

# Germany: New Central Authority For International Child Abduction and Adoption Cases

Since 1 Januar 2007, Germany has a new authority dealing with questions of international legal relations and international legal assistance which had fallen before in the competence of the Federal Public Prosecutor (*Generalbundesanwalt*) – the [Bundesamt für Justiz](#).

Thus, the *Bundesamt für Justiz* is now *inter alia* the competent authority according to:

- the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption
- the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children
- the Brussels II *bis* Regulation

In addition, the *Bundesamt für Justiz*

- is the German contact point in the [European Judicial Network](#) (EJN)
- is competent to refer questions on the interpretation of the Brussels Convention and the Rome Convention on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations to the ECJ
- will be the central authority according to the [Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults](#) as soon as it will enter into force (the German Parliament adopted the implementing law on 14 December 2006 – however, for the entry into force of this Convention it

is necessary that, besides Germany, a third State ratifies the Convention. So far, only the UK has ratified the Convention (only for Scotland))

Cf. with regard to the competences of this new authority the article by *Rolf Wagner*, Das Bundesamt für Justiz, [IPRax](#) 2007, 87