

**Newsletter of the Global Network: “Child Support Worldwide”**

**Dear network members and child support experts  
all over the world,**

**iSupport**

The Hague Conference on Private International Law (the “HCCH”) launched the iSupport project in September 2014. The project is aimed at developing an international case management system to facilitate cross-border maintenance recovery. It has been developed to process applications and requests by Central Authorities designated under the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention and the 2009 EU Maintenance Regulation.

Led by Philippe Lortie, First Secretary of the HCCH Permanent Bureau, and supported by an Advisory Board of experts, the iSupport team has already carried out an analysis of Central Authority needs under the two instruments and the delineation of a comprehensive legal and technical framework to develop, test and maintain iSupport.

Following a tender process, the development and maintenance of the iSupport case management and secure communication system has been awarded to Protech Solutions, a global company that works in close co-operation with government bodies. Protech Solutions has successfully executed a variety of projects, including large child support systems, for state governments in the United States of America.



The practical development of the iSupport system started on 17 July 2015 and was completed on 14 January 2016. The system was subsequently delivered to six Pilot States and the Pilot Phase started on 11 February 2016. Experts from various fields and regions of the world are currently testing the system and have made valuable suggestions.

For additional information on this project, please visit the [‘iSupport section’](#) of the HCCH webpage.

**Montenegro has joined the 2007 Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support**

Montenegro has joined the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the





## Child Support Worldwide – Web Guide

Do you want to find information about child support in a certain country fast and easy? Try the [CSW Web Guide](#)! The Web Guide provides information about, as of now, 110 countries, international organizations and networks concerning child support/maintenance law and ease the struggles of your day to day work.

### Decision of the Family Court in Birmingham, England, to CJEU on so-called "direct applications"

On 21 January 2016, the Family Court of Birmingham referred two interesting questions to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in a matter of cross-border enforcement of child maintenance (decision [here](#)). The child is living in Germany, the father in England. The applicant has requested that the German child support order is registered and enforced against the defendant under Chap. IV of Council Regulation EC 4/2009 in England, the debtor's habitual residence. According to the Court the order would have to be filed through the Central Authorities (Chap. VII Council Regulation EC 4/2009) or at least transmitted through the REMO-Unit according to the English implementation rules. The CJEU will have to clarify whether Chapter IV offers a right to make direct applications for enforcement to the local competent court/authority and if so, whether each Member State is obliged to allow such a mechanism for recognition and enforcement.

### New Releases

The Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference has published two new handbooks. The "Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Service Convention" and the "Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention" bring together and synthesize the wealth of case law and commentary on the Conventions on the one hand, as well as the work of the Special Commission and practice communicated by Contracting States on the other. The books are available as a download in the [e-book store](#) of the HCCH website.



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