

# European Commission Plan for 2010-2014

The European Commission has published yesterday its plan to deliver justice, freedom and security to citizens in the next four years.

Here are 3 of the 10 concrete actions included in the plan which will be of interest for readers of this blog:

## ***4. More legal certainty for international marriages***

*Following an EU proposal to allow international couples to choose which country's law applies to their divorce (IP/10/347, MEMO/10/100), the Commission will make a similar proposal this year on which law will apply when it comes to the division of couples' property during these proceedings (legislative proposal, 2010).*

## ***5. Less administrative burdens for citizens***

*Europeans who want to get married, adopt a child or change their civil status should not face additional administrative burdens if they are outside their home country. For example, a Finnish woman who falls in love with a man from the UK would have to submit a certificate of no impediment from the UK to get married. The UK does not provide such documents. To avoid these kinds of situations, the Commission will propose a law for the mutual recognition of certain civil status documents (legislative proposal, 2013).*

## ***6. Helping businesses to operate cross-border***

*If companies are to invest and operate cross-border, they need to have trust in Europe's Single Market - especially in today's economic context. At present, companies only recover 37% of cross-border debts while more than 60% of cross-border debts cannot be enforced. To address this problem and stimulate the incentive to do business cross-border, the Commission will propose legislation on a European "attachment" of bank accounts. This measure will ensure that money that is owed does not disappear (legislative proposal, 2010).*

*Legal certainty is crucial for motivating businesses to do commerce across*

*borders. If you know the rules of the country where you would like to do business, you will be much more willing to offer your services/goods rather than studying different 27 regimes. These 27 contractual regimes will remain. The Commission is preparing an additional and optional contract law instrument - something similar to the US Uniform Commercial Code. Companies could then choose to apply this instrument to their contractual relations - no matter in which EU country they have their business (Communication, 2010).*

The full text of the Communication of the Commission can be found [here](#).

*Thanks to Lea Salvini for the tip-off*