



Newsletter October 2025, No. 64

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK: "CHILD SUPPORT WORLDWIDE"

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

We are delighted to inform you about the following news in the field of international maintenance recovery:

Open Online Meeting on "Cross-Border Enforcement of Child Support: Pros and cons of the different national systems" on January 28th, 2026, 3-5pm CET

The [Child Support Forum](#), in cooperation with the [International Union of Judicial Officers](#), is pleased to invite every interested stakeholder to an open meeting which will focus on questions of "Cross-Border Enforcement of Child Support: Pros and cons of the different national systems."

According to Art. 41 of Regulation (EC) No. 4/2009 and Art. 32 of the 2007 Child Support Convention, the enforcement procedure shall be governed by the law of the state of enforcement. But in practice, the prospects of successfully initiating cross-border enforcement proceedings are not always easy to assess. In order to enforce successfully, it is necessary to know the specifics of the legal system of the state of enforcement (the Requested state).

Key questions in this context are:

- What does the process of enforcement of child support look like in different states?
- Are maintenance claims given a degree of priority?
- How do Central Authorities facilitate the ongoing enforcement of maintenance decisions?
- What are the conditions for children to be exempted from costs?

The meeting aims to review the international legal framework and provide an overview of the various national enforcement systems. Finally, the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems from a legal policy perspective shall be discussed.

Please click [here](#) for the provisional program.

To register, please click [here](#).

2025 NCSEA International Roundtable returns in-person

provided by *Kristen Donadee*, Director of California Department of Child Support Services

In late May 2025, NCSEA's annual International Roundtable was held in person for the first time since 2020. After four successful virtual roundtables, it was time to meet again in



person. Generously hosted by the Embassy of Portugal, we had a very successful two days of meetings, presentations and networking. It was a wonderful chance for subcommittee members to reconnect with colleagues and make new connections with other Central Authorities.

Eleven States participated in the Roundtable, along with the Permanent Bureau (HCCH), international child support experts and representatives from four U.S. states as well as the U.S. Office of Child Support Services. As always, the country or state updates were a highlight of the Roundtable. Each jurisdiction provided an overview of new developments in their child support program, statistics and useful information for processing cases with that jurisdiction. We heard very positive news about the progress made towards the elimination of cheques in international child support and how States have been able to successfully implement cross-border electronic payments. We noticed common themes of programs working to manage caseloads with less staff and efforts that are underway to provide better customer service.

The Roundtable was also provided an opportunity for attendees to provide some input to the Permanent Bureau about topics or issues that could possibly be included in a future Special Commission, if approved by the Council on General Affairs and Policy. Common concerns included working on ways to encourage more States to use an Abstract of Maintenance Decisions, as the cost of translation of documents continues to be one of the most significant barriers for Convention applications. The group discussed the need for additional Convention forms, and other administrative changes that might improve the operation of the Convention. We were also pleased to hear about the progress in the implementation of iSupport in several States.

Representatives from Florida, Michigan, Georgia, California, and Los Angeles provided an excellent joint presentation about the way that their jurisdictions manage international cases. The workshop highlighted the similarities and differences between the states, reminding attendees that cases can often be handled quite differently, depending on which U.S. state (or county) is responsible for the case.

A workshop discussing common communications challenges and best practices rounded out our meetings. Speakers from Brazil, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Florida provided some great insights into how effective communication in international child support casework can improve case outcomes.

While the in-person meetings and discussions were extremely useful, attendees made the most of the in-person event to socialize and network with other attendees. The Embassy generously provided lunch for attendees, allowing time for informal discussions and follow-up questions from the presentations. Discussions continued after the meetings and through dinner, giving everyone a good chance to get to know people they might have only previously met online.

The success of the in-person Roundtable highlights the importance of, at least occasionally, meeting in-person to discuss international child support. We hope to be able to meet in-person again, to continue to build and grow our network of international child support professionals.



2007 Child Support Convention enters into force for Denmark

On October 1st, 2025, the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention entered into force for Denmark.

Until further notice, the Convention shall not apply to Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

As Denmark does not apply Chapter VII of the European Maintenance Regulation (EC No. 4/2009), this accession closes a gap in the area of international cooperation between Central Authorities. For applicants based in the EU sending an application to Denmark, this means that:

- The 2007 Convention forms will now be used to apply for the assistance of Central Authorities according to Chapter III of the 2007 Convention, but
- The annexes concerning applications for declaration of enforceability and/or enforcement will be determined by Art. 20 or 28 of the Maintenance Regulation (“Extracts of decisions” in accordance with Annexes I to IV).

CJEU, Case C-67/24, Amozov on a debtor’s application to modify a maintenance decision made in a third state

In its decision of 27 March 2025, the CJEU dealt with the scope of Regulation No. 4/2009 as well as with the interpretation of the rules on jurisdiction in Articles 6 and 7.

A Bulgarian national and his Canadian wife lived in the Canadian province of Quebec. They had two children, both of whom had dual nationality. As part of divorce proceedings in Quebec, the man was ordered to pay maintenance to his wife and children. After returning to Bulgaria, the maintenance debtor filed an application for a modification of the maintenance decision before the Sofia District Court.

In summary, the CJEU ruled that:

- Article 1(1) of Regulation No 4/2009, read in the light of Recital 15, must be interpreted to mean that **an application to modify a maintenance decision given by a court of a third State** which is not a Contracting Party to the 2007 Child Support Convention **falls within the scope of that Regulation**, where it is brought before a court of a Member State by the maintenance debtor who is a national and habitual resident of that Member State against the maintenance creditors who habitually reside in the third State, of whom one is a national and the others hold a dual nationality of the third State and the Member State in question.
- Article 6 of Regulation No 4/2009 must be interpreted to mean that the **courts of the Member State of which the parties are nationals have subsidiary jurisdiction** where, in addition to the nationality of the Member State of the court seised, the defendants also hold the nationality of a third State.
- Article 7 of Regulation No 4/2009 must be interpreted to mean that where an application to modify a maintenance decision rendered by a court of a third State, that is not a Contracting Party to the 2007 Child Support Convention, is brought before a court of a Member State by the maintenance debtor who is a national and habitual resident of that Member State against the maintenance creditor who is a national and habitual resident of that third State, such an application **falls within the concept of ‘an exceptional basis’ for the purposes of that article. The resulting effect is that a court of a Member State can hear a dispute pursuant to the jurisdiction rule of *forum necessitatis* laid down in that article, provided that no such application could reasonably be brought, or the related procedure be conducted before the courts of the third State concerned.**

Nadia Rusinova’s Handbook on EU International Family Law

The EU Family Law Handbook published by Nadia Rusinova is a practitioner-focused resource that offers a clear and structured explanation of the key concepts used in EU family law instruments and provides a comprehensive review of the CJEU case law. Chapter 7 is devoted to maintenance obligations. The book can be downloaded free of charge [here](#).

Jäger-Maillet on the Cross-border Recovery of Family Maintenance by Public Bodies

In European countries, advance maintenance payments are a widespread and effective social measure to fight child poverty. As subsidiary benefits, these measures are generally not financed solely by public contributions, but also by the defaulting maintenance debtor being required to reimburse the paid benefits to the public body. The PhD-thesis deals with the cross-border recovery of maintenance reimbursement obligations by German public bodies.

In the first section, the thesis identifies the challenges German Maintenance Advance Agencies encounter when seeking reimbursement of the benefits they disbursed pursuant to the current legal framework. In the second section, possible solutions to remedy the issues mentioned above and to improve the national and international legal framework are developed.

The Thesis was published in German. The table of contents and an extract of the book are accessible [here](#). A short summary in English is available [here](#).

Information sheet on free legal aid in Switzerland

Obtaining maintenance payments in Switzerland can sometimes involve considerable costs. To support applicants, the Association of Maintenance Professionals (Schweizerischer Verband für Alimentenfachleute) has published a leaflet setting out the conditions for claiming legal aid in Switzerland. The leaflet can be downloaded [here](#).

Publication of the fifth editions of the Practical Handbooks on the Operation of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions

The 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions establish uniform frameworks of cooperation mechanisms to streamline, respectively, the transmission of documents for service abroad and the taking of evidence abroad. They are key instruments of the cross-border recovery of maintenance.

The fifth editions of the *Practical Handbooks on the Operation of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions* are intended to assist users of the Conventions, including Central Authorities, government officials, courts, counsel and legal practitioners, by providing practical guidance on their implementation and operation. More information on how to purchase hard copies and/or e-book copies is available on the [Publications section of the HCCH](#) website.

CSW-Newsletter – get involved!

Thank you for your feedback on the latest contributions!

You are kindly invited to continue sharing information with us regarding:

- Your national child support law and public supporting instruments,
- Private international law developments related to child support,
- The practice of cross-border recovery of child support in your State,
- Any events or publications related to the cross-border recovery of child support.



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