

THE THIRD UK-GERMAN CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LAW
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, SEPTEMBER 2000

In September 2000, judges and practitioners in family law representing the jurisdictions of England and Wales, Germany, Ireland and Scotland met in Edinburgh on the occasion of the Third UK-German Conference on Family Law. They made the following Resolutions:

1. That the Member States of the European Union who represent our jurisdictions should proceed as soon as is reasonably practicable to ratify the 1996 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children;
2. That the period between the adoption of the Brussels II Regulation by the Council of Ministers and its coming into force leaves inadequate time for proper preparation for its implementation;
3. That adequate opportunity should be given to judges and practitioners in family law to comment on and influence development of policy in relation to family law in the European Union and elsewhere;
4. In advance of the negotiation of new international instruments of legislation, including conventions, multilateral and bilateral, judicial conferences should be promoted and supported in order to make full and constructive use of the specific expertise of judges and their awareness of the various interests involved; by ensuring that this expertise informs the content and wording of any new convention the danger of conflicting interpretations of these conventions in the Member States can at least be minimised;
5. Before such instruments come into force the further education of judges who will be involved in their application should be promoted; bilateral or multilateral judicial conferences may be amongst the ways whereby this is achieved;
6. To ensure the efficient application of such instruments jurisdiction should be confined wherever practicable to a limited number of courts in the various contracting states; the senior judges of the German courts should take this principle of concentration into account when allocating work in their courts.