



Newsletter March 2026, No. 66

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, approximately 80 participants from 25 different countries and international institutions met online for a new edition of the Child Support Forum, which this time was organized in cooperation with the [International Union of Judicial Officers](#) (UIHJ). Following a presentation of the international legal framework for the cross-border recovery of child maintenance under the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention and the European Maintenance Regulation, the specificities of the national enforcement systems of Belgium, California (USA), the Netherlands, Bulgaria, British Columbia (Canada), Italy and Portugal were highlighted. New Zealand's contribution, which unfortunately could not be presented due to time constraints, is summarized below.

The meeting once again demonstrated how important it is to raise awareness of the relevant international provisions and to take a close look at the intersections between international frameworks and national enforcement laws to achieve the objectives of international instruments promoting the cross-border recovery of child support and thereby contributing to the fight against child poverty.

The Child Support Worldwide network would like to thank the speakers for their highly informative presentations and the participants for their interest and lively discussion. The presentations are now available [here](#). A report will follow in the coming weeks.

Child Support Recovery in New Zealand

New Zealand, while relatively small with a population of just over five million, operates a comprehensive social security system designed to provide support when it is needed. This includes a range of family-focused programmes, such as child support.

Inland Revenue (IR) is New Zealand's tax authority and is also responsible for the assessment and enforcement of child support in domestic cases. In addition, IR administers and enforces maintenance obligations under New Zealand's international agreements, including the HCCH



2007 Child Support Convention. Further information about the recovery process is available [here](#).

Key features of New Zealand's child support enforcement framework include the following:

- **Administrative recovery powers:** IR can enforce child support through compulsory deductions from wages and salaries, as well as direct deductions from bank accounts.
- **Automated employer deductions:** IR's systems can automatically re-establish deductions when a debtor changes employment.
- **Travel monitoring:** IR receives automatic travel alerts from Customs for debtors with significant arrears.
- **Information-gathering powers:** IR has broad authority to request financial and other information about debtors from third parties.
- **Legal enforcement measures:** These include orders over property, the examination of a debtor's ability to pay, court proceedings, and, in cases of serious default, arrest at the border.
- **Priority status of child support:** Child support debts have high priority over most other debts and deduction notices. Child support is a provable debt in bankruptcy, and tax refunds are often automatically applied to outstanding child support liabilities.
- **Cost-free enforcement:** IR provides enforcement services for registered child support cases at no cost to the receiving party.

New e-Country Profiles for key HCCH Conventions now available

Since August 2025 e-Country Profiles concerning several key HCCH Conventions are available on the website of the HCCH. With regard to the area of international maintenance recovery, Country Profiles were published in particular concerning the 2007 Child Support Convention, the 1965 Service Convention and the 1970 Evidence Convention.

Contracting Parties to these Conventions can now easily publish legal and practical information about their implementation of these instruments, making the e-Country Profiles a valuable tool for use by public authorities, legal practitioners and other interested parties.

The majority of the project's budget was provided by the European Union through an EU Action Grant, following a successful request for funding submitted in March 2022. The remaining 10% of the project's budget was covered through voluntary contributions from Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and the European Bailiffs' Foundation (EUBF).

The e-Country Profiles are available [here](#).

Seventh Meeting of the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group

From 2 to 4 February 2026, the seventh meeting of the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group (ITMFEG) was held online, hosted by the Permanent Bureau (PB) of the HCCH. The meeting had close to 60 registered delegates and other experts, representing 26 HCCH Members and two Observers, in addition to members of the PB. The ITMFEG continued its work discussing good practices in relation to the cross-border transfer of maintenance payments. During the meeting, participants discussed the future work and nature of the ITMFEG as a forum for the exchange of information on best practices and progress achieved in this area, as well as its role in supporting new Contracting Parties

to gain relevant expertise. An aide-mémoire, providing a short overview of the main points of discussion, can be found [here](#).

Norway: New Collection Act since January 1st, 2026

On January 1st, 2026, the Norwegian Act on the Collection of Public Claims, etc. (the Collection Act) entered into force. The Act brings together all collection activities in the Tax Administration (Skatteetaten) under one act and one authority – the Collection Authority ([Innkrevingsmyndigheten](#)).

Enquiries concerning child support and overpaid benefits should be sent to the following address:

Skatteetaten
Postboks 9200 Grønland
0134 OSLO

More information in Norwegian is available under the following links:

lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/lov/2025-04-25-12 (Act on the Collection of Public Claims, etc.)
lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/forskrift/2025-07-01-1396 (Regulations relating to the collection of public claims, etc.)
lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/forskrift/2025-07-01-1418 (Regulations on transitional rules for the Collection Act and amendments to other acts)

Switzerland: Implementation of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention and its Protocol gets closer

On October 29th, 2025, the Swiss Federal Council (Bundesrat) opened the consultation process on the approval and implementation of the 2007 Child Support Convention and its Protocol and the federal law on improving national collection assistance maintenance claims (Bundesgesetz zur Verbesserung der nationalen Inkassohilfe bei familienrechtlichen Unterhaltsansprüchen). The consultation period ended on February 13th, 2026.

The explanatory report on the opening of the consultation process is available [here](#).

China: Cases on Recognition of Foreign Judgments

In December 2025, China Justice Observer published an updated list of cases involving cross-border recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments relating to China as the requested or requesting state. Although the majority of the decisions listed relate to commercial law, there are also some family law decisions. This publication is therefore an interesting source for assessing the prospects of success of maintenance claims in and from China.

The list is available [here](#).

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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