Conference, in consultation with the Member Organisation, to cover additional administrative expenses arising out of its membership.
3. In any case, travelling and living expenses of the delegates to the Council and the Special Commissions shall be payable by the Members represented.

Article 9:

1. The budget of the Conference shall be submitted each year to the Council of Diplomatic Representatives of the Member States at The Hague for approval.
2. These Representatives shall also apportion among the Member States the expenses which are charged in that budget to the latter.
3. The Diplomatic Representatives shall meet for such purposes under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 10:

1. The expenses resulting from the Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions of the Conference shall be borne by the Government of the Netherlands.
2. In any case, the travelling and living expenses of the delegates shall be payable by the respective Members.

Article 11 (French text only; no change in the English translation):
Les usages de la Conférence continuent à être en vigueur pour tout ce qui n’est pas contraire au présent Statut ou aux Règlements.

2 Adopts the following amendments to the “Rules of Procedure for Plenary Meetings” to apply to the Diplomatic Sessions of the Conference as well as to the meetings of the Council referred to in Article 3 of the Statute (as amended) and to those of Special Commissions –
Title:
Rules of Procedure

Article 1:
For both plenary and commission meetings, delegations of the majority of the States participating at the Diplomatic Session shall constitute a quorum. This provision shall be applied mutatis mutandis to meetings of the Council on General Affairs and Policy and of Special Commissions.

Following Article 1, insert Article 1A as follows –
To the furthest extent possible, all decisions shall be taken by consensus. If exceptionally it is not possible to attain consensus, decisions shall be taken by vote in accordance with the following rules.

Article 2, paragraph 2:
A Member Organisation may exercise on matters within its competence, in any meetings of the Conference in which it is entitled to participate, a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which have transferred competence to the Member Organisation in respect of the matter in question, and which are entitled to vote in and

Authorises the Secretary General to renumber the amended Articles.

2 Adopts the English version of the Statute appearing in the Annex equally authentic to the French text, and

Decides that it shall take effect from the date on which the amendments of the Statute enter into force.

3 Adopts the following procedure for the aforementioned amendments to come into force –
The Secretary General shall invite the Member States to cast their votes on the amendments in accordance with Article 12 of the Statute in writing, if possible within a period of nine months following the Session, by notification to the Permanent Bureau.

Once the votes needed to constitute a two-thirds majority have been received, but not before 31 March 2006, the Secretary General will draw up a procès-verbal specifying the Member States which have cast their votes and declaring that the amendments have been approved.

The date of the entry into force of the amendments will be the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the date of the procès-verbal.

4 Adopts the following amendments to the “Rules of Procedure for Plenary Meetings” to apply to the Diplomatic Sessions of the Conference as well as to the meetings of the Council referred to in Article 3 of the Statute (as amended) and to those of Special Commissions –

The English and French texts of this Statute, as amended on …… 200., are equally authentic.

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Final Act

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have registered for such meetings. Whenever the Member Organisation exercises its right to vote, its Member States shall not exercise theirs, and conversely.

Article 4:
The Conference shall vote by show of hands or, if the Chairman or any delegation so requests, by roll call. The roll call shall be taken in the alphabetical order of the French names of the States or Member Organisations participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation designated by the Chairman. The name of each delegation shall be called in any roll call vote and one of its members shall reply “for”, “against” or “abstention”, or shall make known his or her choice if two opposing proposals are put before the Conference.

Decides that these amendments shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the amendments to the Statute.

5 Takes note with satisfaction, of the assurance given by the European Community that it will, on the occasion of its acceptance of the Statute, deposit a written declaration to the following effect –

a) The European Community endeavours to examine whether it is in the interest of the Community to join existing Hague Conventions in respect of which there is Community competence. Where this interest exists, the European Community, in co-operation with the Hague Conference, will make every effort to overcome the difficulties resulting from the absence of a clause providing for the accession of a Regional Economic Integration Organisation to these Conventions.

b) The European Community endeavours to make participation possible of representatives of the Permanent Bureau of the Conference in meetings of experts organised by the European Commission where matters of interest to the Conference are being discussed.

6 Decides that a meeting on general affairs and policy to take a decision upon the admission of the European Community in accordance with the amended Statute will be convened shortly after the entry into force of the amendments and that the next meeting of the Special Commission on General Affairs and Policy in the Spring of 2006 should assess the progress made in respect of the above procedure.
The Governments of the countries hereinafter specified:
the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland;

In view of the permanent character of the Hague Conference on Private International Law;
Desiring to stress that character;
Having, to that end, deemed it desirable to provide the Conference with a Statute;
Have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1
The purpose of the Hague Conference is to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law.

Article 2
1. Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law are the States which have already participated in one or more Sessions of the Conference and which accept the present Statute.

2. Any other State, the participation of which is from a juridical point of view of importance for the work of the Conference, may become a Member. The admission of new Member States shall be decided upon by the Governments of the participating States, upon the proposal of one or more of them, by a majority of the votes cast, within a period of six months from the date on which that proposal is submitted to the Governments.

3. The admission shall become effective upon the acceptance of the present Statute by the State concerned.

Article 2A
1. The Member States of the Conference may, at a meeting concerning general affairs and policy where the majority of Member States is present, by a majority of the votes cast, decide to admit also as a Member any Regional Economic Integration Organisation which has submitted an application for membership to the Secretary General. References to Members under this Statute shall include such Member Organisations, except as otherwise expressly provided. The admission shall become effective upon the acceptance of the Statute by the Regional Economic Integration Organisation concerned.

2. To be eligible to apply for membership of the Conference, a Regional Economic Integration Organisation must be one constituted solely by sovereign States, and to which its Member States have transferred competence over a range of matters within the purview of the Conference, including the authority to make decisions binding on its Member States in respect of those matters.

3. Each Regional Economic Integration Organisation applying for membership shall, at the time of such application, submit a declaration of competence specifying the matters in respect of which competence has been transferred to it by its Member States.

4. Each Member Organisation and its Member States shall ensure that any change regarding the competence of the Member Organisation or in its membership shall be notified to the Secretary General, who shall circulate such information to the other Members of the Conference.

5. Member States of the Member Organisation shall be presumed to retain competence over all matters in respect of which transfers of competence have not been specifically declared or notified.

1 As of 30 June 2005, in addition to the founding Member States mentioned in the Preamble, the following States have accepted the Statute: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.
6. Any Member of the Conference may request the Member Organisation and its Member States to provide information as to whether the Member Organisation has competence in respect of any specific question which is before the Conference. The Member Organisation and its Member States shall ensure that this information is provided on such request.

7. The Member Organisation shall exercise membership rights on an alternative basis with its Member States that are Members of the Conference, in the areas of their respective competences.

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Article 3

1. The Council on General Affairs and Policy (hereafter “the Council”), composed of all Members, has charge of the operation of the Conference. Meetings of the Council shall, in principle, be held annually.

2. The Council ensures such operation through a Permanent Bureau, the activities of which it directs.

3. The Council shall examine all proposals intended to be placed on the Agenda of the Conference. It shall be free to determine the action to be taken on such proposals.

4. The Netherlands Standing Government Committee, instituted by Royal Decree of 20 February 1897 with a view to promoting the codification of private international law, shall, after consultation with the Members of the Conference, determine the date of the Diplomatic Sessions.

5. The Standing Government Committee shall address itself to the Government of the Netherlands for the convocation of the Members. The Chair of the Standing Government Committee presides over the Sessions of the Conference.

6. The Ordinary Sessions of the Conference shall, in principle, be held every four years.

7. If necessary, the Council may, after consultation with the Standing Government Committee, request the Government of the Netherlands to convene the Conference in Extraordinary Session.

8. The Council may consult the Standing Government Committee on any other matter relevant to the Conference.

Article 4

1. The Permanent Bureau shall have its seat at The Hague. It shall be composed of a Secretary General and four Secretaries who shall be appointed by the Government of the Netherlands upon presentation by the Standing Government Committee.

2. The Secretary General and the Secretaries must possess appropriate legal knowledge and practical experience. In their appointment account shall also be taken of diversity of geographic representation and of legal expertise.

3. The number of Secretaries may be increased after consultation with the Council and in accordance with Article 9.

Article 5

Under the direction of the Council, the Permanent Bureau shall be charged with –

a) the preparation and organisation of the Sessions of the Hague Conference and the meetings of the Council and of any Special Commissions;

b) the work of the Secretariat of the Sessions and meetings envisaged above;

c) all the tasks which are included in the activity of a secretariat.

Article 6

1. With a view to facilitating communication between the Members of the Conference and the Permanent Bureau, the Government of each of the Member States shall designate a national organ and each Member Organisation a contact organ.

2. The Permanent Bureau may correspond with all the organs so designated and with the competent international organisations.
ANNEX

Article 7
1. The Sessions and, in the interval between Sessions, the Council, may set up Special Commissions to prepare draft Conventions or to study all questions of private international law which come within the purpose of the Conference.
2. The Sessions, Council and Special Commissions shall, to the furthest extent possible, operate on the basis of consensus.

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1. The budgeted costs of the Conference shall be apportioned among the Member States of the Conference.
2. A Member Organisation shall not be required to contribute in addition to its Member States to the annual budget of the Conference, but shall pay a sum to be determined by the Conference, in consultation with the Member Organisation, to cover additional administrative expenses arising out of its membership.
3. In any case, travelling and living expenses of the delegates to the Council and the Special Commissions shall be payable by the Members represented.

Article 9
1. The budget of the Conference shall be submitted each year to the Council of Diplomatic Representatives of the Member States at The Hague for approval.
2. These Representatives shall also apportion among the Member States the expenses which are charged in that budget to the latter.
3. The Diplomatic Representatives shall meet for such purposes under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 10
1. The expenses resulting from the Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions of the Conference shall be borne by the Government of the Netherlands.
2. In any case, the travelling and living expenses of the delegates shall be payable by the respective Members.

Article 11
The usages of the Conference shall continue to be observed on all points, unless contrary to the present Statute or to the Regulations.

Article 12
1. Amendments to the Statute must be adopted by consensus of the Member States present at a meeting concerning general affairs and policy.
2. Such amendments shall enter into force, for all Members, three months after they are approved by two thirds of the Member States in accordance with their respective internal procedures, but not earlier than nine months from the date of their adoption.
3. The meeting referred to in paragraph 1 may change by consensus the periods of time referred to in paragraph 2.

Article 13
To provide for their execution, the provisions of the present Statute will be complemented by Regulations. The Regulations shall be established by the Permanent Bureau and submitted to a Diplomatic Session, the Council of Diplomatic Representatives or the Council on General Affairs and Policy for approval.
Article 14

1. The present Statute shall be submitted for acceptance to the Governments of States which participated in one or more Sessions of the Conference. It shall enter into force as soon as it is accepted by the majority of the States represented at the Seventh Session.

2. The statement of acceptance shall be deposited with the Netherlands Government, which shall make it known to the Governments referred to in the first paragraph of this Article.

3. The Netherlands Government shall, in the case of the admission of a new Member, inform all Members of the declaration of acceptance of that new Member.

Article 15

1. Each Member may denounce the present Statute after a period of five years from the date of its entry into force under the terms of Article 14, paragraph 1.

2. Notice of the denunciation shall be given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at least six months before the expiration of the budgetary year of the Conference, and shall become effective at the expiration of the said year, but only with respect to the Member which has given notice thereof.

The English and French texts of this Statute, as amended on ....... 200., are equally authentic.
Fait à La Haye, le trente juin deux mille cinq, en un seul exemplaire qui sera déposé dans les archives du Bureau Permanent et dont une copie certifiée conforme sera remise à chacun des Gouvernements représentés à la Vingtième session de la Conférence.

Done at The Hague on the thirtieth day of June two thousand and five, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Permanent Bureau, and of which a certified copy shall be sent to each of the Governments represented at the Twentieth Session of the Conference.

Pour la République d'Afrique du Sud,
For the Republic of South Africa,

Pour la République fédérale d'Allemagne,
For the Federal Republic of Germany,

Pour la République argentine,
For the Argentine Republic,

Pour l'Australie,
For Australia,

Pour la République d'Autriche,
For the Republic of Austria,
Pour la République du Bélarus,
For the Republic of Belarus,

Pour le Royaume de Belgique,
For the Kingdom of Belgium,

Pour le Brésil,
For Brazil,

Pour la République de Bulgarie,
For the Republic of Bulgaria,

Pour le Canada,
For Canada,

Pour la République populaire de Chine,
For the People's Republic of China,
Pour la République de Corée,  
For the Republic of Korea,

Pour la République de Croatie,  
For the Republic of Croatia,

Pour le Royaume du Danemark,  
For the Kingdom of Denmark,

Pour la République arabe d'Egypte,  
For the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Pour le Royaume d'Espagne,  
For the Kingdom of Spain,

Pour les Etats-Unis d'Amérique,  
For the United States of America,
Pour la République de Finlande,
For the Republic of Finland,

Pour la République française,
For the French Republic,

Pour l'Irlande,
For Ireland,

Pour l'Etat d'Israël,
For the State of Israel,

Pour la République italienne,
For the Italian Republic,

Pour le Japon,
For Japan,
Pour la République de Lettonie,
For the Republic of Latvia,

Pour le Grand-Duché de Luxembourg,
For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg,

Pour le Royaume du Maroc,
For the Kingdom of Morocco,

Pour les États-Unis du Mexique,
For the United Mexican States,

Pour le Royaume de Norvège,
For the Kingdom of Norway,

Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande,
For New Zealand,
Pour le Panama,
For Panama,

Pour le Royaume des Pays-Bas,
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Pour la République du Pérou,
For the Republic of Peru,

Pour la République de Pologne,
For the Republic of Poland,

Pour la République portugaise,
For the Portuguese Republic,

Pour la Roumanie,
For Romania,
Pour le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord,
For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Pour la Fédération de Russie,
For the Russian Federation,

Pour la République de Slovénie,
For the Republic of Slovenia,

Pour le Royaume de Suède,
For the Kingdom of Sweden,

Pour la Confédération suisse,
For the Swiss Confederation,

Pour la République tchèque,
For the Czech Republic,
Pour l’Ukraine,
For Ukraine,

Pour la République du Venezuela,
For the Republic of Venezuela,

Le Secrétaire général,
The Secretary General,