

# **Belgium ratified the Child Protection Convention of 1996**

Belgium has ratified the Hague Child Protection Convention of 1996. Readers might remember that the ratification by the EU Member States of this instrument was delayed due to a diplomatic issue. Once this was resolved, the Commission's objective was that all Member States should ratify the Convention by 2010 (see the Council Decision of 5 June 2008). Some were late. Belgium, as the second last Member State to ratify, has now done so. Of the EU Member States only Italy's ratification remains outstanding.

The Convention will enter into force in Belgium on 1 September 2014.