



PRESS RELEASE

9 October 2015

The European Union supports the ratification of the Hague Service and Maintenance Conventions by Kazakhstan

ASTANA – In the framework of the Rule of Law Initiative established by the EU and led by France and Germany, the project «Rule of Law Platform – Central Asia» will hold the seminar on the “Hague Service and Maintenance Conventions” **on 9 October 2015 in Astana**. High-level civil servants from various Kazakh state entities will attend the seminar in Astana, and in video conference in the regional offices of the Ministry of Justice, which will enable to reach out to over 500 enforcement officers, notaries and law practitioners throughout Kazakhstan.

The objective of the seminar, hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan, is to present the benefits of the Hague Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matter and the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. Kazakhstan is considering ratification of these two important conventions.

The Hague Service Convention guarantees to the signatory nations a smooth and well organized service of documents abroad while the Hague Maintenance Convention establishes the system of cross-border cooperation for the recognition and enforcement of spousal and child support. Both would contribute to furthering the judicial reform of Kazakhstan.

As underlined by the Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, Ambassador Traian Hristea in his welcoming remarks, the EU aims at promoting “*values of democracy, rule of law, human rights*” and supporting reforms which “*bring benefits to the citizens*”.

High-level representatives of the Hague Conference and the International Union of Enforcement Officers will provide the overview of the purpose of these conventions and explain their mechanisms from the perspective of practitioners. An exchange will be established with the Republican College of private enforcement officers of Kazakhstan and the Department on the Enforcement of Judicial Decisions under the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan.

The “EU Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia” is the overarching regional framework for enhanced cooperation in the rule of law, aimed at supporting legal reforms in Central Asia and the sharing of EU experience. Under the auspices of the Rule of Law Initiative, the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Platform Phase II regional project acts as a support mechanism to facilitate policy dialogue and promote the measures contributing to legal reforms in each of the Central Asian countries. The Platform is funded by the European Union to the amount of 1,8 million euro.

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The project is implemented by IBF International Consulting, in consortium with with the Center for International Legal Cooperation (The Netherlands), CAICO (Kyrgyz Republic), B&S (Belgium), DMI (France) and INCOM Ltd. (Greece)
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This project is funded by the European Union

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