

AGREEMENT
between the European Economic Community
and the International Commission on Civil
Status

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

Commission of the European Communities
The Vice President
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels (Belgium)

Brussels, 14 July 1983

Mr. J-M Bischoff
International Commission on Civil Status
Faculté de Droit et des Sciences politiques
Place d'Athènes
67084 Strasbourg

Mr. Secretary General,

Further to the discussions held between the representatives of our two organisations regarding a mutually desirable cooperation, I have the honour to propose the following arrangements:

1° The International Commission on Civil Status (hereinafter referred to as "the ICCS") shall communicate to the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as "the EC") all matters included on the agenda of its General Assembly meetings.

The EC may indicate to the ICCS the interest it might have in one or more of these matters and, in such case, shall assist it by providing opinions or information.

2° The EC shall inform the ICCS of all matters it is seized of relating to civil status, personal and family law, as well as the determination of nationality.

It shall give the ICCS the opportunity to address these matters. The ICCS shall examine them and communicate the result of its work. In the event of an unfavorable conclusion, the EC may take charge of these matters itself, and the ICCS shall assist it by providing opinions or technical information.

3° The EC may recommend to the Member States of the European Communities to sign and to ratify the conventions prepared by the ICCS on the matters it has submitted to it, or to accede to these conventions. The ICCS may invite the EC to recommend to the Member States of the European Communities to sign and ratify any other conventions adopted by it or to accede thereto.

4° The ICCS may recommend to its Member States to sign and ratify the conventions prepared by the European Communities relating to matters for which the ICCS has provided its assistance, or to accede thereto.

5° The EC shall be invited to be represented at the ICCS General Assemblies during which matters of interest to it shall be examined.

6° The ICCS shall be invited to be represented at the meetings of the committees convened by the EC during which matters of interest to it shall be examined.

7° Subject to any measures that may be necessary to preserve the confidential nature of certain documents, the EC and the ICCS shall exchange any documentation likely to be of mutual interest.

8° The present agreement, concluded for a period of five years, shall be automatically renewed for further successive periods of five years, subject to the right of either party to terminate it at the expiry of the initial period or any subsequent period by notification addressed to the other party at least one year before the expiry of the period in question.

It would be a pleasure for me to know if, as I hope, the above proposals can serve as a basis for our future cooperation. Thus, this letter and your letter confirming your acceptance shall constitute a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the International Commission on Civil Status. In the event of a positive response, this agreement shall enter into force immediately.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) *Wilhelm Haferkamp*

International Commission on Civil Status
The Secretary General
Faculté de Droit et des Sciences politiques
Place d'Athènes
67084 Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 26 July 1983

Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp
Vice-President of the
Commission of the European
Communities
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels

Mr. Vice-President,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter SG (83) D 9040 dated 14 July 1983, setting out the terms of cooperation between the International Commission on Civil Status and the European Economic Community. Accordingly, in accordance with the suggestion made in the final paragraph of your letter, both your letter and this present reply shall be considered as constituting the arrangement establishing the relations between the European Economic Community and the International Commission on Civil Status, an arrangement which shall enter into force as of this date.

Please accept, Mr. Vice-President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(signed) *P. Van Langenaeken*

President

JM. Bischoff

Secretary General