

**QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING PRACTICAL MECHANISMS FOR
FACILITATING DIRECT INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 25 OCTOBER 1980 ON THE CIVIL
ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

Reply by Austria

Question A

No.1: No

No.2: The appointment of a liaison judge does not seem to be desirable because in individual cases the competent judge always may decide to have direct communication with his/her counterpart in the other state. Such a contact may be introduced with the assistance of the Central Authorities. There is no need to go via liaison judges.

Question B

No.1: No nomination made

No.2: No nomination planned

No.3: see reply to B/2 above

Question C

No.1: No obstacles concerning judicial communications at an international level exist.

No.2: No

No.3: Under Austrian law the involvement of the parties is unnecessary because child abduction cases are dealt with in informal ex-officio proceedings (so-called "ausserstreitiges Verfahren") without formal hearings. The judge should record the main content of his/her discussion with his/her counterpart. No limitations for such an international communication.

Question D

No.1: Communications between the competent judges in individual cases should be encouraged. Attendance of judges at judicial conferences/seminars to improve

knowledge and sharing of experiences should be promoted. For individual child abduction cases a judicial liaison network is not desirable.

No.2: In different areas of civil law there is a close co-operation in general (seminars, conferences) with the judiciary of neighbouring states (eg Germany/Bavaria, Switzerland, Tcheque Republic, Hungary etc) on an informal basis.

No.3: Yes