

HCCH Monthly Update: March 2021

Meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy

The Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the HCCH met online from 1 to 5 March 2021, with over 350 participants. Over the course of five days, HCCH Members reviewed progress made to date and agreed on the work programme for the year ahead. More information is available [here](#).

Several important developments relating to Membership and HCCH Conventions occurred during the meeting:

- **Thailand** deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Statute, becoming the 88th Member of the HCCH.
- **El Salvador** applied to become a Member of the HCCH. Following a six-month voting period and provided a majority of votes have been cast in its favour, El Salvador will be invited to become a Member by accepting the Statute of the HCCH.
- **Israel** signed the **HCCH 2005 Choice of Court Convention** and the **HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention**. The 2005 Choice of Court Convention, which currently binds 31 States and the EU, will enter into force for Israel only after it deposits an instrument of accession or ratification. Although the 2019 Judgments Convention is not yet in force, Israel is the third signatory to the Convention.

More information on these developments is available [here](#).

Finally, as customary the meeting coincided with the publication of the **Annual Report of the HCCH**. The 2020 Annual Report can be downloaded or ordered [here](#).

Other Meetings & Events

On 15 and 18 March, the HCCH and the International Union of Judicial Officers co-hosted a **webinar on the application of the 1965 Service Convention and the 2019 Judgments Convention** aimed at judicial officers and other legal

professionals. Recordings of the webinar are available here in English and here in French.

On 18 March, the HCCH and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan co-hosted a **webinar on the HCCH 1980 Child Abduction Convention in the Asia Pacific**, attended by judges and officials of Central Authorities from 12 countries and regions in the Asia Pacific. More information is available here.

On 30 March, the HCCH participated in the virtual **High Level Conference “Protecting Vulnerable Adults across Europe - the Way Forward”**, organised by the Ministry of Justice of Portugal, the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The recording of the conference is available here.

These monthly updates are published by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), providing an overview of the latest developments. More information and materials are available on the HCCH website.